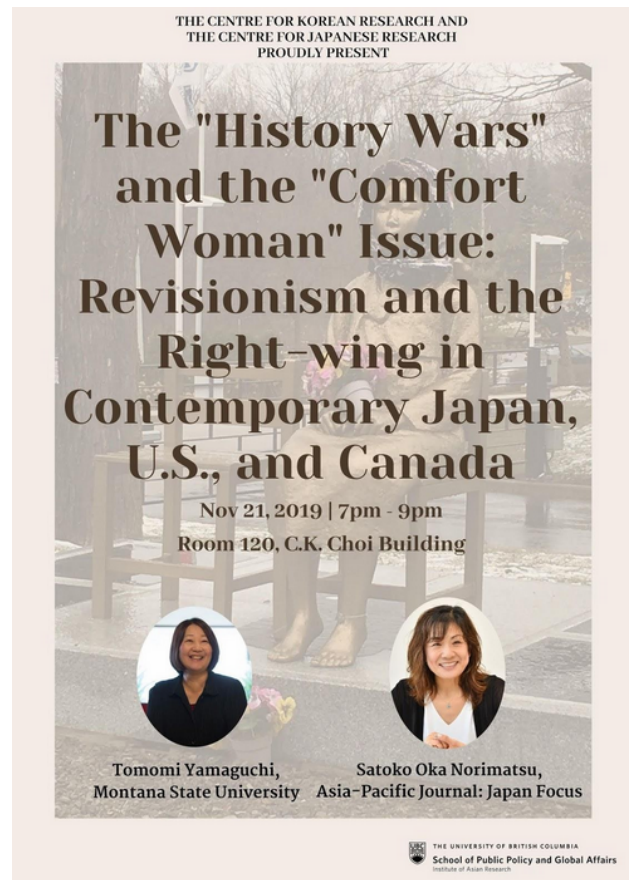


# Canada's “History Wars”: The “Comfort Women” and the Nanjing Massacre

Satoko Oka Norimatsu

*This article is based on a talk that Satoko Oka Norimatsu gave at the seminar “The ‘History Wars’ and the ‘Comfort Woman’ Issue: Revisionism and the Right-wing in Contemporary Japan, U.S., and Canada,” held at the Institute of Asian Research, the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC), hosted jointly by the Centre of Korean Research and the Centre for Japanese Research, on November 21, 2019.*



*Event poster by the Centre for Korean Research and the Centre for Japanese Research, University of British Columbia*

## Introduction

I am going to discuss the “history wars” in Canada, 2015 - 2018, building on [Tomomi](#)

**Yamaguchi's illustration** of Japanese history revisionism and its intervention seeking to block overseas memorialization of Imperial Japan's system of military sex slavery.

In 2015, Burnaby, a city of about 220,000 people to the east of Vancouver, planned to erect a "Girl Statue for Peace," in Central Park, one of the city's public parks, in conjunction with its Korean sister-city Hwaseong. The plan, however, met heavy opposition from the Consulate-General of Japan in Vancouver, the right-wing within Japan, and local residents influenced by them. Hwaseong City's statue eventually found a home across the continent, at a Korean-Canadian facility in Toronto.

From 2016 to 2018, members of provincial legislatures of Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia attempted to establish December 13 as the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day (NMCD), as 2017 marked the 80th anniversary of the atrocity in which hundreds of thousands of Chinese POWs and civilians were massacred and women and girls were raped and murdered by the Imperial Japanese Army that conquered Nanjing and surrounding areas. These efforts faced adversary pressures from the Japanese government and Japanese nationalists in Japan and Canada, but on October 26, 2018 Soo Wong, a member of the Ontario Legislature, succeeded in gaining unanimous support for the NMCD motion (Motion 66). At the federal level, on November 28, 2018, a member of Parliament, Jenny Kwan, tabled a similar motion. It did not pass, but Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recognized the importance for Canadians to remember this history.

I was not just an observer of these events but a participant in the 2015 debate over the Comfort Women statue in Burnaby and the 2018 effort to proclaim a federal Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day. In 2015, I initially sought to provide a "bridge" between members of the Korean-Canadian community who wanted to build the statue and members of

the Japanese-Canadian community who wanted to prevent it. Eventually, I became part of the "Peace Statue Committee," which the Korean-Canadians formed, including members of the Japanese-Canadian, Chinese-Canadian and other ethnic communities. In 2018, I formed the Japanese-Canadians Supporting Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day to counter the Japanese government and Japanese nationalist opposition.

My position was two-fold. One was to oppose opposition to the commemoration: First, I thought it would be shameful for people with Japanese ancestry to actively oppose memorialization of Imperial Japan's dark past. Second, I felt compelled to condemn the historical denial that was behind such opposition. Could we imagine German-Canadians staging an organizational protest against commemoration of the Holocaust in Canada, claiming that the historical claims of the event were groundless? It was necessary to demonstrate that some Japanese-Canadians<sup>1</sup> were engaged in such nationalistic opposition and historical denial.

**2014-2015: The "Comfort Women Statue" Plan in Burnaby, British Columbia**



**The Korean War Memorial at Central Park, Burnaby. Photo by author.**

The planned site for the "Comfort Women Statue" for Burnaby, BC was on the western

edge of the 86-acre Central Park, facing the Boundary Road, which borders the neighbouring city of Vancouver. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Burnaby and Hwaseong in the fall of 2014, and plans were underway to build the statue near the Korean War Memorial, which honours the 36 servicemen from British Columbia who died in the Korean War (1950-53).

According to the Sankei Newspaper,<sup>2</sup> the Japanese government was aware of this plan as early as September of 2014, but the knowledge became public when the Hankyoreh Newspaper in Korea reported “Hwaseong City, of Gyeonggi Province is going to erect a ‘Girl Statue for Peace’ that honours the victims of the Japanese military sex slavery and wishes for world peace, in its Canadian sister-city Burnaby,” in its March 6, 2015 edition.<sup>3</sup>

Japanese rightists reacted swiftly. *Nadeshiko Action*, a women’s right-wing group, based in Japan, which denies the history of Japanese military sex slavery, called on the public to support a petition campaign opposing the statue on Change.org.<sup>4</sup> The petition collected over 13,000 signatures by mid-April (from the comments section, it appears that most supporters were from Japan). It also encouraged sending emails to the City of Burnaby by providing five letter templates in English.<sup>5</sup> As a result, thousands of emails swarmed the inbox of the Burnaby Mayor’s Office.

Otaka Miki, a conservative journalist alerted her audience on the Internet-based *Channel Sakura* by saying that the “innocent Japanese children will be bullied” as a result of the “propaganda of fabricated history” by “Koreans.” She called on Japanese residents in Burnaby if they were willing to cooperate, to “get in touch with the Japanese people who are active in Canada.”<sup>6</sup>

Otaka also mentioned that the Change.org petition and the email templates to Burnaby City were “kindly prepared by Yamamoto Yumiko,” the founder of *Nadeshiko Action*, not being shy at all about disclosing the fact that the opposition against the statue in Burnaby was initiated and controlled by the right-wing historical revisionists in Japan, not by local residents. On April 1, 2015, Japanese conservative newspaper *Sankei Shimbun* ran a big front-page story on the Burnaby statue plan in its “History War” series.<sup>7</sup> It is remarkable that a national newspaper in a country of over 120 million people saw such newsworthiness in a memorial statue proposed for a city of 220,000, across the Pacific Ocean.



**Examples of *Vancouver Shinpo* running front-page articles on the opposition movement against the Comfort Women statue. Photo by author**

By contrast, no Canadian mainstream media took any interest in this except a report or two in Burnaby’s local newspaper *Burnaby Now*. It reported that on March 18, 2015, about two dozen residents of Japanese ancestry “showed up at the monthly Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting to protest the prospect of a statue commemorating ‘comfort women.’”<sup>8</sup> Otherwise, local discussion of the issue was almost exclusively conducted in Japanese, with the weekly *Vancouver Shinpo*

effectively acting as the mouthpiece of the local opposition group called *Zo Hantai Kisei Domei Kai* [Alliance for Opposing the Statue - hereafter the “Opposition Alliance”],<sup>9</sup> led by Gordon Kadota, a Japanese-Canadian businessman.

Nevertheless, there were multiple-level pressures against the statue plan in Burnaby. On the government front, the “Special Committee for Recovering Japan’s Honour and Trust”<sup>10</sup> of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, led by former Minister of Foreign Affairs Nakasone Hirofumi, on April 2 was briefed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). MOFA explained that it had been “collecting information since September of 2014, and making proactive, though ‘discreet,’ efforts to stop the erection (of the statue),” such as assisting Burnaby’s Japanese sister city Kushiro’s effort, and working with the Japan-Canada Association and Japanese businesses in Canada.<sup>11</sup>

Indeed, I learned that opposition meetings were being held at the official residence of the Consul General of Japan in Vancouver, and that Kushiro city was threatening Burnaby city with cancellation of events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the sister-city relationship. Mayor of Burnaby Derek Corrigan also received direct pressure from Okada Seiji, then Consul General of Japan, and Gordon Kadota, leader of the opposition group who had close ties with the Consul General.<sup>12</sup>

**Opposition group *Kisei Domei’s* petition form. About 1,300 signatures were collected from mid-April to mid-May of 2015.**

There were peer pressures as well. Kadota initiated a local petition campaign that collected physical signatures. Petition circulated among local community groups, sports and cultural activities such as marshal arts and tea ceremony, with this kind of pressure: “If you are Japanese, you must sign.” When I met Kadota for the first time on April 10, 2015, he did not hide his surprise that I was not supporting opposition to the statue, being a Japanese-Canadian. Since I was vocal in my criticism of the opposition, soon rumors spread among the Japanese immigrants’ community and among the Internet-right that I was “a Korean (chosen-jin)” and “anti-Japan (han-nichi)”.

However, as Kadota admitted in his *Vancouver Shinpo* interview on April 9, 2015, participants of the campaign against the Comfort Women statue were almost exclusively “Japanese-Canadians who use Japanese in everyday life, and Japanese-Canadians who use English in everyday life do not even know such a debate is going on.” In fact, quite a few English-speaking Japanese-Canadians reacted differently -- while many Japanese-speaking Japanese Canadians regarded the Comfort Women as a defamation of Japan and the Japanese, these second- or third-generation Japanese Canadians saw it as an expression of historical memory that was important to another ethnic group that carries painful war experience. They thought such expression deserved public recognition just as they, Japanese-Canadians who suffered the injustice of war-time incarceration, did when the Canadian government apologized and paid symbolic compensation to the victims and to the Japanese-Canadian community in 1988.

Several second- and third-generation Japanese-

**A PETITION TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BURNABY, B.C.**

期成同盟会によるバーナビー市長および市議会への請願

We the undersigned who are residents of the lower mainland and who frequently participate in the activities and programs in Burnaby, B.C., hereby sincerely seek an alternative to the proposed placement of a statue and plaque in Central Park, Burnaby, in memory of the Korean Comfort Women.

下記に署名をする者は、バンクーバー近郊に在住する者であり、バーナビー市で開催されるイベントやプログラムに頻繁に参加しております。したがって、バーナビー市のセントラルパークに予定されている韓国慰安婦の像および碑の設置を中止して、その代案が検討されることを切に希望するものであります。

SIGNATURE	FULL NAME (print)	RESIDING IN(city, own)	DATE

Canadians and I drafted an article to inform English-speaking Japanese Canadians about the discussion within the Japanese-speaking community, and submitted it to *The Bulletin (Geppo)*, a monthly journal whose main audience is English-speaking Japanese Canadians. The article was never printed despite our repeated inquiries.

It is estimated that about two-thirds of the citizens of Japanese ancestry in Canada use English as their primary language, and about one-third Japanese. While Gordon Kadota's Opposition Alliance claimed to represent the majority of Japanese Canadians, the English-speaking Japanese Canadians, who were the majority of the Japanese Canadian community, were hardly given an opportunity to even learn about the debate.

Here is an excerpt from the article that was never published, in which I translated the Opposition Alliance's rationale for opposing the statue, from the May 7, 2015 edition of *Vancouver Shinpo*.

1. It is quite inappropriate to bring a Comfort Women statue, which contains a sensitive political issue between two countries, to a third country (Canada).
2. It is significantly inappropriate to place a controversial statue in a public facility for citizens and immigrants who are adopting multiculturalism and living harmoniously. It will have a major impact on the lives of citizens.
3. A Comfort Women statue has already been erected in Glendale, in the United States, and the community has been divided to the extent that it appears irreparable, and bullying of Japanese children has been intensifying. We must never follow in their footsteps.
4. There are so many things that we want to say, due to misunderstanding of the facts on the Korean side and differences in

historical understanding, but we will refrain from saying them. The reason is that even if we talk about these differences here and now, it is unlikely that any productive discussion will be held, and it will be difficult to achieve our original goal of "not allowing the statue to be erected".

5. The target of our action is the Burnaby City Council: to act so that they will not approve a Comfort Women statue or any statue or monument that resembles such in a public facility.

This excerpt contains the ubiquitously used rationale for Japanese nationalists' opposition against memorialization of the history of Japanese military sex slavery worldwide, as Tomomi Yamaguchi described, such as the "bullying of Japanese children" in Point 3, for which little evidence has been provided, and history denial in Point 4 as in pointing to the history of Japanese military sex slavery as "misunderstanding of the facts on the Korean side."

With hundreds of emails, letters, and phone calls and a petition campaign overwhelming Burnaby,<sup>13</sup> Mayor Derek Corrigan realized that he was "naïve" about the potential conflict that this issue could entail.<sup>14</sup> On April 15, 2015, the day after Gordon Kadota and three other members met the mayor, Corrigan issued a statement that the city would consider a plan that would be mutually agreeable to both Korean- and Japanese- Canadian communities in the region.<sup>15</sup> This was interpreted as effective suspension of the plan and *Sankei Shimbun* reported it on April 18 as a manifestation of "success" of the opposition efforts.<sup>16</sup>

Given Mayor Corrigan's statement, the "Peace Statue Committee," then mostly consisting of Korean-Canadians who wished to build the

statue, Gordon Kadota representing the Opposition Alliance, and some Japanese-Canadians who supported the project including myself met on April 27. It was an amicable meeting in which we agreed to work together on the project. After the meeting, however, Kadota insisted on excluding the Japanese-Canadians who were supportive of the statue from the project, resulting in a strong objection from the Peace Statue Committee. Another meeting was planned for May 7, but Kadota cancelled it at the last minute. From that point there was no indication from Kadota or other members of the Opposition Alliance of willingness to work with the Peace Statue Committee.

Over the summer of 2015, the Peace Statue Committee, including not just Korean Canadians but Canadians of various other ethnic backgrounds, including European, Japanese, Filipino, and Chinese, met, and talked about the statue plan, but it never materialized. In the mean time, there was a possibility of placing the statue within the premises of Hannam Market, a Korean supermarket in Burnaby, but the strata council of the shopping complex eventually voted against it. In the end, the statue donated from Hwaseong City found its home on the other side of the continent, at the Korean-Canadian Cultural Association in Toronto and it was unveiled on November 18, 2015.

The Toronto statue was the first Comfort Women statue erected in Canada, and the 3rd in the world outside of Korea, after Glendale, California (July 2013) and Southfield, Michigan (August, 2014). While the Glendale statue was built in a public park, the Southfield statue was built on private property, as the effort to find a public location for it was thwarted by the Japanese government and corporations.



**Statue at the Korean Canadian Cultural Association in Toronto, Ontario. Photo by Tomomi Yamaguchi**

### **2015 - 2016: Japanese historical revisionism efforts in Canada**

Since around then, Japanese historical revisionists continued their efforts to increase their influence in Canada, as one of the “main battlefields” of their “history wars.” *Toronto Seiron no kai*, a group of right-wing Japanese Canadians, established in August 2015, has organized talks by right-wing pundits from Japan, such as Takahashi Shiro,<sup>17</sup> a conservative education scholar and a key pundit of the Japan Conference (*Nippon Kaigi*), Tokunaga Shinichi, a lead attorney for the Asahi-Glendale Lawsuit, and Jason Morgan,<sup>18</sup> an American instructor at Reitaku University in Chiba, Japan. These talks highlighted denial of Japanese military sex slavery and the Nanjing Massacre.<sup>19</sup>

「トロント正論の会 講演会」

**日時** 2016年8月25日(木) 6:30pm~

**会場** 日系文化会館 Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre  
6 Garamond Court, Toronto, ON, M3C 1Z5

**講演 I**  
海外で日本人としての誇りをどう保つか  
それをどう次世代に伝えていくか  
高橋史朗 明星大学特別教授

**講演 II**  
朝日・グレンデール訴訟報告  
徳永信一 弁護団長

【参加費】一般 10ドル 学生 5ドル (飲み物・資料代含む)  
【お申し込み・お問い合わせ】 [toseiron@gmail.com](mailto:toseiron@gmail.com)

- お名前、一般か学生かをメールでご連絡ください。
- 参加費は当日会場受付でお支払ください。
- 車庫は日本館で通記はありませぬ。
- 当講演の参加者が会場内(駐車場を含む)で事故やケガを負った場合、主催者は責任を負いません。十分ご注意ください。

**ドアプライズ**  
抽選で高橋先生の著書や小冊子をプレゼントします!

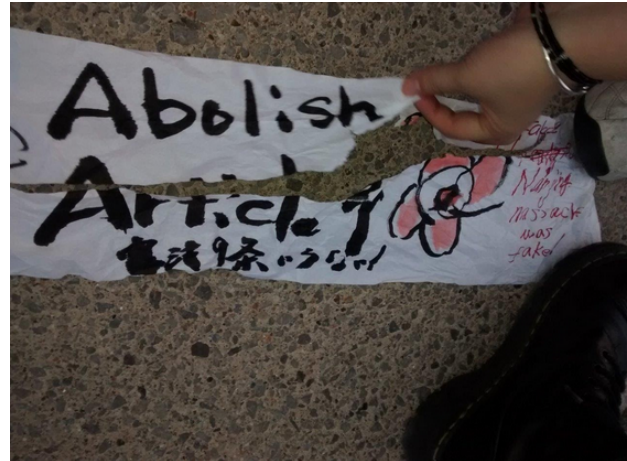
**プロフィール**  
高橋史朗 (たかはし しろう)  
明星大学特別教授、麗澤大学道徳科学教育センター客員教授、モロッコ-研究所特任教授、歴史認識問題研究会会長。1950年生まれ。早稲田大学院修了後、スタンフォード大学フーバー研究所客員研究員、臨時教育審議会(政府)専門委員を経て、明星大学教授、松下政経塾講師・人権委員、五州大学大学院講師、青少年健全育成調査研究委員会(自治省)座長、埼玉県教育委員会委員長などを歴任。現在、明星大学で教鞭を執るかたわら、男女共同参画会議議員(政府)、視学推進委員会会長などを務める。著書に『日本が二度と立ち上がれないようにアメリカが長期に行ったこと』(筑地出版社)、『「日本を解体する」戦争プロパガンダの歴史-WGIPの源流を探る』(宝島社)など多数。

●講演者の著書の販売サイン会を予定しております。皆様からの質問は大歓迎です!

**Poster for the August 25, 2016 event by the Toronto Seiron no kai, with Takahashi Shiro and Tokunaga Shinichi as guest speakers.**

The rightward move in the Japanese-Canadian community in Toronto reached as far as the annual peace event organized by the *Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition*, a citizens' peace group in Toronto. On August 6 every year, the group commemorates the history of the atomic-bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki of 1945. Part of the event is the lantern ceremony, in which participants float lanterns with messages for peace, in tribute to the tradition in Hiroshima on the a-bomb memorial day. What surprised members of the Coalition at the 2016 event was that a lantern contributed by one participant said, "Abolish Article 9," that is, calling for abolition of the war-renunciation clause of the Japanese constitution, and "The Nanjing Massacre was fake!" The Coalition

member who found the lantern destroyed it, but took a picture of it for the record.



**A history denial message found at the Lantern Ceremony in Toronto, August 6, 2016. Photo provided by Yusuke Tanaka**

On November 17, 2016, a right-wing politician Sugita Mio, who became internationally known for her anti-LGBT comment in the August 2018 edition of *Shincho 45*,<sup>20</sup> came to John Junkerman's screening and director talk of *Okinawa: The Afterburn*, held at the Downtown campus of Simon Fraser University, which I helped organize.<sup>21</sup> Sugita was at that time a freelance writer, between her loss in the December 2014 Lower House election and her comeback in the October 2017 election, engaged with various right-wing historical denial activities.

Sugita's presence at the Vancouver event only became known when she reported it in her column in the on-line version of *Sankei Shimbun* weeks later.<sup>22</sup> She wrote that she "heard about an anti-Japan meeting in Vancouver" from her supporters living in the region, which was one reason why she came to Vancouver, as well as her interest in the Burnaby comfort women statue debate the

previous year. During the film event, she had taken photo shots of myself and another colleague Tatsuo Kage, a respected historian and human-rights activist, and without permission, displayed the photos in her appearance in another well-known right-wing pundit Sakurai Yoshiko’s Internet channel,<sup>23</sup> in which she reported what she called “anti-Japan” activities in Canada, including the local Article 9 peace group that Kage and I are part of.

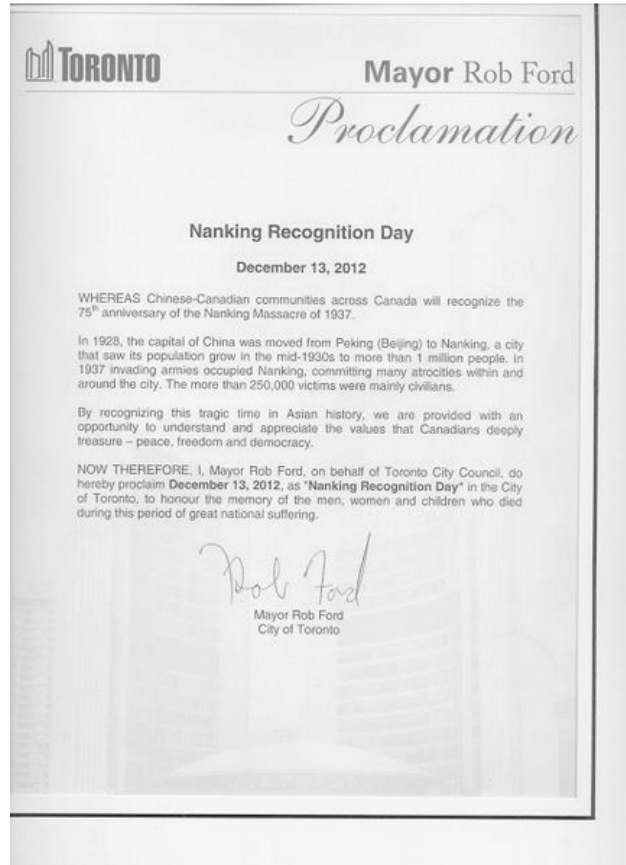


**The Simon Fraser University film event *Okinawa: The Afterburn* with director John Junkerman. Sugita Mio was attending.  
Photo by author**

**2016-18: Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day debates**

The second major theatre of the Japanese “history wars” in Canada was the contention over moves by some Canadian politicians to establish December 13 as Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day (NMCD), beginning in the province of Ontario, where approximately 14 million, more than a third of Canada’s population, live. In fact, official commemoration of the Nanjing Massacre in Canada was not new. In 2012, Rob Ford, Mayor of Toronto, Ontario’s capital proclaimed December 13 as “Nanking Recognition Day” to mark the 75th anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre, without

notable interference from Japanese nationalists or those associated with them.



**Proclamation of “Nanking Recognition Day” by Mayor Rob Ford of the city of Toronto, December 13, 2012.**

However, when Soo Wong, a member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario introduced Bill 79 on December 5, 2016 calling for establishment of December 13 as NMCD, negative responses swiftly surfaced, both from the right-wing in Japan but also Japanese-Canadian organizations in Canada such as the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) and the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC). As soon as the Parliament of Ontario started deliberating Bill 79,<sup>24</sup> David R. Mitsui, President of NAJC published a strong



opposition letter to then Ontario's Premier Kathleen Wynne. Mitsui argued that the Nanjing Massacre dealt with "matters between foreign governments and has nothing to do with" Ontario, and Bill 79 promotes "hostility towards the Japanese Canadian community," "intolerance," and will "open the floodgates for others seeking a platform for incidents that occurred outside of this country."<sup>25</sup> The tone and rationale in this letter was similar to those of the Opposition Alliance against the comfort women statue on the West Coast and to similar opposition to memorialization of Japanese military sex slavery around the world, informed and influenced by the Japanese government and Japanese rightists.

Mitsui by this letter meant to represent the NAJC, which he described as the "only organization representing 17 member associations across Canada," but the Japanese-Canadian community was not so homogeneous as he might have wished. Soon dissent rose from within NAJC, among members of its Young Leaders Committee. In February 2017, the young leaders submitted a letter "Withdraw NAJC Opposition to Bill 79" to the National Executive Board of NAJC, with signatures by 93 Japanese-Canadians.<sup>26</sup>

The letter states that, "as Japanese, Japanese Canadian, and Nikkei-identified people, we are profoundly disturbed and disappointed by our Association's strong opposition to Bill 79." The letter points to the "crucial support that the NAJC received from other groups during the redress movement," and argues that "the history of redress urgently reminds us, as Japanese Canadians, of our responsibility to join with others in their struggles for justice."

The Japanese-Canadian movement to gain apology and compensation from the Canadian government indeed received support from other ethnic minorities. The December 1987 inaugural issue of *Nikkei Voice*, a national Japanese-Canadian monthly newspaper

reported a rally held in Toronto: "Under the banner 'Solidarity For Redress', leaders of twenty-one national ethnic organizations united in display of support for Japanese Canadians at a rally held on October 29 at Harbord Collegiate Institute in Toronto." According to Yusuke Tanaka, a former editor of *Nikkei Voice*, this solidarity action added fuel to the last stage of the Redress movement,<sup>27</sup> which bore fruit in September 1988, when Prime Minister Brian Mulroney formally apologized to the survivors of the wartime internment and their families, and agreed with Art Miki, then president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians, on the \$300 million settlement package.<sup>28</sup>

## 21 national ethnic leaders endorse rally resolution



NATIONAL ETHNIC LEADERS gathered together on the stage of Harbord Collegiate auditorium to show solidarity for the Japanese Canadian redress movement.

TORONTO — Under the banner “Solidarity For Redress”, leaders of twenty-one national ethnic organizations united in a display of support for Japanese Canadians at a rally held on October 29 at Harbord Collegiate Institute in Toronto.

The presence of these leaders was to demonstrate that redress is an issue which goes beyond the Japanese Canadian community. Roy Miki, representative for the National Association of Japanese Canadians, was the keynote speaker. He told the assembly that the policies under which the Japanese Canadians suffered so much was based on racism. “It is only one example of the powerlessness of individuals when stripped of their rights,” he said. “The Canadian government should negotiate a just and meaningful settlement as a clear sign that violations of rights are not condoned by Canadians.”

His sentiments were echoed by the ethnic leaders. For example, Michael Czuma of the Polish Canadian Congress said, “The day has passed when Japanese Canadians will fall alone.” Each representative signed a strongly worded resolution to be sent to Prime Minister Mulroney urging

him to personally intervene to resolve the issues.

The rally, sponsored by the Toronto Ad Hoc Committee for Japanese Canadian Redress, initiates a new direction in the campaign to have the government negotiate a just settlement with the Japanese Canadian community.

A precedent has already been set by the United States, Miki suggested, a reality to which the Canadian government must soon come to terms. On September 17, the American House of Representatives passed Bill 442 offering an apology, community fund and individual compensation to Japanese Americans who were affected by the internment.

Miki concluded: “Our story is not one of isolated individuals but of individuals whose story is a part of Canada. I hope the Japanese Canadian community will itself extend support outside the community. When faced by injustices, only through a shared sense of solidarity as a community and as individuals can we turn attitudes and perceptions around. Let us work for the past to build a stronger and more humane country.”

keynote speaker of the October 1987 rally concluded, “Our story is not one of isolated individuals but of individuals whose story is a part of Canada. I hope the Japanese Canadian community will itself extend support outside the community.” True to his words three decades ago, Roy Miki was among the 93 Japanese Canadians who signed on to the young leaders’ “Withdraw NAJC Opposition to Bill 79” letter, along with Joy Kogawa, another internment survivor known for her literary work,<sup>29</sup> and Setsuko Thurlow, a renowned Hiroshima a-bomb survivor and peace activist. But as the campaign progressed, its organizers felt increasing pressure from within the Japanese Canadian community, and eventually had to remove the names of all signatories so that these individuals would not face harassment. NAJC neither responded to this letter, at least publicly, nor retracted their opposition against Bill 79.

Ren Ito, one of the young leaders who initiated this action later launched another letter campaign, “Letter to the Premier: Japanese Canadians for Bill 79,” which collected 100 signatures.<sup>30</sup> Author Joy Kogawa was particularly vocal in her support of the NMCD. In September, 2017, she presented 10 reasons why she supported Bill 79 in a *Toronto Star* article.<sup>31</sup> These actions by Japanese Canadians stressed the importance of solidarity with other minority groups in commemoration of their wartime suffering and the importance for Canadians of remembering large-scale atrocities just as they remember the Holocaust.

Opposition to Bill 79 from Japan was also far from absent. In June, 14 Liberal Democratic Party members of the Japanese Parliament sent an opinion statement to the Government of Ontario in opposition to Bill 79, expressing concern for the expected backlash against Japanese and Japanese Canadians if NMCD was established.<sup>32</sup> In May 2017, members of the Ontario Legislature received a strange postcard

**From December 1987 inaugural issue of *Nikkei Voice* (image provided by Yusuke Tanaka)**

Poet Roy Miki, Art Miki’s brother and the

from Japan, which seemed to cast doubt on the number of victims of the Nanjing Massacre.

### POPULATION ESTIMATES OF CITY OF NANKING BETWEEN DECEMBER 1937 AND MARCH 1938

The table below shows the population estimates of the city of Nanking between December 1937 and March 1938, from contemporaneous writings of members of the International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone and the International Red Cross Committee of Nanking. Notice that, during the six-week period (following the fall of Nanking on December 13, 1937) in which a large-scale "massacre" of innocent civilians is said to have taken place, the population estimate actually increases.

AS OF	POPULATION ESTIMATE	SOURCES
Dec. 10, 1937	200,000	John Rabe, <i>The Good Law of Nanking: The Diaries of John Rabe</i> (New York: Vintage Books, 2004), 58.
Dec. 14, 1937	150,000 to 200,000	Letter from Robert O. Wilson to Mikiko People, Dated Dec. 14, 1937 (RG 11, Box 229, Folder 3875, Yale Divinity School Library).
Dec. 17, 1937	200,000	Shiro Hata, <i>Documents of the Nanking Safety Zone</i> (Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, 1939, Prepared under the auspices of the Council of International Affairs, Shanghai), 17.
Dec. 18, 1937	200,000	International Highway, <i>Travelled to the Far East</i> (DITF), International Propaganda Section (IPS) Document No. 1744, Exhibit No. 325, Excerpt from <i>Documents of the Nanking Safety Zone</i> , 8-9.
Dec. 21, 1937	200,000	H. J. Timperley, <i>What War Means: Japanese Terror in China</i> (London: Victor Gollancz Ltd., 1938), 235-236.
Dec. 25, 1937	200,000	Rabe, <i>Good/After</i> , 96.
Dec. 26, 1937	200,000	Rabe, <i>Good/After</i> , 98.
Dec. 27, 1937	200,000	H&A, <i>Nanking Safety Zone</i> , 57.
Jan. 8, 1938	200,000	DITF, IPS Document No. 2466, Exhibit No. 209, Diary Notes Written by Mr. I. H. McCollum, 10.
Jan. 14, 1938	200,000	DITF, IPS Document No. 4039, Exhibit No. 226, Report from the German Foreign Office in China to the German Foreign Office in Berlin, 2.
Jan. 14, 1938	250,000 to 300,000	H&A, <i>Nanking Safety Zone</i> , 84.
Jan. 17, 1938	250,000	Timperley, <i>What War Means</i> , 258.
Jan. 17, 1938	250,000	Rabe, <i>Good/After</i> , 135.
Jan. 18, 1938	250,000	Timperley, <i>What War Means</i> , 259.
Jan. 19, 1938	250,000	Timperley, <i>What War Means</i> , 259-260, 262.
Jan. 22, 1938	250,000	H&A, <i>Nanking Safety Zone</i> , 85, 87.
Jan. 22, 1938	250,000 to 300,000	Letter from Lewis Smythe to Mr. C. L. Boynton, National Christian Council, Dated January, 22, 1938 (NCR), Box 102, Folder 865, Yale Divinity School Library, 2.
Jan. 28, 1938	250,000	H&A, <i>Nanking Safety Zone</i> , 112.
January 1938	250,000	H. S. Jerns, "Total Situation in Nanking," Dated Feb. 14, 1938 (RG 10, Box 102, Folder 866, Yale Divinity School Library), 1.
Feb. 10, 1938	250,000	H&A, <i>Nanking Safety Zone</i> , 114.
Feb. 12, 1938	250,000	Rabe, <i>Good/After</i> , 191.
Feb. 14, 1938	250,000	Dixon, "Total Situation," 7, 10.
Feb. 18, 1938	250,000	Ed. S. Baum and W. P. Mills, "Preliminary Report on Christian Work in Nanking," Dated Feb. 18, 1938 (RG 10, Box 102, Folder 866, Yale Divinity School Library), 1.
Feb. 19, 1938	250,000 to 300,000	L. S. C. Smythe, "Notes on the Present Situation," Dated Mar. 3, 1938 (RG 10, Box 102, Folder 867, Yale Divinity School Library).
Feb. 22, 1938	250,000	John Rabe, "Memorandum on Relief Problems in Nanking," Dated Feb. 22, 1938 (RG 6, Box 102, Folder 866, Yale Divinity School Library), 3.
Mar. 1, 1938	300,000	M. S. Hulse, "Circumstances and a Few Facts on Nanking Evacuation," Dated Mar. 1, 1938 (RG 10, Box 102, Folder 867, Yale Divinity School Library).
Mar. 8, 1938	250,000	Letter from Lewis and Margaret Smythe to United Christian Missionary Society, Dated Mar. 8, 1938 (RG 10, Box 4, Folder 84, Yale Divinity School Library), 3, 8, 10.

According to a report of a statistical survey conducted from March to June 1938 by L. Smythe and assistants, the city's estimated population was 200,000 to 250,000 on Dec. 12-13, 1937, approached 250,000 between the end of December 1937 and the end of January 1938, and was 250,000 to 270,000 in late March 1938.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Lewis S. C. Smythe and Assistants, *War Damage in the Nanking Area, December, 1937 to March, 1938: Urban and Rural Surveys* (Shanghai: Mercury Press, 1938, On Behalf of the International Nanking Relief Committee), 4, Table 1.

### A post card sent to members of the Ontario Legislative Assembly from an unknown sender in Japan, May 1917. Photo provided by Yusuke Tanaka

Amid such controversy, on October 26, 2017, Soo Wong managed to get unanimous support in the Ontario Legislature for the NMCD, as a motion (Motion 66), not yet as a law. It was reported to be the first parliamentary commemoration of Nanjing Massacre in the West.<sup>33</sup> On December 13, members of the Ontario Legislature stood for a moment of silence. Wong re-introduced the NMCD bill in April 2018,<sup>34</sup> but the chance to win its approval

as a law was lost as she was defeated in the provincial election two months later. Similar moves for legislation of NMCD took place in the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, in 2017 and 2018 respectively, but they have not resulted in legislation.

On the federal level, Jenny Kwan, a Member of Parliament from the Vancouver-East riding of British Columbia launched a "Petition to the Government of Canada to Establish Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day" in the spring of 2018.<sup>35</sup> I anticipated that the same group of history-denying Japanese nationalists (Kisei Domei) would stage another opposition campaign, so at the end of May 2018, I initiated a new group, Japanese Canadians Supporting Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day.

Japanese Canadians Supporting Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day

Home

Contact

Search ...

We are a group of Japanese Canadians and we support Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day in Canada.

In May, 2018, we started a new group "Japanese Canadians Supporting Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day." We are a group of Japanese Canadians across the country, from Montreal to Victoria, who support memorialization of Nanjing Massacre in Canada. If you consider yourself a Japanese Canadian and would like to join us, please use the contact form to the left to contact us. You can also email us at [japanese.canadians.supporting.nanjing.massacre@outlook.com](mailto:japanese.canadians.supporting.nanjing.massacre@outlook.com).

### Website of the Japanese Canadians Supporting Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day

I knew from my own experience that being a Japanese Canadian and supporting such a cause would invite heavy name-calling and Internet-trolling by Japanese nationalists and history deniers, so we ensured the privacy of members. We had near 100 people signed up, from coast to coast, from all walks of life, including teachers, writers, doctors, students, organic farmers, and artists. There were also those who were influential in the Japanese Canadian community, including a former president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians, and author Joy Kogawa, whose newest book *Gently To Nagasaki* makes

referral to the war-time Japanese military atrocities.

Gordon Kadota's opposition group was not quiet either.<sup>36</sup> This time, they created an English name for their group, "Japanese Canadian Coalition for Ethnic Unity," but the Japanese-language *Vancouver Shinpo* and its website, were again their major platform. Their opposition reasons were very much the same as before --- 1) NMCD will promote hate and intolerance; 2) Do not bring to Canada the one-sided argument about something that happened 80 years ago between Japan and China; 3) NMCD will hurt Canada's relations with Japan; 4) Do not make Canada an uncomfortable place to live for Japanese Canadians again; 5) NMCD will lead to discrimination and prejudice.<sup>37</sup> Somehow, they eliminated a popular rationale, "Japanese children will be bullied," perhaps because they figured out by then that they could no longer make their case, with little or no evidence to support such a claim.

These pretexts aside, it was evident that one of their primary motives for opposition to the campaign was history denial. On July 11, 2018, the Ethnic Unity group had a large gathering at the Nikkei National Museum & Culture Centre in Burnaby to strategize their opposition against MP Jenny Kwan's NMCD campaign. There were numerous history denial comments such as "British Columbia's textbook has a reference to the Nanjing Massacre as a FACT!", "... I don't think it happened," "If historians debated for 80 years and there is no definite evidence, what is the point of arguing the history?", "Whether Nanjing Massacre happened or not, that's not the point... the important thing is to quash this bill that Jenny Kwan is trying to present!" It was truly unfortunate that at the Nikkei Centre, a place that carries the memory of WWII Japanese Canadian internment and is supposed to be a symbol of anti-racism and tolerance, such a meeting was held, filled with anti-Chinese hate

and historical denialism.

The Racial Unity group argues that the Nanjing Massacre is a foreign incident that happened in a distant past and has nothing to do with Canada. In fact, Canada does remember historical events outside of Canada. One of Vancouver's public parks, Seaforth Peace Park is home to the late Hiroshima hibakusha Kinuko Laskey's statue. It is a peace, anti-nuclear symbol and I have yet to hear a single criticism suggesting that it is an Anti-American symbol. There are Holocaust education centres across Canada, and this does not make Canada an uncomfortable place to live in for German Canadians. None of these instigate hate or intolerance; they, instead serve the opposite purpose, to provide Canadians to learn from the painful past in order to create a better future together.



**The Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. Photo by author**

At the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg,<sup>38</sup> we can study human rights violations in and outside Canada, including the five genocides outside of Canada that have been recognized by the Canadian parliament: Armenian Genocide (1915), Ukrainian Holodomor (1932-33), Nazi Holocaust (1933-45), Rwandan Genocide (1994), and Srebrenica Genocide in Bosnia (1995). The “Breaking the Silence” section that exhibits those histories of genocide states,

“In Canada, people are free to speak openly about human rights abuses. Canadians used this freedom to draw attention to acts of extreme violence and inhumanities around the world. Concerned Canadians have influenced Parliament to recognize five mass atrocities as genocides - deliberate systematic attempts to destroy specific ethnic, racial, religious or national groups. Through such official recognition, Canada speaks out as a nation. It exposes and condemns horrific crimes that have been hidden, minimized, or denied.”

This museum in no way presents Canada as an innocent nation. The “Canadian Journeys,” the largest gallery of the museum presents dozens of Canadian stories of human rights violations, from those of the Aboriginal Peoples (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit), notably the Indian Residential Schools, to those of women, sexual minorities, physically challenged, and racial minorities such as the Head Tax imposition on Chinese Canadians and the war-time incarceration of Japanese Canadians.



**The “Canadian Journeys” gallery of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights**

With increasing immigration from and trade with Asian nations, it is only natural that Canada considers adding Asian cases to its collective memory of the world genocides.

While the Racial Unity members and

supporters were writing letters to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and all MPs in opposition to the NMCD, the right wing in Japan was attentive to the possibility of Canada's federal parliament recognizing the Nanjing Massacre for the first time. On September 19, 2018, a large Nanjing-denier rally "Wake Up Foreign Ministry! Nanjing Incident Did Not Happen" was held in Tokyo. It was the seventh public talk event of the "Group for Pursuing the Truth of the Nanking Battle." The poster featured four members of Parliament as guest speakers - Sugita Mio (LDP), Nakayama Nariaki (Party of Hope), Harada Yoshiaki (LDP), and Watanabe Shu (Democratic Party for the People).<sup>39</sup>

Where the history of Japanese military sex slavery is concerned, the current Japanese government denies government or military coercion and the notion of sex slavery itself, but where the Nanjing Massacre is concerned, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs states "The Government of Japan believes that it cannot be denied that following the entrance of the Japanese Army into Nanjing in 1937, the killing of a large number of noncombatants, looting and other acts occurred. However, there are numerous theories as to the actual number of victims, and the Government of Japan believes it is difficult to determine which the correct number is."<sup>40</sup>

Although this description is far from sufficient, not referring to the large-scale illegal slaughter of Chinese POWs and the rampant rapes of women and girls, and focussing on the uncertainty of the actual number of deaths, the Japanese government does recognize that the Nanjing Massacre occurred. This is the source of the Japanese far-rightists' frustration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, feeding the sentiment behind the title of this rally. They want the Ministry to retract its recognition of the history.

Although this was a private group's event, the fact that three incumbent members of the parliament spoke in support of the cause of the event, including two from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is significant. Canada was one of the main concerns of this event. Harada Yoshiaki is a notorious Nanjing denier who publicly called the history a "fabrication."<sup>41</sup> He was one of the LDP politicians who sent the opposition letter to the Ontario Legislature criticizing NMCD. At the rally, he boasted of his efforts such as nudging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to act, going to Canada himself to lobby, and sending a young scholar to Canada to press the point that the "Nanking Incident didn't happen." His handout had a

南京戦の真実を追求する会 第七回講演会  
**外務省 目覚めよ!**  
**南京事件はなかった その2**  
 なぜ外務省は南京事件を認めるのか?  
 近隣諸国も、日中共同歴史研究も、外務省が主導した。  
 外務省はホームページから南京事件の項目を消せ!

「南京の人口は20万人」  
 11月28日の南京警察局長官発表  
 「南京の人口は20万人」  
 12月17日の国際委員会第六号文書  
 人口は減っていない。

「難民の死体は175体」  
 東京裁判の埋骨止数  
 市民の犠牲は  
 流れ弾によるものだけ。

国際社会は南京事件をどう見ているか **杉田水脈** 衆議院議員 自民党  
 第六師団は軍紀厳正だった **中山成彬** 衆議院議員 希望の党  
 カナダはなぜ南京記念日を作ろうとしているか **原田義昭** 衆議院議員 自民党  
 松井石根大将が建立した興亜観音とは **渡辺 周** 衆議院議員 国民民主党

**9月19日(水)** 午後6時30分開場、6時45分開演、8時45分閉演  
 会場:文京シビック小ホール 参加費:千円・学生は五百円  
 東京都文京区春日1-14-21 地下鉄丸の内線東池袋駅 南北線春日駅 都営三田線春日駅  
 都営大江戸線春日駅。それぞれすぐ、JR水道橋駅徒歩10分

主催 = 南京戦の真実を追求する会 (会長 阿藤雄一)  
 HP <http://www.howitz.jp/history/index.html>  
 問い合わせ先: Eメール [howitzer@waltz.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:howitzer@waltz.ocn.ne.jp)  
 FAX03-5843-9302

協賛 新しい歴史教科書をつくる会 映画「南京の真実」制作委員会 英霊の名譽を守り顕彰する会 正しい歴史を守る会  
 千葉南郷友会 チャンネル小坂エンタテインメント 展転社 東京郷友連盟 南京の真実国民運動 二宮報徳会

南京事件の濡れ衣を着せられた松井石根大将 いま、暗らすときです 怒根平等 南京鎮魂

Poster for the "Wake Up Foreign Ministry! The Nanking Incident Didn't Happen" event, September 19, 2018

detailed description of NMCD developments in Canada, including background information on Soo Wong and Jenny Kwan. Sugita Mio again singled out my and my colleague's names to describe "anti-Japan" activities in Canada.

On November 28, 2018, Jenny Kwan held a press conference at the parliamentary press gallery in Ottawa, with author Joy Kogawa, and Tomoe Otsuki who spoke representing the Japanese Canadians Supporting NMCD. Kwan later in the day tabled a motion for NMCD in the Parliament, with the 40,000 signatures supporting her, but it did not gain the unanimous support that it needed to pass. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in response to Kwan's call for support, did not clarify his own

position on the NMCD, but he acknowledged the need for Canadians to remember the victims of the history.

"Mr. Speaker, of course we deplore the horrific events that took place in Nanjing 80 years ago. All Canadians can agree that the loss of life and violence that so many civilians faced should never be forgotten. We will never forget those terrible acts. The memory of these victims and survivors must be addressed in the true spirit of reconciliation."<sup>42</sup>

Although Jenny Kwan's motion did not pass this time, it was a historic moment in its own right for the prime minister of a third country to recognize the importance of remembering the Nanjing Massacre and its victims.

**This is the second of a two-part article. Part one, "The 'History Wars' and the 'Comfort Woman' Issue: Revisionism and the Right-wing in Contemporary Japan and the U.S." by Tomomi Yamaguchi, is [here](#).**

**Satoko Oka NORIMATSU** is Director of the Peace Philosophy Centre, a peace-education organization in Vancouver, Canada, with a widely-read Japanese-English [blog](#) on topics such as peace and justice, war memory and education in East Asia, US-Japan relations, US military bases in Okinawa, nuclear issues, and media criticism. (View English-language posts only [here](#).) She is co-author with Gavan McCormack of *Resistant Islands: Okinawa Confronts Japan and the United States* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012; an updated paperback version was published in the spring of 2018). The Japanese translation is 『沖繩の〈怒〉—日米への抵抗』 (法律文化社, 2013, the Korean translation is 저항하는 섬, 오끼나와: 미국과 일본에 맞선 70년간의 기록 (창비, 2014) and the Chinese translation is 冲繩之怒 美国同盟下的抗争 (社会科学文献出版社, 2015) . She is also co-author with Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick of 『よし、戦争について話そう。戦争の本質について話をしようじゃないか』(Let's Talk About War. Let's Talk about What War Really Is!)』 (金曜日, 2014) . She is editor, author, and translator of 『正義への責任 世界から沖繩へ (Responsibility for Justice - From the World to Okinawa) Vol 1,2,3』 (Ryukyu Shimpo, 2015, 2016, 2017) and 『沖繩は孤立していない 世界から沖繩への声、声、声。 (Okinawa Is Not Alone - Voices for Okinawa from the World)』 (Kinyobi, 2018). She is an *Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* editor.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> In this essay I use the term Japanese Canadians as a broad category that includes all Canadians of Japanese ancestry. “Canadians” here does not necessarily mean holders of Canadian citizenship, but more broadly, citizens or residents of Canada. It is estimated that about two-thirds of Japanese Canadians have English as their primary language and many of the older generation are survivors of the wartime internment and the younger generations are their descendants. The remaining approximately one-third have Japanese as a primary language (though they do use Canada’s official languages in daily life) and they include post-war immigrants, what some call *shin-issei*, and those who have come to call Canada home after business, work, study, marriage, etc. brought them to the country. The vast majority of local participants of the opposition against the “Comfort Women” statue and the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day belong to the latter category.

<sup>2</sup> “カナダ慰安婦像問題 外務省、昨年9月から情報収集 「設置阻止へ積極的働きかけ」も,” *Sankei Shimbun*, April 2, 2015.

<https://www.sankei.com/politics/news/150402/plt1504020032-n1.html>

<sup>3</sup> “京畿道華城市、カナダ姉妹都市のバーナビー市に慰安婦少女像建立へ,” *Hankyoreh Newspaper*, March 6, 2015. <http://japan.hani.co.kr/arti/politics/19877.html>

<sup>4</sup> Mayor Derek Corrigan; Comfort Women, Not a statue of peace, a magnet for conflicts. 慰安婦、平和の像あらず、軋轢を引寄せ磁石 Comfort Women, Not a statue of peace, a magnet for conflicts. カナダBC州バーナビー市慰安婦像設置反対 カナダBC州バーナビー市慰安婦像設置反対,”

<https://www.change.org/p/comfort-women-not-a-statue-of-peace-a-magnet-for-conflicts-カナダバーナビー市慰安婦像設置反対> This petition page eventually closed with a little over 14,000 signatures.

<sup>5</sup> “【署名/メール】カナダ バーナビー市 慰安婦像反対! ご協力を!”, *Nadeshiko Action*, repeatedly updated from March to June, 2015. [http://nadesiko-action.org/?page\\_id=7927](http://nadesiko-action.org/?page_id=7927)

<sup>6</sup> Otaka Miki □魔都見聞録】カナダ・バーナビー市 慰安婦像反対! ご協力を! [桜H27/3/16] [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDoLjkdyT3o&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDoLjkdyT3o&feature=emb_logo)

<sup>7</sup> “慰安婦像 カナダで提案 韓国の姉妹都市 邦人ら反対運動,” *Sankei Shimbun*, April 1, 2015. <https://www.sankei.com/world/news/150402/wor1504020004-n1.html>

<sup>8</sup> “Comfort women statue proposal riles group of Japanese Canadians in Burnaby,” *Burnaby Now*, March 19, 2015.

<https://www.burnabynow.com/news/comfort-women-statue-proposal-riles-group-of-japanese-canadians-in-burnaby-1.1798189>

<sup>9</sup> The full name of the group is □バーナビー市慰安婦像設置反対期成同盟会]. It is unknown whether any official English name for the group exists. A literal translation of the group name is the “Alliance Group Established for the Purpose of Opposing the Erection of a Comfort Women Statue in Burnaby City.”

<sup>10</sup> “日本の名誉と信頼を回復するための提言,” *The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan*, July 28, 2015. <https://www.jimin.jp/news/policy/128434.html>

<sup>11</sup> “カナダ慰安婦像問題 外務省、昨年9月から情報収集 「設置阻止へ積極的働きかけ」も,” *Sankei Shimbun*, April 2, 2015.

<https://www.sankei.com/politics/news/150402/plt1504020032-n1.html>



<sup>12</sup> Gordon Kadota passed away on July 31, 2019.

<sup>13</sup> As Tomomi Yamaguchi describes in her paper, Japanese American veteran Robert Wada wrote a letter of opposition to Mayor Derek Corrigan of Burnaby City. Wada's letter also circulated among the Japanese Canadian community.

<sup>14</sup> “バーナビー市長に聞く 慰安婦像建立は未定,” *Vancouver Shinpo* website (date unknown)<http://www.v-shinpo.com/local/1488-110-16247615>

<sup>15</sup> “慰安婦像設置検討を保留,” *Vancouver Shinpo*, April 23, 2015.

<sup>16</sup> “慰安婦像設置は「当面保留」 カナダ西部バーナビー市 日系住民の反対奏功,” *Sankei Shimbun*, April 18, 2015.

<https://www.sankei.com/world/news/150418/wor1504180012-n1.html>

<sup>17</sup> Japan-U.S. Feminist Network for Decolonization is a useful English-language guide to Japanese history revisionists' activities in the United States and beyond. Its Encyclopedia has an entry on “SHIRO TAKAHASHI” (<http://fendnow.org/encyclopedia/shiro-takahashi/>) and “TORONTO SEIRON” (<http://fendnow.org/encyclopedia/toronto-seiron/>).

<sup>18</sup> “JASON MORGAN,” Encyclopedia, *Japan-U.S. Feminist Network for Decolonization*. <http://fendnow.org/encyclopedia/jason-morgan/>

<sup>19</sup> These talks are available on the *Toronto Seiron* YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4x4kumw2UcmYjiTOwZ0OkA>

<sup>20</sup> For details about the controversy, see, for example, “Japanese magazine to close after Abe ally's 'homophobic' article,” *The Guardian*, September 28,

2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/26/shincho-45-japan-magazine-homophobia-mio-sugita-shinzo-abe>

<sup>21</sup> Film screening and director talk by John Junkerman, *Okinawa: The Afterburn*, sponsored by Simon Fraser University's Institute for Transpacific Cultural Research, VanCity Office of Community Engagement and the School of Communication along with the Peace Philosophy Centre, November 17, 2016, at Simon Fraser University Downtown Campus.

<http://www.sfu.ca/itcr/events/past-events/okinawa-afterburn.html>

<sup>22</sup> “杉田水脈のなでしこレポート（23）沖縄の基地反対運動を美化したドキュメンタリー映画…私には見るにたえない作品でした,” *Sankei News*, December 18, 2016.

<https://www.sankei.com/premium/news/161218/prm1612180015-n1.html>

<sup>23</sup> “歴史戦は政治が動かなければ勝てない オンタリオ州議会が南京大虐殺記念日制定へ,” *Genron Terebi*, February 10, 2017. <https://www.genron.tv/ch/sakura-live/archives/live?id=367>

<sup>24</sup> “Bill 79, Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act, 2016,” Legislative Assembly of Ontario. <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-41/session-2/bill-79>

<sup>25</sup> David R. Mitsui, “Bill 79 Day to Commemorate the Nanjing Massacre,” *National Association of Japanese Canadians*, December 7, 2016.

<http://najc.ca/bill-79-day-to-commemorate-the-nanjing-massacre/>

<sup>26</sup> “Withdraw NAJC Opposition to Bill 79,”

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v4ecwv3jdaKAUwn\\_aZqXwIka4in0upn060nwPNg5Lgo/pub](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v4ecwv3jdaKAUwn_aZqXwIka4in0upn060nwPNg5Lgo/pub)

<sup>27</sup> Yusuke Tanaka 田中裕介, “日系人の試練の日々の恩人たちに感謝を捧げる集い,” article series 滄海一粟 Sokai no ichizoku, *The Bulletin* 月報, February 2020, P44.

<sup>28</sup> 1988: Government apologizes to Japanese Canadians, *CBC Digital Archives*.

<https://www.cbc.ca/archives/entry/1988-government-apologizes-to-japanese-canadians>

<sup>29</sup> “Criticism from within Japanese Canadian communities against Japanese Canadian groups' opposition to Ontario's Bill 79, An Act to Proclaim the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day,” *Peace Philosophy Centre*,

<https://peacephilosophy.blogspot.com/2017/02/japanese-canadians-oppose-japanese.html>

<sup>30</sup> “Letter to the Premier: Japanese Canadians for Bill 79”

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xvuNylgt\\_HxDkZLjqUx1WeF\\_3SzaQFAQ6Ih2rSsEdcc/pu](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xvuNylgt_HxDkZLjqUx1WeF_3SzaQFAQ6Ih2rSsEdcc/pu)  
b

<sup>31</sup> Joy Kogawa, “Why I Support the Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day Act,” *The Star*, September 15, 2017.

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2017/09/15/why-i-support-the-nanjing-massacre-commemorative-day-act-joy-kogawa.html>

<sup>32</sup> “南京大虐殺巡りカナダ州議会に意見書 自民有志14人,” *Nikkei Shimbun*, August 20, 2017. [https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXLASFS20H15\\_Q7A820C100000/](https://www.nikkei.com/article/DGXLASFS20H15_Q7A820C100000/)

<sup>33</sup> “MPPs unanimously pass motion to commemorate victims of Nanjing massacre,” *The Toronto Star*, October 27, 2017.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/queenspark/2017/10/27/mpps-unanimously-pass-motion-to-com>  
memorate-victims-of-nanjing-massacre.html

“Canada's Ontario legislature passes motion on Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day,” *New China*, October 27, 2017. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/27/c\\_136708560.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/27/c_136708560.htm)

<sup>34</sup> “Nanjing Massacre day bill reintroduced,” *China Daily*, April 14, 2018.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201804/14/WS5ad121fea3105cdcf65183d7.html>

<sup>35</sup> “Petition to the Government of Canada to Establish Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day,” Jenny Kwan, MP.

[https://www.jennykwanndp.ca/recognize\\_nanjing\\_massacre\\_commemorative\\_day](https://www.jennykwanndp.ca/recognize_nanjing_massacre_commemorative_day)

<sup>36</sup> Vancouver Shinpo had a special page dedicated to opposition against Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day. “「南京大虐殺記念日」制定反対特設ページ,” Vancouver Shinpo.

<http://www.v-shinpo.com/local/5087-tokusetsu-kinenbihantai>

<sup>37</sup> “「南京大虐殺記念日」制定運動始まる メトロバンクーバー日系社会に衝撃,” *Vancouver Shinpo*, May 24, 2018. <http://www.v-shinpo.com/local/5058-local180524-1>

<sup>38</sup> See “Galleries” page of the Canadian Museums for Human Rights website.

<https://humanrights.ca/exhibition/galleries>

<sup>39</sup> Japanese weekly *Shukan Kinyobi* reported this rally. “「南京大虐殺否定集会」に杉田水脈氏ら登壇,” *Shukan Kinyobi*, October 26, 2018.

<sup>40</sup> “Q6: What is the view of the Government of Japan on the incident known as the ‘Nanjing Incident’?”, History Issues Q & A, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan*, April 6, 2018.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/q\\_a/faq16.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/q_a/faq16.html)

<sup>41</sup> For example, Ogiue Chiki’s interview with Harada Yoshiaki, *TBS Radio*, October 19, 2015.

<https://www.tbsradio.jp/298756>

<sup>42</sup> 42nd Parliament, 1st Session, Edited Hansard, Number 360, *House of Commons*, November 28, 2018. <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/house/sitting-360/hansard>