

# Landscapes of Injustice



Research News and Project Updates

Summer 2017

## Message from Project Director

Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross

On Tuesday, July 25, I attended a long meeting. It ran overtime, didn't accomplish a number of its aims, but it left me very excited. It was, in many ways, what the next phase of the project is all about. I was there as part of a team that aims, over the next 20 months (or so), to create a dynamic digital exhibit that builds upon the research of our project. Sherri Kajiware (Director-Curator of the Nikkei National Museum and a member of our Executive Committee) called and chaired the meeting, which was held at the offices of NGX Interactive, a Vancouver company that creates cutting-edge "digital storytelling experiences" for "community-focused venues," such as schools and museums. I was there with a Research Assistant, Kaitlin Findlay, representing Landscapes of Injustice. Filmmaker Susanne Tabata and her production team rounded out the ensemble.

The group came together around an archival finding: some 300 letters of protest written by Japanese Canadians between 1943 and 1947, letters that were ignored by bureaucrats at the time and then forgotten until they were discovered seven decades later by Landscapes of Injustice. They are powerfully expressive, complex, and diverse letters, all of them conveying the betrayal (and often sheer outrage) felt by Japanese Canadians when they discovered that they were being dispossessed of all that they owned. Having recovered the letters, our project has enriched the scholarly history of the 1940s, drawing upon them to communicate Japanese-Canadian perspectives in a number of academic publications (see, for example, this textbook entry, (<https://opentextbc.ca/postconfederation/chapter/japanese-canadians-in-the-second-world-war/>) which I wrote with Pam Sugiman). Such scholarly writing is important and exciting for historians.

Our meeting, however, was about something very different. We gathered to take the first steps toward producing something that historians, for the most part, cannot: something along the lines of this exhibit on Kabul, (<http://kabulportraits.nfb.ca/main.html>) or (don't miss) this remarkable narrative of Vietnamese "boat people."

(<http://www.sbs.com.au/theboat/>) Over the next three and a half years, our project will encourage the gathering of diverse talent around research findings—talented curators, talented teachers, talented filmmakers, and talented programmers. We'll facilitate the accomplishments of others—in this case, Sherri's considerable accomplishment in receiving a Virtual Museum of Canada grant to fund a digital exhibit, *Writing Wrongs* - and we'll support and participate as people of diverse skills elaborate on our findings in their own ways, expressing their own creativity. For public historians and our students, these are exciting meetings. They carry us outside our comfort zones and promise rich rewards. Long, complex meetings like the one last week at NGX will enable this project to achieve its aim of creating much more than very good scholarship. The first of these initiatives start with the *Writing Wrongs* exhibit. There is much more to come.

## Scholarship + Activism forum

**Kathy Shimizu** is a third-generation Japanese Canadian (Sansei). Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Kathy moved to Vancouver in 1990 and maintains strong connections to the Powell Street neighbourhood in Vancouver where she works and where her family lived prior to WWII.

In April **Nicole Yakashiro** interviewed Kathy about the value of research in activism. Follow this URL for the interview on the Scholarship + Activism Forum website. <https://scholarshipandactivism.com/2017/04/21/kathy-shimizu/>

**Tess Elsworthy**  
**Recipient of the 2017 Lol/NAJC Hide**  
**Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship**

In the spring of 2017, Tess Elsworthy was awarded the 2017 Hide Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship and attended the RA Intensive and Spring Institute in late April. She began working in the Provincial Records research cluster in June. We had a chance to catch up with Tess and learn a little bit more about her.

**Landscapes of Injustice (Lol):** Congratulations on being the 2017 Hide Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship recipient. We are excited to have you on board.

**Tess:** Thank you. I can't overstate what an honour it is to have been awarded the Hide Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship. I am grateful to have been welcomed so generously by everyone at the National Association of Japanese Canadians and Landscapes of Injustice, especially the Community Council. As someone arriving in the final year of research, I was really struck at the Student Intensive and Spring Institute by the ways in which the more seasoned RAs have contributed to the project's methodology and evolved along with it. They have made me feel at home and shown me the scope of work this research makes possible.

**Lol:** Can you tell us a little bit about your studies and interests that have brought you to this point?

**Tess:** I am currently a Master's student in History at McGill University, and my thesis project investigates the McGill Senate's decision to officially exclude Japanese-Canadian undergraduate students from October of 1943 until the end of the Second World War. McGill has commissioned several histories that cover the institution's mobilization during the war and yet this episode has never been acknowledged.

My personal interest in Japanese-Canadian history fits within a broader focus on the history of colonialism and racism in Canada. As a Canadian of English and Scottish background, I recognize that racially exclusive policies were enacted to benefit my own ancestors and that I am implicated in their contemporary legal and social legacies. I am indebted to the work of Sherene Razack, Mona Oikawa, Himani Bannerji, and so many other scholars who have shaped my approach to Canadian history.



I must also give credit to my instructors at McGill, especially Laura Madokoro, my M.A. supervisor, who is also involved with Landscapes of Injustice. I took a class with her at the end of my undergraduate degree and it proved to be the final push toward my thesis project. While working on a study of the redress movement, I made my first foray into McGill's archives to study the exclusion policy. I would not be where I am now without Laura's guidance and encouragement.

**Lol:** How did you hear about this award and what interested you in this project?

**Tess:** Laura recommended I apply for it. We had discussed her work with Landscapes and I followed some of the media coverage and Jordan Stanger-Ross's publications, so I knew immediately that this was a project I wanted to be part of.

**Lol:** As a student of history, to what extent does the Japanese-Canadian history influence your scholarly aspirations? Do you see yourself focusing inward on this particular topic or do you extrapolate it outward to other ethnic communities and minorities?

**Tess:** Japanese-Canadians' experiences define my conception of Canada as a political project, especially as discourses of fear and difference continue to be used to justify discrimination against members of ethnic and religious minority groups in the name of national security. As I deepen my knowledge of Nikkei histories I can see myself focusing inward on understudied topics. This was

especially evident to me at the Spring Institute as I talked with other RAs and community council members about their research interests and new avenues of study.

Extrapolation seems inevitable; there are so many ways to connect Japanese-Canadian histories to those of other minorities who have subverted and resisted similar processes of exclusion, dispossession, and exploitation. Pamela Sugiman, Kirsten Emiko McAllister, and Mona Oikawa have all given me models to think across experiences of racialized minorities that are not identical but have striking similarities.

**Lol:** How is the research for Landscapes going so far? What have you been working on?

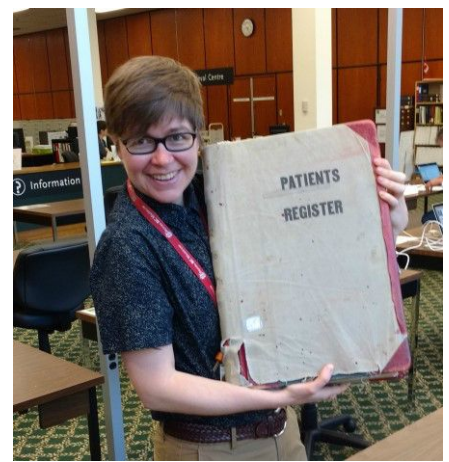
**Tess:** I am working in the Provincial Records cluster under Kathryn Bridge, at the Royal BC Museum, with Gord Lyall, Camille Haisell, and Sydney Fuhrman. We are seeking to find the role that the provincial government played in the dispossession of Japanese-Canadian property. We are also searching for primary documents that tell the broader story of Nikkei experience in British Columbia during the 1940s. We have searched through collections from the Premier, Provincial Secretary, Attorney General, Department of Fisheries, and so on. Some collections have turned up little relevant material, but we have also had some success.

The Attorney General's papers were quite difficult to go through, but we located and are in the process of describing and digitizing multiple significant cases involving Japanese-Canadian dispossession and incarceration. There are some heart-rending stories that we think deserve attention and some illuminating cases related to property. I came across a case of a boat sold by the Fishing Vessels Disposal Committee to B.C. Packers and eventually stolen by one white fisherman from two others. It offers an interesting chronicle of what happened to one vessel after its original owner was forced to sell it. We are in the process of identifying this vessel using records Gord collected last year.

**Lol:** Can you draw upon previous work and research experience to assist you?

**Tess:** This job is much more intuitive than some previous research positions I have had in that I arrived with a sense of what and who to look for as we seek needles in these archival haystacks. I am further refining my skills with tips from Kathryn and Gord and resources like the communal spreadsheet.

My previous experience as a medical archivist has proven useful as we have begun the process of examining patient files from Essondale and other mental hospitals with the goal of making links to the trauma of dispossession and incarceration.



**Lol:** Can you see this experience helping your career in the future? Where do you go from here?

**Tess:** Though I had some experience with databases before, I am learning a lot about navigating LOI's digital repository as a researcher. This is also my first experience with the Freedom of Information Act and restricted materials, so I've gotten to know a lot more about that process. The benefit of encountering so many RAs, community council members, and project partners is that each one has offered me generous insights that are essential for my investigation of Japanese-Canadian students impacted by McGill's exclusive policy and those who landed in Montreal. I also have a few ideas for the Scholarship and Activism Forum and can see myself staying connected to the project in that vein.

The Hide Hyodo-Shimizu Research Scholarship has given me the chance to collaborate with Nikkei community members and scholars, and to reflect upon my position in relationship to my areas of research. I am lucky to have this experience so early on in my career, because it will set the tone for future research and analysis. This will be a summer I look back on as a period of major personal and professional growth. Ultimately I hope that what I learn here will enable me to produce historical analysis that remains relevant to Nikkei communities, and to join the many scholars who have helped re-centre Canadian history around the voices of people marginalized in traditional accounts of the past. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity.



# Provincial Records Cluster Update

Gord Lyall

The Provincial Records cluster, chaired by Kathryn Bridge at the Royal B.C. Museum, currently employs four research assistants, Camille Haisell, Gord Lyall, Sydney Fuhrman, and Tess Elsworth. We are searching for evidence of the role that the provincial government played in the dispossession of Japanese Canadians and examining documents that may offer broader context of Japanese Canadians' relationships to provincial institutions in the 1940s.

Most of the collections we are examining this summer are restricted. We have authorized access to these collections via a formal BC Archives research agreement, and, under the terms of the Youth Criminal Justice Act, a judge has granted us access to Attorney-General and Mental Health documents. After working through these, and other requested files, we send documents for review to archivists working under the Freedom of Information Act. Every file the archivists makes available to us after FOI review then becomes open to the public and we make digitized copies available to the LOI research collective.

Our team has already combed through collections of the Premier, Attorney General, Provincial Secretary, the Department of Fisheries, BC High School and Elementary Correspondence, the Geographical Division, several county courts, the Department of Health and Welfare, the Provincial Mental Hospital, Public Works, and the Child Welfare Division.

Of the nearly 3000 files we have searched, only about 100 have revealed relevant documents. On slow days we remind ourselves that our work is serving to rule out the presence of pertinent material within these collections. We have, however, found many documents within these previously restricted records that we are excited to share with the research collective.

Among correspondence between the province and individual citizens, municipalities, churches, unions, and other associations, we have located and digitized many documents illustrating public opinion regarding exile, the return of Nikkei to the coast after the war, enfranchisement, exclusion within industries such as fishing and logging, and opposition to Japanese-Canadian land ownership.



Provincial Records RAs

Gord Lyall, Camille Haisell, Sydney Fuhrman, Tess Elsworth

The Attorney General's files, in particular, have turned up multiple cases involving Japanese Canadians. Rex vs. James Howard Foster concerns a man who defrauded a Japanese Canadian, Zenji Utsunomiyo, in a business transaction. Rex vs. Edward Houston concerns one white fisherman stealing a net from another, but offers context into the tension between white fishermen competing to fill the space vacated by forcibly removed Japanese-Canadian fishermen in Steveston. Rex vs. Daniel Ralston McKenzie concerns a white resident near Slocan City who shot at three Japanese Canadians who walked on his property in November 1942, wounding one. Rex vs. Edison Brian Briscoe concerns a boat sold by the Japanese Fishing Vessels Disposal Committee and eventually stolen by one white fisherman from two others. Rex vs. Earl Johnson concerns a murder that occurred on the Izumi III, a confiscated Japanese-Canadian vessel.

We have identified Japanese-Canadian patients in the provincial mental hospital registries, and are in the process of reviewing their case files for material related to dispossession and the disruption caused by incarceration and separation from family. For example, one case explicitly connects a man's health status to the loss of his shop during dispossession. We have also found material revealing the role played by hospital officials in facilitating the exile of patients.

We are currently working through estates, coroner inquiries and inquests for the years 1942-1949; as well as legal records of interest identified by the legal cluster last summer. Interviews housed at the BC Archives of and about Japanese Canadians will be digitized by museum staff at our request. It is a busy, and engaging summer for the Provincial Records team.

## Telegrams to Grand Forks, 1942

Kaitlin Findlay

This is a series of telegrams sent to Etsumatsu Nakatani. Etsumatsu was a labourer and small farmer who moved to Grand Forks in 1939, having lived in Canada since 1918. He suddenly became vital to hundreds of Japanese Canadians when, in 1942, everyone of Japanese descent was forcibly exiled from the West Coast.

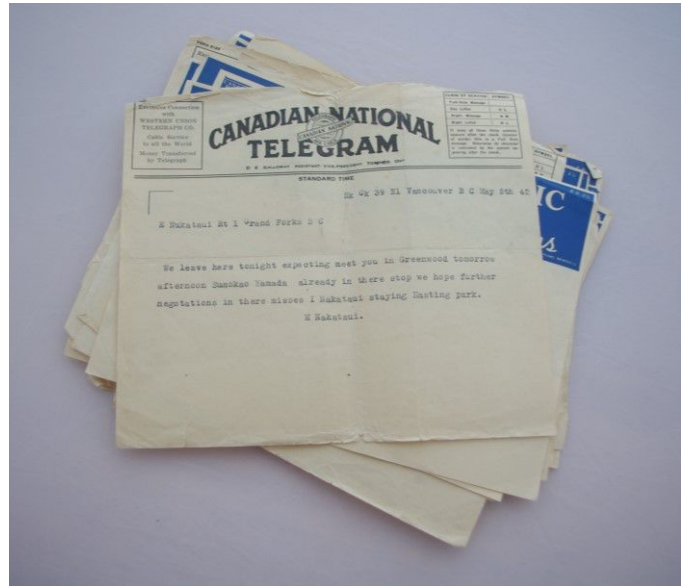
These telegrams, recently donated to the Nikkei National Museum, include a flurry of correspondence from May 1942. Many of them came from people who were incarcerated at the Hastings Park “relocation centre” where they lived in appalling conditions and constant uncertainty. These people contacted Etsumatsu, asking for help. He offered Grand Forks as a place of refuge amidst the chaos of the forced uprooting.

That May, Etsumatsu went to the telegram office, perhaps several times a day. The telegrams reveal snippets of his arrangements with friends and strangers who looked to Grand Forks as a refuge. They detail travel logistics and permission approvals, and reveal the complexity of life under the restrictions of the British Columbia Security Commission. The telegrams are chaotic: they include changed plans, miscommunications, and frustration. On May 11, one of Etsumatsu’s brothers chastised him for not helping their third brother: “Why can’t Inosuke Nakatani go to Grand Fork when other families get permission [,] why can’t you help your own brother[?]”

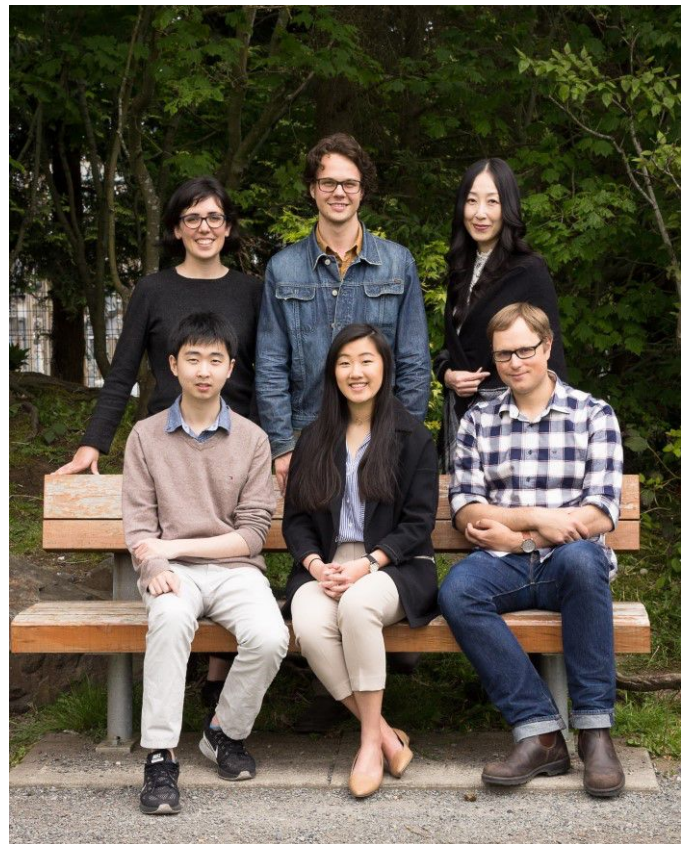
In a single day, May 9, Etsumatsu confirmed details to move five families—at least 18 people—to Grand Forks. In total, he would help over 360 Japanese Canadians relocate to his hometown. Once they were settled, he continued to be a primary contact for these displaced Japanese Canadians, finding employment, securing homes, and ordering Japanese food for the small town.

The telegrams reveal how Japanese Canadians responded to the discriminatory measures of 1942. They show the resources and networks that people turned to in a time of state-created emergency. More specifically, they document the courage of Etsumatsu and his family in this time of shared uncertainty. Though not forcibly relocated himself, Etsumatsu faced the same uncertainty about his and his family’s future in Canada. In spite of this, Etsumatsu extended his generosity in the midst of incredible hardship to help others.

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Telegrams donated to the Nikkei National Museum  
NNM 2017.17.4.2



2017 Community Records Team begins their summer at the Nikkei National Museum  
Back: Kaitlin Findlay, Kip Jorgensen, Yoriko Gillard  
Front: Nathan Yeo, (Rachelle Cheung), Trevor Wideman  
Photo credit: Yvonne Kong

## Nikkei National Museum (NNM) – How Would You Respond?

### What Does *Home* Mean to You?

The NNM is embarking on a significant online project funded by the Virtual Museum of Canada called *Writing Wrongs: Japanese Canadian Protest Letters from the 1940s* inspired by over 300 letters of protest written by the Japanese Canadian community during incarceration, unearthed by the Landscapes of Injustice research collective. The letters of protest will be framed by powerful immersive narrative structures as a journey, hinging on a central Right to Home theme.

### We need your answer to, “What does *Home* Mean to you?”

Email your response to [intern@nikkeiplace.org](mailto:intern@nikkeiplace.org) with the subject line HOME, or drop off your answer to the Nikkei National Museum tent during the Powell Street Festival or to the museum during Nikkei Matsuri. Responses will be collected through September 30, 2017.

#### Teacher Resources cluster update

Greg Miyanaga

The TR cluster attended the Spring Institute along with their new resource developers, Patrick Anderson for secondary school materials and Lindsay Hill for elementary school resources. Patrick and Lindsay were able to get a sense of how massive LOI is. In addition to cluster co-chairs, Greg Miyanaga (elementary school) and Mike Perry-Whittingham (secondary school), the cluster interacted with their Community Council liaisons Art Miki and Susanne Tabata.

The secondary and elementary teams presented separately at different workshops. The secondary sought feedback on what people would like to see in their resource. The elementary team presented highlights from the previous internment resource and possible new ideas to learn about dispossession. Both workshops were well-received.

Mike and Greg had a dinner meeting with Consul General Asako Okai (Consulate-General of Japan in Vancouver) in May to discuss their cluster and to learn of the Consul General's project working with Susanne to develop a series of short documentaries about post-war Japan.

Because the revised elementary curriculum is finalized, Greg was asked to come up with a framework of what the elementary LOI lessons might look like. The draft framework will emphasize how our lessons support the new curriculum (Core and Curricular Competencies, the First People's Principles of Learning, etc.).

The Teacher Resources cluster welcomed Kaitlin Findlay to work as a research assistant this summer to help with digitizing resources and getting permissions of documents and photographs to use publicly.

#### Oral History Cluster Update

Joshua Labove

The Oral History cluster gathered with research collective members at the third Landscapes of Injustice Spring Institute in Victoria. This year, the cluster brought to the Institute a glimpse of our works in progress and we discussed possible areas for future research at small, moderated roundtable workshops.

Buoyed by our time together in Victoria, the cluster was active at the 2017 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, which was hosted by cluster lead Pamela Sugiman on our Ryerson University campus. Congress brought 10,000 academics to Toronto—among them those who gathered for the Canadian Historical Association annual meetings. Oral history RA Alex Pekic presented cluster research and cluster research supervisor Josh Labove organized and moderated a session that brought the work of the oral history cluster in conversation with academics addressing a range of questions around memory in the Canadian city.

After Congress, we have been busy this spring and summer listening and conducting more oral history interviews across BC and Ontario. Cluster lead Pamela Sugiman has recently completed a tour of interviews in Haney/Maple Ridge, with more planned for August. Rebeca Salas has also recently returned from interviewing in Ucluelet, BC, connecting with elders in the First Nations community. These trips underscore that the cluster remains actively seeking narrators this summer, our last summer of research production. The cluster will interview through the end of the project's research phase, and we remain committed to hearing from those who have recollections and experiences. Those who wish to talk—or to learn more about our process—should connect with Josh Labove, cluster research supervisor, by email at [jlabove@ryerson.ca](mailto:jlabove@ryerson.ca)



**Witness To Loss: Race, Culpability,  
and Memory in the Dispossession  
of Japanese Canadians**  
Edited by Jordan Stanger-Ross  
and Pamela Sugiman

**A Japanese Canadian participated in the government's destruction of his own community. How should he be remembered?**

When the federal government uprooted and interned Japanese Canadians en masse in 1942, Kishizo Kimura saw his life upended along with tens of thousands of others. But his story is also unique: as a member of two controversial committees that oversaw the forced sale of the property of Japanese Canadians in Vancouver during the Second World War, Kimura participated in the dispossession of his own community.

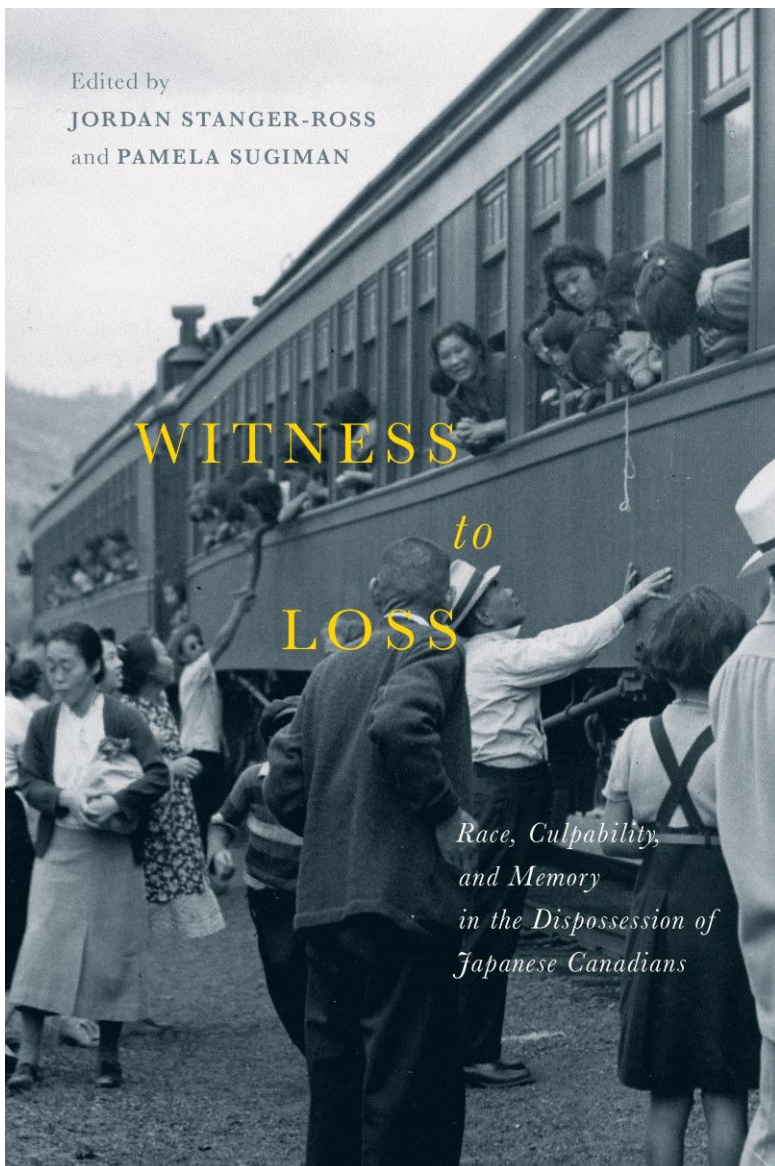
In *Witness to Loss* Kimura's previously unknown memoir - written in the last years of his life - is translated from Japanese to English and published for the first time. This remarkable document chronicles a history of racism in British Columbia, describes the activities of the committees on which Kimura served, and seeks to defend his actions.

Diverse reflections of leading historians, sociologists, and a community activist and educator who lived through this history give context to the memoir, inviting readers to grapple with a rich and contentious past. More complex than just hero or villain, oppressor or victim, Kimura raises important questions about the meaning of resistance and collaboration and the constraints faced by an entire generation.

Illuminating the difficult, even impossible, circumstances that confronted the victims of racist state action in the mid-twentieth century, *Witness to Loss* reminds us that the challenge of understanding is greater than that of judgment.

McGill-Queens University Press  
Regular price: Paperback \$29.95  
272 pages 40 photos, 8 tables  
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Also available in cloth cover

To pre-order and receive a 10% discount (26.96), visit this link  
<http://www.mqup.ca/witness-to-loss-products-9780773551213.php>



# *The Tree Trunk Can Be My Pillow*

**The Biography of an Outstanding Japanese Canadian**

BY **TADASHI JACK KAGETSU**



## **The Tree Trunk Can Be My Pillow - by Jack Kagetsu** **New publication coming Fall 2017**

Article by Trevor Wideman

Author Tadashi (Jack) Kagetsu (1931-2006) was the youngest son of “outstanding Japanese Canadian” and prominent *Nikkei* timber industrialist Eikichi Kagetsu. In *The Tree Trunk Can Be My Pillow*, Jack details the fascinating life and accomplishments of his father, and he follows the Kagetsu family across oceans and continents, telling a uniquely Japanese-Canadian story of economic success and sudden dispossession. Jack Kagetsu was a highly talented individual. He received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Toronto in 1957. He went on to an accomplished career in the United States with the Union Carbide Corporation, where he received two patents for technical innovation. He was also a chess master - as a university student, he defeated a Russian grandmaster as well as a US and former world champion.

*The Tree Trunk Can Be My Pillow* is the result of over ten years of research that took Jack across North America, from New York to Virginia, Ontario to British Columbia, on a mission to find his father and reconstruct his family history. It is the culmination of Jack’s quest to reclaim lost years, lost knowledge, lost geographies, and lost memories. Published over ten years after his death, this book tells the remarkable story of Jack’s famous father, and it is an important text for anyone interested in Japanese- Canadian history. But the book also represents a personal vindication - a son’s *repossession* of memory, of relationships, and perhaps ultimately of history.

Book launches for *Witness to Loss* and *The Tree Trunk Can Be My Pillow* are currently being planned for this fall. Stay tuned for more details:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Landscapes-of-Injustice>

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/LandscapesInjus](http://www.twitter.com/LandscapesInjus)



## Powell Street Diary – By Jesse Nishihata

Through the efforts of son, Junji Nishihata, a posthumous journal by the late Jesse Nishihata has now been published. Jesse, an award-winning Canadian filmmaker who brought the Japanese Canadian story to a national audience in 1973's *Watari Dori*, brings to life Vancouver's Japanese neighbourhood before the evacuation in Powell Street Diary. The book evokes pre-war life in the iconic neighborhood, along with the uncertainties and insecurities that face every twelve-year-old kid growing up in troubled times.

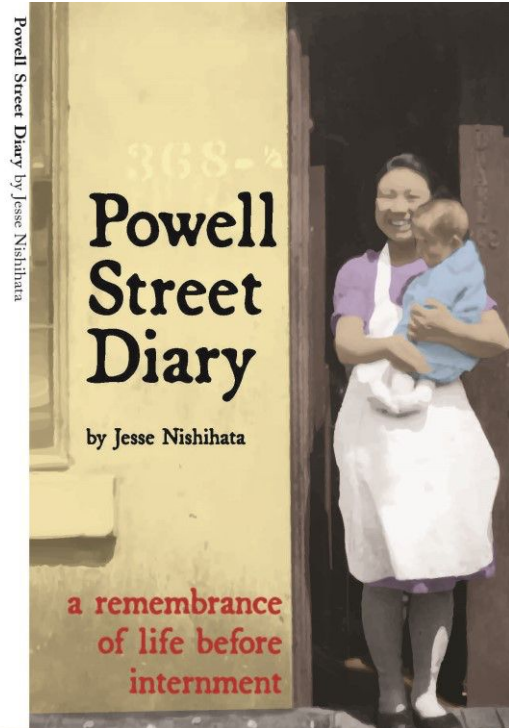
An interview by Norm Ibuki with Junji Nishihata also appears in the Discover Nikkei e-journal.  
<http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/journal/2017/8/1/powell-street-diary/#.WYC1AgCwFuW.gmail>

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<http://www.lulu.com/shop/http://www.lulu.com/shop/jesse-nishihata/powell-street-diary/paperback/product-23259264.html>

*"Thursday, November 20, 1941 - Today is my birthday and I got the best present ever, a wrist watch! It's Swiss made, with a 17-jewel movement, and luminous hands and numbers so you can see the time in the dark, and a black leather strap. And a nice round stainless steel casing. I look at it every time..."*

So begins the diary, a record of the events in the life of precocious narrator Hideo Nishihata, in the momentous year before the evacuation of Japanese-Canadians during the Second World War.

Written posthumously by acclaimed filmmaker Jesse Nishihata, the Powell Street Diary brings to life a forgotten and simpler time, albeit one that became very complicated, very quickly.



## Student News

### Rebecca Willmott

I worked in the Land Title cluster for *Landscapes of Injustice's* first summer (2014). One of a team of two, I worked out of the Land Title & Survey Authority office in New Westminster, digitizing maps and plans that correspond to properties dispossessed during the focal years of *Landscapes of Injustice*. My research partner and I developed standards for collection and entry of data concerning these properties. We also helped to build up the database of information to include who owned them and how they were transferred, and finally what became of them.



Since then, I have continued to work in the maintenance of British Columbia's recorded past – one way or another. I followed my interests to undertake a Masters of Archival Studies at UBC, during which time I worked in government and heritage institutions to make BC's past more accessible. I completed my Master's this spring and now work as the Records & Information Management Coordinator for the Office of the Auditor General of British Columbia. I'm happy to be a part of this office, responsible for ensuring the ongoing accountability of British Columbia's government: a theme that has coloured my career since *Landscapes*. I'm immensely grateful for the experience and insight that I gained working with *Landscapes*, and I know that it was foundational to my career in archives and records management.

My kindest wishes to everyone on the *Landscapes of Injustice* team, and many kudos for the enduring and extremely important work.

## Rebeca Salas

I joined *Landscapes of Injustice* (LoI) as an RA in 2015. Trained by Sarah Catterall (Fitterer), Ariel Merriam and I entered land title data for Vancouver's Powell Street area. By doing this, we could track the sale of properties from about 1910-1980 and illuminate change in the neighbourhood. This dataset now tells an important story about the presence (and absence) of Japanese Canadian and non-Japanese-Canadian businesses, homes, and community networks. The following summer, we worked hard to create a new search method for RAs working with the Haney study area. This record set was *completely* different than our first – it was messy – but, our workplace relationships at the *Land Title and Survey Authority of BC* came in handy. Ariel and I were lucky to collaborate with experts in the field, think creatively, and complete our task.

In my second year with the project, I moved into the Oral History cluster. This is when I really saw how historical research has potential to integrate in real time. As a new interviewer, I received generous support from Linda, Sherri, Lisa, and Karah at the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre (Community Records Cluster). Later, I was invited to take part in a community mapping event at the *Powell Street Festival*. At this event, the GIS cluster combined their resources with land title data. They layered contemporary maps with historical snapshots of our study areas. This brought space and history alive; people could ask about project findings in a tangible way and contribute their own knowledge of these communities. As a result, the Oral History cluster was able to connect with new faces, organizations, and interviews that we might not have encountered otherwise.

Interviewing with those who experienced, witnessed, or inherited this history has been a privilege. It has also been incredible to see the resilience across the Japanese-Canadian community. The work has been emotional, but cannot be replaced by any other work I've been a part of.

Although my time with *LoI* is coming to an end, it has opened multiple doors of opportunity. The project is integral to my own MA thesis work. I am also now an Oral History Consultant with Richmond Museum Society and Museum Registrar with the Burnaby Village Museum. *LoI* is a *huge* project that can be challenging at times – however, I have never encountered as many invaluable opportunities for personal and professional growth in one place and over such a short period of time! I wish the project all the best in knowledge mobilization.



Rebeca Salas and Jean Kamimura. Photo credit: Tosh Kitagawa