



Growing Collection of Japanese Canadian Redress Materials at the University of Toronto Libraries

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Outline

- **Historical background of Japanese Canadian internment**
- **Highlight the differences of Japanese American and Japanese Canadian internment experiences**
- **Decades of fight for **redress****
- **Some examples of the materials from the Japanese Canadian Redress Collection at the University of Toronto Libraries**



Japanese Canadian Internment

War Measures Act

Invoked during a crisis of wartime
“for the security, defense, order and
welfare of Canada”

Transferred the powers of Parliament
to the Cabinet

Problem?

National security was used as an
excuse to put forward a political
agenda

Racism in Canada

- Politicians in British Columbia used **FEAR**: economy, social disruption, national security
- **Ian Mackenzie**, BC Liberal MP
 - “No Japs from the Rockies to the Seas”
- Another politician (private conversation)
 - “... War with Japan had been a ‘heaven-sent opportunity’ to rid the Japanese economic menace forever”





The Uprooting

□ 1942: 22,000 people of Japanese ancestry (75% naturalized or Canadian-born citizens)

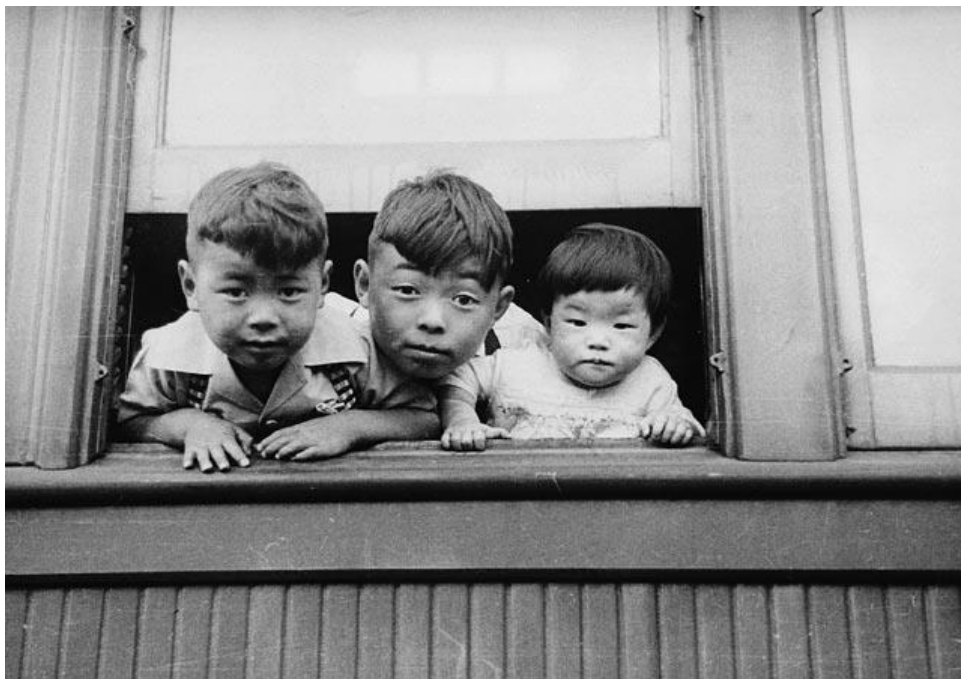


Image from Library and Archives Canada:
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search/images>



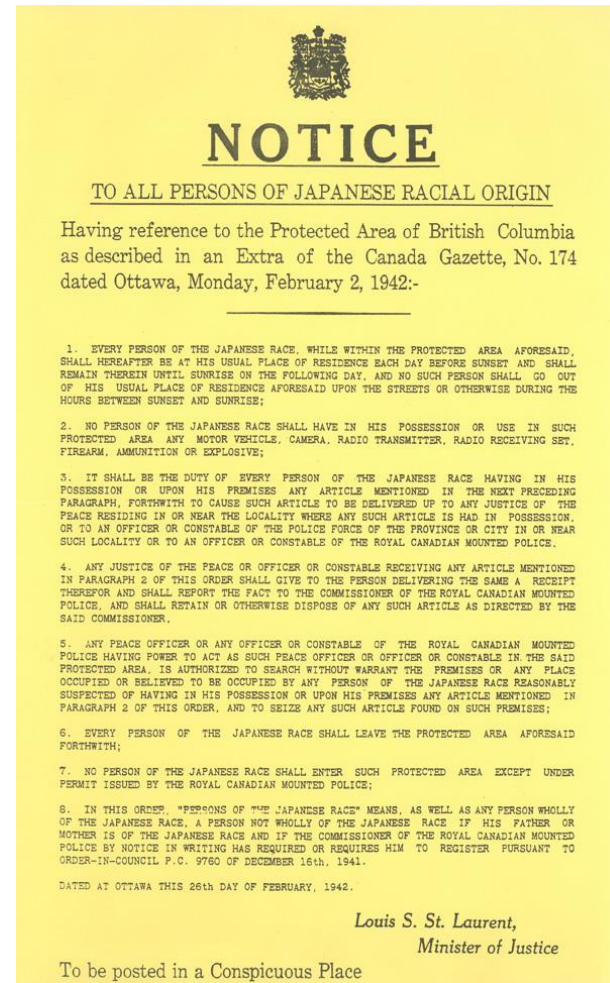
Hide Shimizu fonds (University of Toronto)

Order-in-Council P.C 117: March 1941.
Required registration and fingerprinting of all Japanese Canadians over the age of 16.



The Uprooting

- ❑ People were given 24-hour notices and were uprooted from their homes
- ❑ Japanese newspapers were shut down, fishing boats were impounded
- ❑ Stigma of being “enemy aliens” – abuse of War Measures Act and violation of human rights





Breaking up the Families

- ❑ Men were shipped off to road camps
- ❑ Women and children were forced to live in livestock buildings until transferred to ghost towns
- ❑ July 1, 1942, the BC Security Commission instituted the policy of family re-unification





Confiscation / Dispossession

- Order in Council PC 469**
 - Custodian of Enemy Property the power to sell, without the owner's consent, properties which had initially been held in "trust"**
- The government used the revenue from the sales to pay for the Japanese Canadians internment**



Confiscation/Dispossession





Bird Commission

- ❑ **Set up on July 18, 1947**
 - ❑ **Demonstrated government's accountability, but no desire to provide adequate compensation**
- ❑ **Japanese Cooperative Committee for Democracy (JCCD) initiated the work to seek for compensation;**
- ❑ **National Japanese Canadians Citizens Association (NJCCA) continued the efforts**
- ❑ **Survey indicated \$15 million by some 2,000 claimants**
- ❑ **After two years, government settlement offer was \$1.25 million global compensation**
- ❑ **Required to sign a waiver ; no further claims against the government**



Bird Commission

- NJCCA refuses to accept the insulting offer**
 - Restricted to economic losses from the sale of properties in the care of the Custodian of Enemy Property**
 - Excluded:**
 - Loss of income**
 - Disruption of education**
 - Emotional and psychological traumas**
 - Violation of human rights**



JC vs JA Internment

Japanese Canadians	Japanese Americans
22,000 uprooted from 100-mile coastal zone	120,000 uprooted from the west coast
Government confiscated and sold properties	No Sales of properties by the US government
Paid for their own internment with sales of properties	Housing and food provided by US government
Families were separated	Families were moved together
No legislated protection of human rights, even for Canadian-born	Constitution provided American citizens could not be held without just cause
Allowed to return after 1949	American citizens began returning to the coast in January 1945
Policy of exile and dispersal eastward, continuing until 1949	No similar policy of exile and dispersal after WWII



Redress Movement

What is redress?

In general terms, redress is defined as “an act of setting right a wrong.”

For **Japanese Canadians, “redress” means that all members of our community who were unjustly treated during the war years should now receive some form of compensation. ”**

**--Japanese Canadian Centennial Project (JCCP), Redress Committee
Roy, Miki and Cassandra Kobayashi. Justice in Our Time; The Japanese
Canadian Redress Settlement. Talon Books, 1991 (p. 140)**



Redress Movement

- ❑ **NJCCA** remained dormant until 1977 with the Centennial celebrations; it was renamed National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) in 1980. The NAJC Redress Committee was chaired by **George Imai**
- ❑ **George Imai** chaired the National Redress Committee
 - ❑ Advocated for group compensation
 - ❑ Bilateral negotiations with federal government
 - ❑ 103,000 grant to conduct telephone poll and survey



Community Divided

- ❑ **JCCP Redress Committee** (west coast) was advocating individual compensation
- ❑ **Sodan-Kai: TORONTO**-based group formed by nisei and sansei in late 1982 to promote awareness of redress
 - ❑ Information meetings started in people's homes (i.e., **Stan Hiraki, Wes Fujiwara**); increasing popularity led to public meetings with over 300 people concerned with the matters of redress
- ❑ **Prince Hotel Crisis (1983)** A motion to establish the National Redress Council passed prompting George Imai to resign



Redress : the process

- ❑ NAJC became the body to represent all Canadians; Art Miki was the president
- ❑ NAJC's position on Redress:
 - ❑ An apology for the injustices
 - ❑ Measures to prevent a recurrence of the injustices
 - ❑ Compensation in both individual and community form
- ❑ Series of Ministers of Multiculturalism offering the government's settlement:
 - ❑ David Collenette: 5 million / no individual compensation
 - ❑ Jack Murta: 6 million / no individual compensation
 - ❑ Otto Jelinek: 10 million / no individual compensation
 - ❑ David Crombie Crombie: 12 million community fund
 - ❑ Gerry Weiner



Redress : The Process

- Media coverage (Canadian and American newspapers)**
- Increasing support from Canadians other than Japanese Canadians**
- In Sep 1987, the House of Representatives in the US ratified redress for Japanese Americans**



Redress: The Settlement

- ❑ **Gerry Weiner under Brian Mulroney (PM) settled the negotiations**
- ❑ **\$21,000 for individual compensation**
- ❑ **\$15 million to establish a community fund**
- ❑ **Pardons, upon application, for those who were convicted under the War Measures Act**
- ❑ **Citizenship to those who had lost it through deportation**





Redress: Acknowledgement



Annex 'C'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a people, Canadians commit themselves to the creation of a society that ensures equality and justice for all, regardless of race or ethnic origin.

During and after World War II, Canadians of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were citizens, suffered unprecedented actions taken by the Government of Canada against their community.

Despite perceived military necessities at the time, the forced removal and internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II and their deportation and expulsion following the war, was unjust. In retrospect, government policies of disenfranchisement, detention, confiscation and sale of private and community property, expulsion, deportation and restriction of movement, which continued after the war, were influenced by discriminatory attitudes. Japanese Canadians who were interned had their property liquidated and the proceeds of sale were used to pay for their own internment.

The acknowledgement of these injustices serves notice to all Canadians that the excesses of the past are condemned and that the principles of justice and equality in Canada are reaffirmed.

Therefore, the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, does hereby:

- 1) acknowledge that the treatment of Japanese Canadians during and after World War II was unjust and violated principles of human rights as they are understood today;
- 2) pledge to ensure, to the full extent that its powers allow, that such events will not happen again; and
- 3) recognize, with great respect, the fortitude and determination of Japanese Canadians who, despite great stress and hardship, retain their commitment and loyalty to Canada and contribute so richly to the development of the Canadian nation.

RECONNAISSANCE

En tant que nation, les Canadiens se sont engagés à édifier une société qui respecte les principes d'égalité et de justice pour tous ses membres sans égard à leurs origines culturelles ou raciales.

Pendant et après la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, des Canadiens d'origine japonaise, citoyens de notre pays pour la plupart, ont eu à souffrir de mesures sans précédent prises par le gouvernement du Canada et dirigées contre leur communauté.

En dépit des besoins militaires perçus à l'époque, le déplacement forcé et l'incarcération de Canadiens japonais au cours de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, ainsi que leur déportation et leur expulsion au lendemain de celle-ci, furent injustifiées. On se rend compte aujourd'hui que les mesures gouvernementales de privation des droits civils, de détention, de confiscation et de vente des biens personnels et communautaires, ainsi que d'expulsion, de déportation et de restriction des déplacements, qui ont été maintenues après la guerre, découlaient d'attitudes discriminatoires. Les Canadiens japonais internés ont vu leurs biens liquidés, le produit de la vente de ceux-ci servant à payer leur propre internement.

En reconnaissant ces injustices, nous voulons signifier à tous les Canadiens que nous condamnons les abus commis dans le passé et que nous reconnaissons pour le Canada les principes de justice et d'égalité.

En conséquence, le gouvernement du Canada, au nom de tous les Canadiens :

- 1) reconnaît que les mesures prises à l'encontre des Canadiens japonais pendant et après la Deuxième Guerre mondiale furent injustes et constituaient une violation des principes des droits de la personne, tels qu'ils sont compris aujourd'hui;
- 2) s'engage à faire tout en son pouvoir pour que de tels agissements ne se reproduisent plus jamais;
- 3) reconnaît, avec grand respect, la force d'âme et la détermination des Canadiens japonais qui, en dépit d'épreuves et de souffrances considérables, ont conservé envers le Canada leur dévouement et leur loyauté, contribuant grandement à l'épanouissement de la nation canadienne.



Prime Minister of Canada Le Premier ministre du Canada

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Community Outreach

1



1. Hana Kim, Fabiano Rocha, Stan Hiraki, Van Hori, Anne Dondertman

2



2. Mike Murakami, Aiko Murakami, Joan Fujiwara

3



3. Fabiano Rocha, Stan Hiraki, Sharon Okuno, Mika Fukuma



Hide Shimizu



Order-in-Council P.C 117: March 1941.

Required registration and fingerprinting of all Japanese Canadians over the age of 16.

Birth Certificate
Hide Shimizu (nee Hyodo)

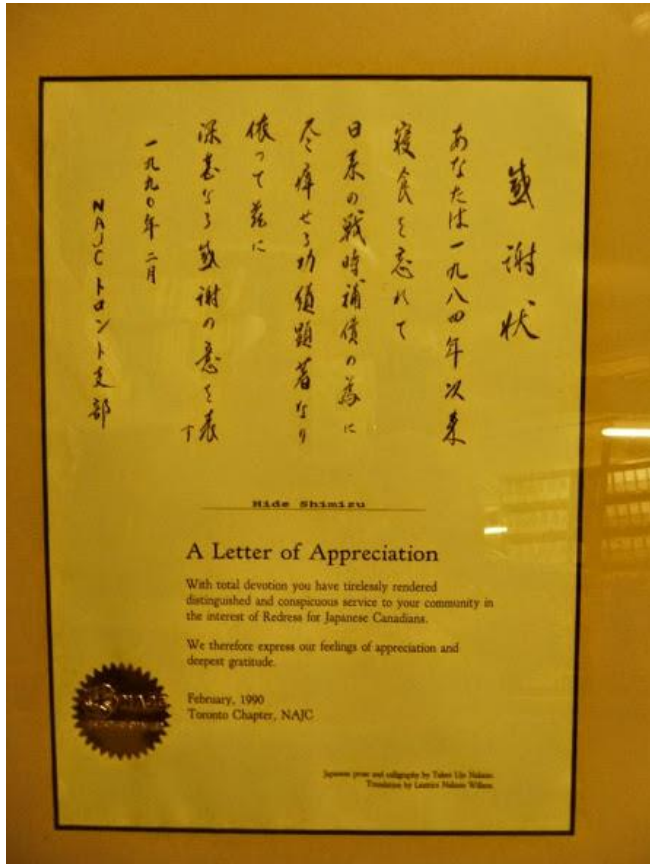


Schools During Internment





Hide Shimizu Awards



Hide Shimizu fonds (University of Toronto)



Stan Hiraki





Ottawa Rally





Ottawa Rally



Shirley Yamada fonds (University of Toronto)



Ottawa Rally



Shirley Yamada fonds (University of Toronto)



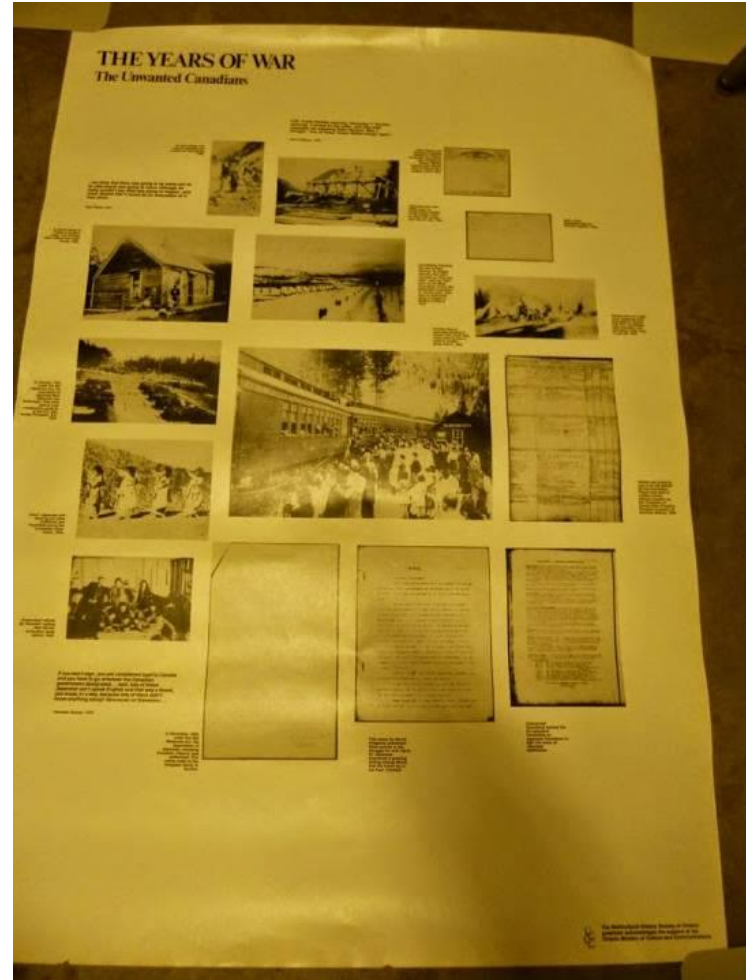
Ottawa Rally



Shirley Yamada fonds (University of Toronto)

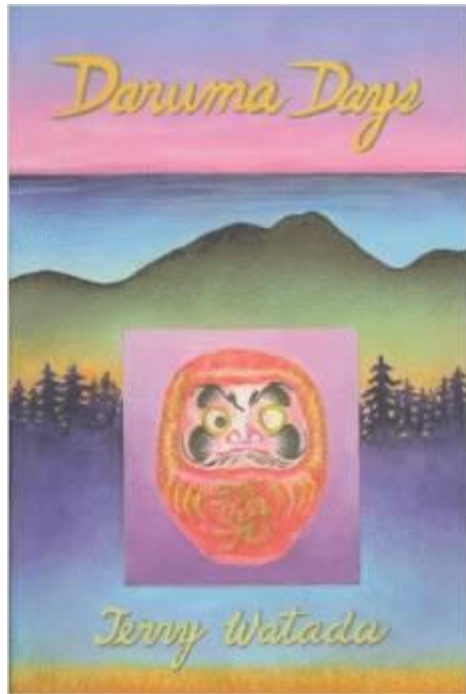


Terry Watada





Terry Watada



Terry Watada Special Collection
Some materials for Redress

“Set in the internment camps of the British Columbia interior during World War II, Terry Watada's *Daruma Days* captures the Japanese Canadian experience of imprisonment. Watada draws on the accounts of people who lived through the camps, often speaking with the voices of the issei and nisei, to portray the camps as haunted by demonic forces, the inhabitants caught between two worlds: the cultures of Japan and Canada.”



Tsuji Communications

- Local production company
- Finished masters and raw footage
ca. 1980-2001
- “Hello Japan”
 - Produced/hosted by Susan Tsuji
 - Interviews, musical performances
 - Visiting dignitaries (Prince and Princess of Japan)
- Coverage of **Redress**

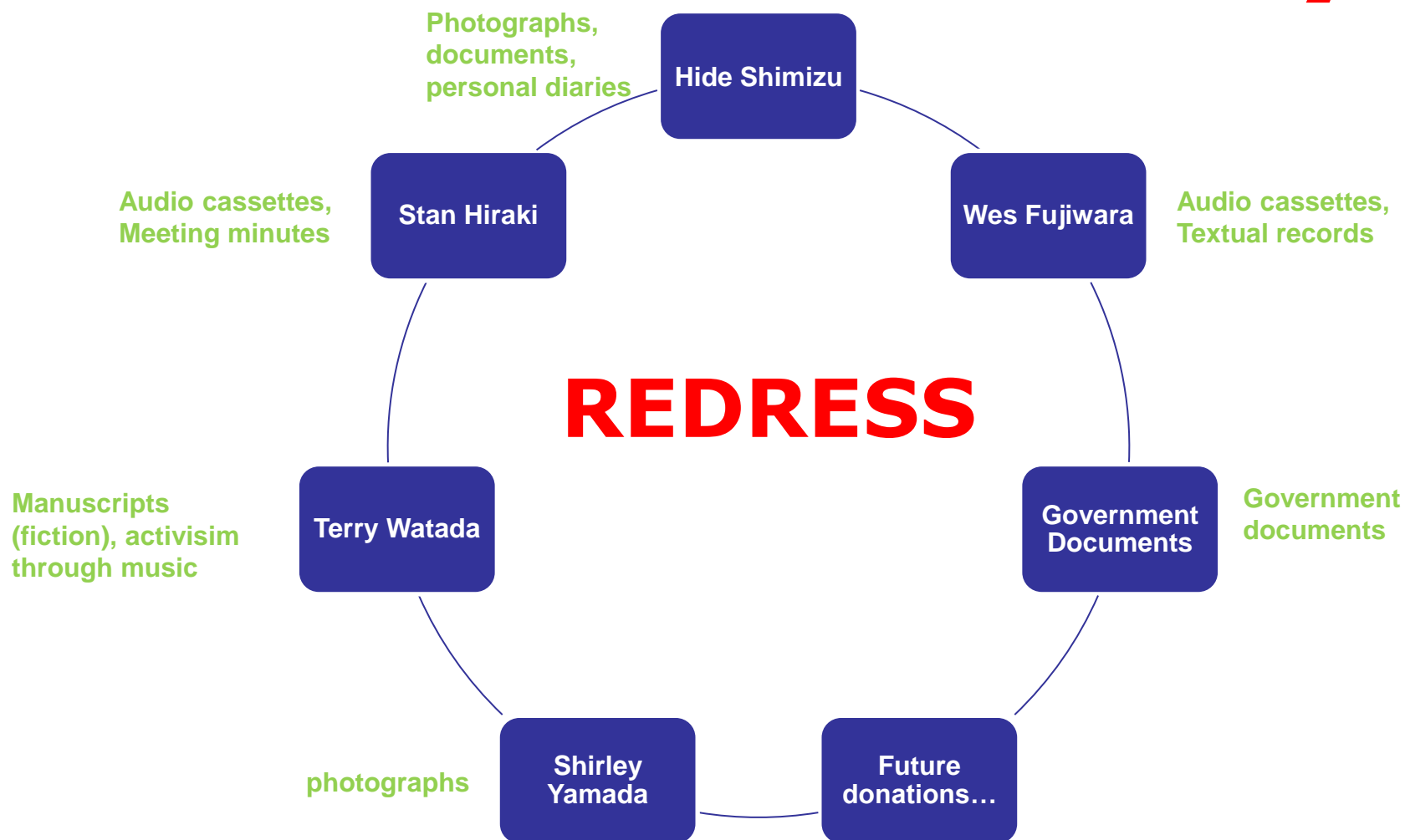


Government Documents

- Documents of the Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property, Vancouver Branch
- Consists of
 - Correspondence
 - Reports (assorted, unpublished, Bird Commission)
- Deep Bay Logging Company (claims)



Interconnectivity





Sources Consulted

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- ❑ Sunahara, Ann Gomer. *The Politics of Racism: The Uprooting of Japanese Canadians During the Second World War*. Toronto: Lorimer, 1981.
- ❑ Miki, Arthur K. *The Japanese Canadian Redress Legacy: A Community Revitalized*. Winnipeg, MB: National Association of Japanese Canadians, 2003.
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- ❑ Moritsugu, Frank. *Teaching in Canadian Exile: A History of the Schools for Japanese-Canadian Children in British Columbia Detention Camps During the Second World War*. Toronto: Ghost-Town Teachers Historical Society, 2001.
- ❑ National Association of Japanese Canadians. *Democracy Betrayed: The Case for Redress : November 21, 1984*. [Vancouver?]: National Association of Japanese Canadians, 1985.



Questions?

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Thank you!