

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Donations can be sent to:

NIKKEI NATIONAL MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTRE

**6688 Southoaks Crescent,
Burnaby, B.C. V5E 4M7**

Please note that the donation is for the Steveston Nikkei Memorial Project. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$50 or more.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please email Kelvin Higo at khigo@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Kelvin Higo | Dan Nomura |
| Bud Sakamoto | Don & Shioko Mukai |
| Roy & Julie Matsuyama | Brenda Yttri |

Co-sponsored by:

Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Advisory
Committee, Steveston Community Society; Nikkei
National Museum and Cultural Centre; City of
Richmond



NIKKEI MEMORIAL PROJECT

*To Honor Nikkei Pioneers For Their
Resilience, Perseverance And
Community Spirit.*



In April of 1942, over 2000 Japanese Canadians (Nikkei) who were Richmond residents were removed from our Community as they were considered a threat to national security. Most of these residents departed from the tram station located at No. 1 Road and Moncton Street. From this station, many went to temporary housing at Hastings Park before being sent to Internment Camps. Others decided to stay together and moved to self-supporting towns such as East Lillooet and Christina Lake, or to Alberta and Manitoba to work in the sugar beet fields.

When World War II ended in 1945, the only options available to the Japanese Canadians were to remain east of the Rockies or be repatriated to Japan even though many were not born or raised in that country. In April 1949, the Canadian government allowed the Japanese Canadians to return to the Coast.

Upon their return to Steveston, the Japanese Canadian residents immediately began to contribute to the Community. In 1955, the Nikkei joined the Steveston Community Society to help finance and build the first Community center in Richmond. This initial collaboration led to the building of the Steveston Martial Arts Center in 1972 which was the first purpose built Dojo outside of Japan. In 1992, together with funding from the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation and the Provincial government, the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Center was constructed.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the removal of the Nikkei residents in 2017 and the 70th anniversary of their return in 2019, the Nikkei Memorial Committee was established. The role of this Committee is to promote the construction of a memorial that will raise public awareness of this devastating period in history. The Memorial will pay tribute to the Nikkei pioneers who suffered racism, intolerance and injustice but returned to re-build their lives and contribute to our Community.

The Memorial will be educational, inspirational and, most importantly, honor the Nikkei pioneers for their resilience, perseverance and community spirit.

Richmond City Council unanimously approved funding for this important community project on July 24, 2017. A fundraising campaign is being initiated and the funding will be used for communication, education and preservation of the Nikkei history as well as promoting cultural programs and activities within the Nikkei community.

The Memorial Project will be located near the current Tram Station building at the intersection of No. 1 Road and Moncton Street in Steveston.

