



**BEING JAPANESE CANADIAN: reflections on a broken world**

**RESOURCE LIST**

**This list of resources was prepared by the co-curators for *Being Japanese Canadian* and the East Asian Librarian at the ROM. Our intention is not to be comprehensive, but instead, to provide an introductory selection of accessible resources expanding on themes and issues explored by artists in the exhibit. There are examples of historical scholarship, popular writing, literature for all ages and multimedia addressing the multifaceted ramifications of the uprooting, exile and incarceration of Japanese Canadians during the 1940s. All resources were alphabetized and annotated by the team with descriptive comments.**

## HISTORICAL TEXTS

Adachi, Ken. 1979. *The Enemy That Never Was: A History of Canada's Peoples*. Toronto, ON: McClelland and Stewart.

*A landmark text, Adachi's book is one of the first to discuss the history of racism toward people of Japanese descent living in Canada.*

Hickman, Pamela, and Masako Fukawa. 2012. *Righting Canada's Wrongs: Japanese Canadian Internment in the Second World War*. Toronto, ON: James Lorimer & Company.

*Written for readers 13 and over, this book is part of a series created to present historical events where the Canadian Government has acknowledged discriminatory actions. Illustrated with historical photographs, anecdotes, items and documents, this accessibly written book is suitable for youth at the middle and junior high school level.*

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre: Heritage Committee. *Just Add Shoyu: A Culinary Journey of Japanese Canadian Cooking*. 2010. Toronto, ON, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

*This cookbook featuring recipes from Japanese Canadians as well as personal stories about Japanese Canadian lives pre, during and after the Second World War.*

Kawano, Roland, M. 1997. *Ministry to the Hopelessly Hopeless: Japanese Canadian Evacuees and Churches during WWII*. Toronto, ON: Japanese Canadian Christian Churches Historical Project.

*This text draws on archival sources, focusing on the critical nature of support churches provided. Church workers sought to empower Japanese Canadians by providing education and other assistance. Help did not end when Japanese Canadians were sent east of the Rockies, but followed them to their new homes.*

McAllister, Kirsten Emiko. 2011. *Terrain of Memory: A Japanese Canadian Memorial Project*. Vancouver, BC: UBC Press.

*Kirsten McAllister uses a personal lens to explore the complex relations, points of view and ideas of identity that accompany the creation of the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (NIMC). Created by the e Kyowakai Society, a group formed in 1943 to represent New Denver internees, the centre memorializes the experience of those interned in New Denver. McAllister presents this story of rebuilding history in a multi-layered way, considering multiple perspectives that make it a meaningful read.*

Miki, Roy, and Cassandra Kobayashi. 1991. *Justice in Our Time: The Japanese Canadian Redress Settlement*. Vancouver, BC: Talonbooks.

*Justice in Our Time examines the process and movement toward redress. Moving from historic injustices, through the Redress campaign, to the final settlement agreement, this book retells the story of Redress through a variety of primary source materials. The text is accessibly written with magazine style layouts, personal commentaries, and reproductions of important archival documents.*

Miki, Roy, Yuko Shibata, and Michiko Ayukawa. 2009. *Reshaping Memory Owning History*. Burnaby, BC: Nikkei National Museum.

*This exhibition catalogue was produced for the opening of the Japanese Canadian National Museum (later renamed the Nikkei National Museum). It features text in English, French and Japanese, and a selection of essays, archival documents and photos, making it a multilayered text.*

Oikawa, Mona. 2012. *Cartographies of Violence: Japanese Canadian Women, Memory, and the Subjects of the Internment*. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

*Mona Oikawa approaches Japanese Canadian history from an analytical perspective informed by critical race, feminist, anti-colonial, and cultural theory. Oikawa deconstructs and reinterprets the prevailing images, stereotypes, and language used to describe the internment era in ways that masks its inherent violence.*

Stanger-Ross, Jordan and Pamela Sugiman (editors). 2017. *Witness to Loss: Race, Culpability, and Memory in the Dispossession of Japanese Canadians*. Montreal, QC, Kingston, ON: McGill-Queen's University Press.

*Witness to Loss explores multiple meanings and readings of a previously hidden memoir by Kishizo Kimura, a Japanese Canadian who actively participated in the destruction of his community by serving on committees that facilitated sales of fishing boats in the 1940s. The memoir is presented in translation, along with contextual essays. This book was produced by Landscapes of Injustice: ([www.landscapesofinjustice.com](http://www.landscapesofinjustice.com)).*

Sugiman, Pamela. 2004. "Passing Time, Moving Memories: Interpreting Wartime Narratives of Japanese Canadian Women," *Social History* 37, 73. Available for download: <https://hssh.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/hssh/article/viewFile/4374/3572>

*The experiences examined, from Sugiman's personal memories, private letters written during the war by Japanese Canadian women and intercepted by the Canadian government, and recent interviews with second-generation Japanese Canadian women, reveal diverse experiences within the collective story of the internment era.*

Sunahara, Ann Gomer. 2000. *The Politics of Racism: The Uprooting of Japanese Canadians During the Second World War*. Available for free download as pdf: <http://www.japanesecanadianhistory.ca/>

*Published in 1981, and now available completely online, this was the first book to use the Canadian government's own documents to show how officials abused Japanese Canadians' human and civil rights. Along with Ken Adachi's book, this is a landmark text in the study of this period in Canadian history.*

Wakayama, Tamio. 1978. *A Dream of Riches: The Japanese Canadians, 1877-1977*. Vancouver, BC: The Japanese Canadian Centennial Project.

*A trilingual text in Japanese, English and French, this richly illustrated book was produced to document a photography exhibition developed in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japanese immigration. The exhibition toured Canada.*

## NOVELS AND MEMOIRS

Kogawa, Joy. 1981. *Obasan: Penguin Modern Classics Edition*. Toronto, ON: Penguin Canada.

*This award-winning novel was one of the first in Canada to tell the story of the exile, dispossession and internment of Japanese Canadians during the 1940s. A curriculum staple across Canada, it remains a key way many non-Japanese Canadians first learn about this history.*

Kogawa, Joy. 2005. *Naomi's Road*. Markham, ON: Fitzhenry & Whiteside.

*This children's book written for children from 8-11 years old tells the story of Naomi and her brother Stephen. The story begins with life pre-war, continues through their experience during the internment era, and later to a farm. The story is told with the poetic sensibility and master storytelling that is Joy Kogawa's trademark.*

Miki, Roy. 2004. *Redress: Inside the Japanese Canadian Call for Justice*. Vancouver, BC: Raincoast Books.

*Miki, a Governor General's Award-winning poet, explores the Japanese Canadian Redress movement using a mixture of personal perspectives and critical analysis.*

Nakano, Takeo Ujo. 2012. *Within the Barbed Wire Fence: A Japanese Man's Account of His Internment in Canada*. Toronto, ON: James Lorimer & Company.

*Takeo Nakano, a poet who immigrated from Japan, was sent to labor camps in British Columbia during the 1940s. He wrote this memoir about his experiences. Nakano was commissioned to compose the commemorative tanka that was given to dignitaries upon the signing of the Redress agreement in 1988.*

Omatsu, Maryka. 1992. *Bittersweet Passage: Redress and the Japanese Canadian Experience*. Toronto, ON: Between the Lines Books.

*Maryka Omatsu was a key member of the negotiating team for the Redress settlement. In this book, she recounts the history of Redress, intermingling personal memories with analysis of the agreement and its implications for Canadians.*

Sakamoto, Mark. 2015. *Forgiveness*. Toronto, ON: Harper Perennial.

*In this book, Sakamoto profiles his maternal grandfather, Ralph MacLean, and paternal grandmother, Mitsue Sakamoto, and explores connections between their lived experiences during the Second World War. MacLean was a prisoner of war in Japan, and Sakamoto was interned in British Columbia. This book was the winner of the Canada Reads competition in 2018.*

Takashima, Shizuye. 1992. *A Child in Prison Camp*. Toronto, ON: Tundra Books.

*An excellent introductory text for children, this book features Takashima's original watercolour paintings depicting her memories of life in the internment camps where she spent three years of her life.*

## WEBSITES

### Japanese Canadian History

Japanese Canadian Museum Database - <http://www.jcnm.ca/collections/nnmdbase/>

*This database includes records from these institutions: Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre Archives (Toronto); Kamloops Japanese Canadian Museum and Archives (Kamloops); New Denver Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre (New Denver); Nikkei National Museum (Burnaby).*

Landscapes of Injustice Project - <https://www.landscapesofinjustice.com>

*This SSHRC funded Partnership Project, connects universities and museums across the country in the research and dissemination of material related to the dispossession of property from Japanese Canadians during the Internment era.*

Library and Archives Canada - <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/fra/decouvrez/immigration/histoire-ethniques-culturels/Pages/japonais.aspx> (French); <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/history-ethnic-cultural/Pages/japanese.aspx> (English)

*A portal to collections and resources about Japanese Canadians held by Library and Archives Canada (LAC). Also includes links to non-LAC sources.*

National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) - <http://najc.ca/>

*Website for the national advocacy organization for Japanese Canadians; this site also contains links to local NAJC chapters.*

Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre - <http://centre.nikkeiplace.org/>

*This museum and cultural centre has a national mandate to promote Japanese Canadian culture and history.*

Nikkei Stories – <http://www.nikkeistories.com/>

*Video series focusing on Powell Street and Steveston in British Columbia. Twenty videos describe a mixture of both broad history and specific personal stories of Japanese Canadian lives, pre, during and post-1940s.*

The SEDAI Project - <http://www.sedai.ca/>

*Online repository of oral history videos, SEDAI is a legacy project of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto.*

TASHME: Historical Project - <http://tashme.ca/>

*This website focuses on depicting what life was like for people in Tashme, the largest internment camp site.*

## **Japanese Canadian Arts and Culture**

Japanese Canadian Artists Directory - <http://japanesecanadianartists.com/>

*Newly online, this website updates a publication from the 1990s. The publication and the site profile Japanese Canadian artists working in diverse media. The site contains written essays and helpful online links.*

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (Toronto) - <http://www.jccc.on.ca/en/>

*This is one of several cultural centres across the country, and worldwide, that promote and celebrate the cultural life of people in the Japanese diaspora.*

Powell Street Festival - <http://www.powellstreetfestival.com/>

*This annual arts festival animates the former Japanese Canadian neighbourhood of Powell Street with diverse arts every August. The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual festival will happen from August 3-4 in 2019.*

## **Diversity and Inclusion Education**

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion - <https://ccdi.ca/>

*This Canadian organization is mandated to research, promote and highlight the importance of diversity in workplaces, schools and other public settings.*

Canadian Race Relations Foundation - <http://www.crrf-fcrr.ca/en/>

*This is the website for the anti-racism organization that was created by the federal government as a part of the official acknowledgment and financial settlement that was issued to Japanese Canadians in 1988.*

Multicultural History Society of Ontario (MHSO) - <http://mhso.ca/wp/>

*This not for profit educational organization is dedicated to preserving experiences of immigrant, ethnic minority, and First Nations Canadians. There is a substantial oral history collection in this organization's archives, including Japanese Canadian voices.*