



P R O C L A M A T I O N

CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER

**Commemoration of 80 years since the internment of Japanese Canadians
May 2022**

- WHEREAS** May 2022 marks the 80th anniversary by which Japanese Canadians were forcefully removed from the City of New Westminster, had their belongings, homes and businesses confiscated, and were incarcerated at internment and work camps; and
- WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster endorsed the removal of Japanese Canadians, the institution of internment camps, the termination of Japanese employment within the City and the restriction of their land or business ownership; and
- WHEREAS** local groups and individuals such as the New Westminster and District Japanese Housewives Association, Reverend McWilliam of the New Westminster Japanese United Church and Reverend Ikuta from the New Westminster Buddhist Church advocated to the BC government for the rights and liberties of Japanese Canadians; and
- WHEREAS** many men of Japanese ancestry living in New Westminster were separated from their families and were sent to work camps before May 1942; and
- WHEREAS** the remaining 472 residents of Japanese ancestry living in New Westminster, mostly women and children, were forced to leave their homes in the City between May 11th and 20th 1942 and live in internment camps; and
- WHEREAS** the Okihiro family, members of which resided at 148 East Columbia Street, owned a local business, worked in local factories, and participated in the Japanese Language School Society, was one of the many Japanese Canadian families in New Westminster who were interned in Kaslo; and
- WHEREAS** the City of New Westminster acknowledges this part of Canadian history and the City's connections to it and also recognises the experiences and contributions of Japanese Canadian residents; past, present and future.
- NOW THEREFORE** I, Jonathan Cote, Mayor of the City of New Westminster do hereby proclaim the month of May 2022 to

**Commemorate the 80th anniversary of the internment of Japanese
Canadians and to honour Japanese Canadians of this community**

In the City of New Westminster, Province of British Columbia.

Jonathan X. Cote
MAYOR

