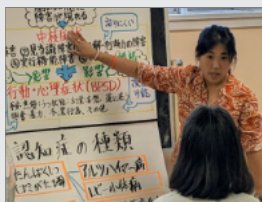


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M ontréal BULLETIN

JAPANESE CANADIAN AND NIKKEI COMMUNITY NEWS

October 2023 Issue

JC Legacies funding deadlines are fast approaching



Michael Abe, Project Director of the Japanese Canadian Legacy Monument Database makes a presentation to participants of the JCCCM's Drop-In event on September 14, 2023. He urged those who were forcibly removed from the BC coast during World War II to verify their names or the names of affected family members. See page 2 for more information about the Monument Database project and other JC Legacies funding opportunities and deadlines. Photo: Reiko Nakajima.

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An Update on the Healing Fund for Japanese Canadians

By Peter Wallace

Dear Community Partners,

As Summer 2023 comes to a close the Healing Fund, too, is closing a chapter. In September the Steering Committee will hold a midterm meeting to review the progress of the from September 2021 - September 2023. The Healing Fund is active from September 2021 - September 2026.

To date, the Healing Fund has spent \$200,000 of the original \$610,000 from the Anglican Church of Canada. Our expenses include all costs for counselling support, education grants, and community healing and education projects. The expenditures to date cover programming that includes individuals and family members of approximately 30 survivors. Many more survivors are out there who many want or need to know about the Healing Fund. An estimated 300 boys were abused by Nakayama between the 1930s and the 1990s. Survivors are known to include Japanese Canadian, Caucasian Canadian, and Japanese Nationals in Japan. Nakayama traveled widely and may have abused children in 35 other countries around the world. Share this article or the contact information for the Healing Fund with anyone you might know who could have been affected.

Beyond 2026

While the Healing Fund is projected to close in 2026 that does not mean healing support will necessarily end at that time. The Healing Fund is addressing the limited 2021-2026 time period by measuring the need for the Healing Fund's programming through our community feedback form. The Steering Committee will be presented with community responses up to September 2023. Currently, the declared need in the community for those individuals we have contacted amounts to \$300,000 above our current funding amount of \$610,000. The reported need is partially reflected in the uptake we have seen for healing resources. Additional funding may be provided by the Anglican Church in the future.

Archives

The Healing Fund was given the task of accessing archival records from the Anglican Church of Canada, specifically the Diocese of Calgary where Nakayama was working for most of his career. This material will help answer questions surrounding how Nakayama was able to continue his abuse for so long. What did the Anglican Church know all those years ago, and why did it take so long to come forward with this information?

In August 2023, the Dioceses of New Westminster and Calgary provided archive material to the Project Office from their respective Diocese archives. Crucial information is missing from these documents for unknown reasons (misplaced/overlooked/destroyed), including records of correspondence and an internal investigation report into Nakayama. Taken together, 125 pages of records were provided that in part confirm that the sexual abuse of Nakayama was known by members of the Anglican Church of Canada in the 1950s. Known to lay workers and clergy, including the Bishop of Calgary George Calvert who wrote to Nakayama in September 1952, a month after he was sent home from Okinawa having been caught abusing a child. Bishop Calvert wrote, and emphasized,

"...I want you to know that I am going to do my utmost to help you, and hope you will be very frank with me when I start to talk to you. Be assured that the matter I refer to is known to me alone."

These words, while cryptic to most, suggest the Bishop knew about Nakayama's abuses in Japan and the reason he was sent home early. This correspondence also supports the known Bishop-to-Bishop communication channels that exist for priest loans. As Nakayama was allowed to continue wearing his priest robes the reader can feel confident in knowing the help Bishop Calvert offered was help to cover up the abuse and turn a blind eye. George Calvert was Bishop of Calgary for another 15 years.

Church Policy on Clergy Sexual Abuse

Community members asked the Healing Fund to ensure the Anglican Church of Canada was working towards preventing clergy sexual abuse. Every three months we access every Diocesan website and search for sexual abuse policies, anti-harassment training, and general resources across the 30 Canadian Anglican Dioceses to answer the question "if a community member was looking for help, what would they find?" The first review was on May 10, 2022 and at that time 16 of 30 websites had accessible resources. The sixth review was on August 10, 2023, and 16 of 30 websites had accessible resources. While Dioceses such as Edmonton, Algoma, and NB & PEI have new policies online, others such as Central Newfoundland, Islands & Inlets (Victoria, BC), and Saskatoon have become inaccessible. Bishop Stephens of New Westminster and Kerr-Wilson of Calgary offered in March 2023 to bring this item to the attention of all Canadian Anglican Diocese at the House of Bishop's meetings. The House of Bishops meet twice a year.

The Healing Fund will continue to offer our support programming, will continue to collect and share information, and will continue to listen to survivors of Nakayama's abuse and their families. We will be here to support survivors until at least September 2026.

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