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Re: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Japanese Canadian Legacy Signage Project

April 10, 2018

On Friday, October 27 under the big blue sunny autumn crisp sky of Sunshine Valley BC, Honourable Claire Trevena, BC Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, together with Howard Shimokura and Jean Kamimura, two original Tashme residents, unveiled the Tashme Internment Site Interpretative Sign outside the Sunshine Valley Tashme Museum located on the original site of Tashme. This was the first of eight Highway Legacy Signs to be installed at provincially-recognized Internment Sites and Road Camps to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Internment – a joint project of the Provincial Government and the 75th Anniversary Projects Committee, a member of the Japanese Canadian Legacy Committee that supports many Japanese Canadian community projects.



*Photo courtesy of John Greenaway*

The first unveiling was an outstanding success!! Over 200 officials, seniors, former Tashme residents, local residents and visitors including over 50 students from local schools attended the unveiling ceremony and enjoyed the hospitality in the great room of the Sunshine Valley RV Resort. The outpouring of support for this unveiling reveals a strong interest by the Japanese Canadian community and the Province of BC in the rich early history of the Japanese in Canada. The forced removal of the Japanese from their long established homes and communities on the West Coast of BC in 1942, their incarceration in makeshift homes and surroundings and their

forced dispersal to Japan and other parts of Canada at the end of WWII is a story of injustice, hardship and loss we hope will be a greater part of the education curriculum for every student in Canada. It is about racism, about social injustice and how, acted out and driven by fear and hysteria, they can shatter families and communities. It also teaches us about hardship and struggle, models the courage, love and resilience of the human spirit in overcoming adversity. By sharing our stories, the Japanese Canadian story becomes the story of each and every one of us. We can be inspired to learn from the mistakes of our past to make a better tomorrow.

The following are the eight Internment Site Clusters and Road Camps to be commemorated by this project. The next sign to be unveiled, East Lillooet, is slated for May 11, 2018 and the rest to be installed by the end of summer. The committee is now intensively working on the production and scheduling of the unveiling events in May-Sep 2018 in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation, Heritage Branch and local groups.

• Tashme	Oct 27, 2017
• East Lillooet/McGillvray Falls/Calhoun Farm/Taylor Lake/Bridge River/Minto	May 11, 2018
• Greenwood/Christina Lake/Midway/Grand Forks	Jul 29, 2018
• Slocan Extension (Slocan/Popoff/Bay Farm/Lemon Creek)	Jun 15, 2018
• Kaslo	Jun 15, 2018
• New Denver/Rosebery/Sandon	Jun 15, 2018
• Hope Princeton Road Camps	Sep 7, 2018
• Revelstoke-Sicamous Road Camps	Sep 2018

These Legacy Signs will provide a platform for local history education and Heritage Tourism. Many of the seven remaining signs are located in remote towns in the Kootenays. To support the unveiling events and defray local expenses for venue and equipment rentals, hospitality, entertainment and transportation for local school children and seniors, we ask for your support to help us make these celebration events happen. Let's leave a lasting educational legacy for future generations.

Please make your donations to the Nikkei National Museum on website <http://bit.ly/2AiWLNN> or write your cheques to Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Center 75th Anniversary Legacy Signage Project, 6688 Southoaks Crescent Burnaby BC V5E 4M7 or call 604.777.2122. Make sure to earmark your donations for the 75th Anniversary Legacy Signage Project. For more information contact the Legacy Signage Project fund raising team: Howard Shimokura ([hshimok@telus.net](mailto:hshimok@telus.net)) or Chuck Tasaka ([mr\\_t8@shaw.ca](mailto:mr_t8@shaw.ca).)

Many, many thanks for your generous support,



Howard Shimokura ([hshimok@telus.net](mailto:hshimok@telus.net))



Chuck Tasaka ([mr\\_t8@shaw.ca](mailto:mr_t8@shaw.ca).)

Japanese Canadian 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Signage Project Committee

*The 75th Anniversary Legacy Signage Project is part of the mix of projects that commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Japanese Canadian internment experience. On April 1 2017 HeritageBC officially recognized*

56 new BC historic sites nominated by the Japanese Canadian Historic Places Recognition Project as new entries in the official provincial registry of historic places in BC. This was the result of an intensive joint effort by the JC community and HeritageBC, the provincial body responsible for the registry. Tashme Historical Project's Tashme Internment Camp 1942-1946 website [www.tashme.ca](http://www.tashme.ca), launched in March 2016 and Japanese Canadian Hastings Park Commemorative and Educational Project's Hastings Park website [hastingspark1942.ca](http://hastingspark1942.ca) are other examples.