

MOTION ON NOTICE

B.7

7. **Apology for the City of Vancouver's Role in the 1942 Internment of Japanese-Canadians**

MOVER: Mayor Gregor Robertson

SECONDER: Councillor Kerry Jang

WHEREAS

1. The year 2013 marks the 71st year since the War Measures Act was invoked and all residents of Japanese descent were forcibly removed from coastal British Columbia;
2. The Vancouver City Council in 1942 unanimously passed a motion (Appendix A) calling for "the removal of the enemy alien population from the Pacific coast to central parts of Canada", specifically anyone of Japanese descent without any consideration for place or birth or citizenship;
3. These residents of Japanese descent were unable to return to the City of Vancouver until April 1, 1949, four years after the end of the Second World War;
4. The year 2013 marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the historic Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement with the Government of Canada and one year since the Province of British Columbia's apology for its complicity and support of the internment;
5. The year 2013 marks one year since the University of British Columbia's recognition of and granting of honorary degrees to students of Japanese descent who were forced to leave their UBC studies in 1942;
6. Since 2010 the City of Vancouver has been working with Canadians of Japanese descent to preserve the history of the internment for future generations;
7. On October 5, 2010, the City of Vancouver joined the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination thereby committing to taking action to combat racism and discrimination;
8. June 21, 2013, to June 20, 2014, has been proclaimed the Year of Reconciliation in the City of Vancouver in an ongoing effort to heal deep historical wounds, and build new relationships that bring all communities together based on mutual respect, dignity and hope.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver does hereby take full responsibility for its actions. With humility and respect, the City of Vancouver formally apologizes for its complicity, its inaction, and for failing to protect her residents of Japanese descent;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver pledges to do all it can to ensure such injustices will not happen again to any of its residents, thereby upholding the principles of human rights, justice and equality now and in the future.

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Original Vancouver City Council motions of February 16, 1942

PROPOSED REMOVAL FROM THE PACIFIC COAST OF ALL RESIDENTS OF JAPANESE RACIAL ORIGIN

*Moved by Alderman Wilson
Seconded by Alderman Price*

WHEREAS *the concentration of approximately 25,000 residents of Japanese racial origin on Canada's Pacific Coast constitutes a potential reservoir of volunteer aid to our enemy, Japan, in event of raids or an invasion by the armed forces of that nation;*

AND WHEREAS, *citizens of Canada's Pacific Coast look upon this enemy alien population as a potential menace and feel that in the interest of National security, their removal to central parts of Canada is desirable, where a just and reasonable care for their livelihood be provided by the Federal Government.*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED *that the Vancouver City Council representing the citizens of Canada's largest Pacific Coast City implores the Federal Government to remove all residents of Japanese racial origin and enemy aliens to areas of Canada well-removed from the Pacific Coast, and that their removal be under such conditions as will provide them with the essentials of a reasonable livelihood; and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED *that our opinion, as recorded in this Resolution, be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada and all British Columbia Members of Parliament.*

CARRIED

*Moved by Alderman Wilson
Seconded by Alderman Price*

That we beseech the authorities to re-establish the Committee dealing with the Japanese, comprising Mayor F. Hume, Col. A. W. Sparling. D.S.O., and Col. McGregor McIntosh

CARRIED