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May 19, 2020

File Number: 4700-20

Via Email: premier@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
West Annex Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Premier Horgan:

Re: Call for Redress of Historical Wrongs against Japanese Canadians

As Chair of the Islands Trust Council, I am writing to express our collective support for the recommendations outlined in the National Association of Japanese Canadians' (NAJC) October 2019 Report: "[Recommendations for Redressing Historical Wrongs against Japanese Canadians in BC](#)".

The Southern Gulf Islands region was a place where Japanese Canadians lived in community pre-1942. We realize today that the wrongs committed against Japanese Canadians significantly impacted their lives, community, well-being, and future. The forced removal of people from their homes is wrong and has multi-generational impacts; this is an unfortunate aspect of the history and legacy of the Gulf Islands region. We commend the Government of British Columbia's efforts to redress these issues to date and strongly support the NAJC's further recommendations to the Government of British Columbia on five specific themes for redress of historical wrongs against Japanese Canadians:

- 1) Enhance Public School Education in British Columbia to include Japanese Canadian History;
- 2) Take Concrete Steps to Combat Racism and Discrimination;
- 3) Raise Public Awareness through Memorialization;
- 4) Create a Japanese Canadian Community Legacy Fund; and
- 5) Deliver a Formal Apology Acknowledging the BC Government's Role.

Islands Trust Council acknowledges that recognition and education are key elements in redressing the historical wrongs that have taken place in the Islands Trust Area and throughout British Columbia. Understanding and awareness about historical legacies from the past inform the present, so that we can all work together to create a better future.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Luckham
Chair, Islands Trust Council
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

.../2

Page 2
Premier Horgan
May 19, 2020

Cc: National Association of Japanese Canadians
Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association
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Islands Trust Website