



November 15, 2018

Ms Lorene Oikawa, President  
National Association of Japanese Canadians  
180 McPhillips Street  
Winnipeg, MB, R3E 2J9

Dear Lorene,

**Re: Discussions/Negotiations with the B.C. Provincial Government of British Columbia to develop meaningful redress measures resulting from the 2012 Apology to Japanese Canadians.**

The Greater Toronto Chapter of the NAJC (TorontoNAJC) appreciates that the GVJCCA and the National NAJC have initiated preliminary discussions with the B.C. Government regarding further redress measures for the suffering of Japanese Canadians primarily during and after the Second World War. We understand that a strategy has been developed by the NAJC "to develop meaningful redress measures resulting from their 2012 Apology to Japanese Canadians" (JCCA President' Report, July 2018 Bulletin p.13).

The TorontoNAJC respectfully requests that the National and the GVJCCA to fully interact with NAJC chapters and individual members on the NAJC on these discussions with the B.C. Government for the following reasons:

- The massive harm perpetrated by BC federal, provincial and municipal elected officials and their administration affected all Japanese Canadians, not just those currently living in BC. It is critically important to remember that these politicians and officials were the primary cause of Japanese Canadians being forced from their homes, stripped of their belongings, property and livelihoods, placed into confinement and given no choice but to leave their home province for points east or to be deported to Japan.

GREATER TORONTO CHAPTER of the National Association of Japanese Canadians  
Front Desk Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre  
6 Garamond Court Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5  
[www.torontonajc.ca](http://www.torontonajc.ca)



- A majority of Issei and Nisei which were affected by these unjust actions ended up settling in the Ontario and within the Greater Toronto Area;
- It is imperative that mistakes of the past redress campaigns not be repeated for the good of the JC community. We wish to avoid a situation such as occurred in the previous redress campaign of the 1980s when the National JCCA moved ahead with "informal" negotiations with the federal government of the day on a redress package which was not consulted with Japanese Canadians. The result was a major community conflict which took several years to resolve and ended with having to dissolve the old national JCCA and replacing it with the current NAJC;
- More recently in steps taken to obtain an apology from the BC government, the lack of consultation and involvement of JCs both within BC and nationally was repeated. As result the worth of the apology has been diminished significantly in the eyes of many JCs.

Accordingly, TorontoNAJC believes that it is far better to communicate and involve the JC community particularly NAJC chapters and individual NAJC members as well JC associate organizations and the general JC population early in any discussions with the BC governments regarding potential redress measures. To that end, we suggest the following:

**Full disclosure to all NAJC chapters and the individual members of the NAJC of the current status of the discussions including:**

- How and why the idea of pursuing further redress measures with BC government started.
- What are the objectives for pursuing further redress measures
- When were discussions with the BC government initiated
- Which organization and individuals are representing the NAJC at these initial meetings to date? We understand that two meetings have taken place.
- What was the result of these meetings?
- What other meetings are planned and when and where

**Secondly, there needs to be full discussion involving all NAJC chapters and individual members of the NAJC to *decide* on the organizational structure and process by which further discussions with the BC government are to be pursued. TorontoNAJC respectfully requests to have a representative on the negotiation team which interacts directly with the B.C. government.**



**Thirdly a clear communication strategy needs to be delineated as a critical part of the process so that the NAJC chapters and members and the JC community in general can be assured it will be kept fully informed of the negotiations and have opportunities to input to the negotiations.**

Thank you for your consideration



Bruce Tatemichi, A/President  
Greater Toronto Chapter of the NAJC

CC. Board of Directors - NAJC

NAJC Chapters

Kevin Okabe, Executive Director NAJC

Board of Directors – TorontoNAJC

Art Miki & Maryka Omatsu – NAJC Advisory Committee to GVJCCA and NAJC on this matter