



BC Redress

Japanese Canadian Legacy Initiatives

OCTOBER, 2021



COMMUNITY UPDATE ON JAPANESE CANADIAN SURVIVORS HEALTH AND WELLNESS FUND AND BC REDRESS

BACKGROUND

On May 5, 2021 the BC Government announced \$2 million dollars in funding toward the health and wellness of Japanese Canadian survivors of the Internment Era.

This contribution to the community was an initial result of the ongoing BC Redress discussions, currently being held between the NAJC and the BC Government, to determine steps to redress the historical injustices which impacted nearly 22,000 Japanese Canadians uprooted, dispossessed, and permanently displaced from their homes in coastal BC.

Nikkei Seniors Health Care and Housing Society in Burnaby, BC stepped forward to take on the task of administering this fund, for the benefit of our senior survivors. A project office has been set up, and is being managed by Eiko Eby, assisted by Linda Reid.

The society took the further step to pledge to do outreach to find underserved seniors both inside and outside of BC. NAJC chapters across the country have been recruited to start to look for seniors in their various regions and talk to organizations who service survivors.



CURRENT STATUS OF FUND

The current mandate of the Fund to support the health and wellness of as many senior survivors as possible. With approximately 6,600 survivors alive today, \$2 million is a limited sum of money and this round of funding will not be able to help all who need it. Nonetheless, this Fund is meant as the first step towards helping our seniors.



Left to right: Mickey Kojima, Chiz Ito, Ron Kaita, Pat Mackling, Jack Mizuno. Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba. Photo by Terumi Kuwada

Left to right: Bill and Addie Kobayashi, Lynn Deutscher Kobayashi Toronto, Ontario.

HOW TO APPLY

The Fund is currently seeking applications for Japanese Canadian survivors and organizations running programs or projects in the service of survivors. Priority is being given to those who are underserved. The current round of funding applications is open until October 31, 2021.

Please visit www.jcwellness.org for more information and to apply.

For help with your application check out these two YouTube videos

Underserved Survivors: youtu.be/gSgs5sU24QQ | Organizations and Small Groups: youtu.be/4XO1ABdfg5k





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FUTURE FUNDS FOR ALL SURVIVORS

As noted, the Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund is the result of an initial step by the BC Government, as part of the larger BC Redress process.

The BC Redress Project team has now presented the BC Government with a set of proposals on six themes: Monument; Education; Anti-Racism; Seniors Health & Wellness, Heritage; and Community & Culture. There are multiple initiatives in this package, and this work builds on the 2019 community consultations and Redressing Historical Wrongs report.

Please visit www.bcredress.ca for more details. We hope to have an agreement in principle signed with the BC Government by the end of 2021, and be able to start distributing health and wellness funding to survivors by mid-2022.

As part of these BC Redress discussions, the NAJC is pushing for a significant expansion of the Survivors Health and Wellness Fund that will be sufficient to support the health and wellness needs of all Japanese Canadian survivors.



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO IDENTIFY OUR SENIORS

Research in 2021 by Ohki has estimated there are approximately 6,600 living Japanese Canadian survivors, the youngest of whom are now 72 years old. The Fund office is working to create a national network of Japanese Canadians who are looking for our survivors across Canada.

Outreach efforts by the Fund project office and local communities across Canada to date have identified well over 100 Japanese Canadian groups and organizations, as well as many individual survivors, who collectively represent at least half of the total living survivors.

We need your help to identify all surviving elders, so that a longer-term fund can be set up to service their health and wellness needs.

Please contact Eiko Eby and Fund office for more information, and to get involved:

Contact form: jcwelness.org/contact-us

Email: eikoeby@nikkeishc.com

Phone: 250.797.6300

We ask you to contact your family members, friends, or community members, and help to connect all living Japanese Canadian elders, or their caregivers, with the Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund office.

Many Japanese Canadian survivors live in rural, remote, or underserved communities, and many are at risk of becoming isolated. It will take our whole community coming together to re-connect these elders, and to provide them with the care they deserve, now and into the future.

– *Susanne Tabata*

Left to right: Don Iwanaka, Susanne Tabata Kumi Iwanaka, Sus Tabata, Kazy Hay
Photo by Minako Brooks.