

Change In Action



~ 2007-2008 ~

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In 2007, the ***Anniversaries of Change*** came together to celebrate the years 1907, 1947, 1967, and 1997. Each of these years marked a watershed moment in Canada's migrant history, and in the struggles to fight discrimination to create the society of today. With a focus on immigration, place, identity, and belonging, the ***Anniversaries of Change Network*** celebrates another 100 year anniversary in 2008.

Riot Walk and Reconciliation Dinner

The Anniversaries '07 committee organized a commemorative riot walk followed by a reconciliation dinner on September 7, 2007. The riot walk was hosted by author Michael Barnholden, who took crowds of guests through the streets of the Downtown Eastside, Chinatown, and the former Japan town, stopping at significant monuments of Vancouver's neglected history.

The diversity present at the dinner greatly surpassed the seven-hundred people in attendance. Political leaders from all levels of government, representation from the labour movement, and groups and organizations from the South-Asian, Chinese, Japanese, and Musqueam communities came to show support for the Anniversaries of Change. Panel members brought to light the significance of the Anniversary years — the changes that have transformed Canada and identified Vancouver as a global city since the Anti-Asian riots rocked Vancouver.



2007 Reconciliation Dinner speakers, Eugene Lin photo

The Anniversaries of Change Curriculum Project:

In response to the discussion brought about by the Anniversaries network, Irene Lanzinger, President of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, excitedly committed the time and resources of the BCTF and its 40,000 teachers to making this migrant history known across generations and cultures.

Curriculum materials are now being created that will emphasize a shared history between First Nation, Métis, Asian, South-Asian, and European peoples. Students will be given the opportunity to explore the questions inherent in, and related to what it means to be a citizen. At the core of these learning resources will be the theme of inclusiveness and active citizenship. Education needs learning resources that engage students in the long history and continuing challenges of diversity and inclusion in our society.

Bruce Allen's Reality Check:

"If you choose to come to a place like Canada, then shut-up and fit in.

This is easy to solve... these are the rules... there is the door.

If you don't like the rules... hit it! We don't need you here, you have another place to go, it's called home! See ya."

Bruce Allen, CKNW, September 13, 2007

Allen's recommendation to "go home" demonstrates the current discourse of belonging and identity, and who has the privilege to be included in "Canadian." It was imperative that the Anniversaries Network take a public stand against Bruce Allen.

On November 2, 2007, members of the Anniversaries of Change Committee held a press conference at the SUCCESS Hall prior to a meeting with the CEO of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC), John Furlong and Communications Vice-President, Renee Smith-Valade, and called for Bruce Allen's removal from VANOC.



Bruce Allen's Reality Check — Press conference calling for Allen's removal from VANOC, Tatsuo Kage photo

The Anniversaries committee made known to the public and to Furlong that Allen's bigoted public commentary revealed his unsuitability for representing Vancouver. His insensitivity towards Vancouver's cultural mosaic was in direct opposition to the espoused goals of VANOC and the ideals of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

2008: This year celebrates 150 years of permanent Chinese settlement in Canada as BC also celebrates 150 years. This year is the 100th anniversary of the Continuous Journey Act — legislation that attempted to halt Japanese and South-Asian immigration into Canada. The Hayashi-Lemieux Gentlemen's Agreement was also signed in 1908, in which Japan voluntarily agreed to restrict the number of passports issued to male laborers and domestic servants. This agreement was a precursor to what eventually led to the internment of Japanese-Canadians during WWII; this year also celebrates the 20th anniversary of Japanese-Canadian redress which acknowledges, and apologizes for the wrong done by the Canadian government during and after World War II.

100 Years Since The Continuous Journey Act:

The Vancouver riot of 1907 signaled the rise of racism enforced by hidden "White Canada" policies. Following the riot, Canada imposed the Continuous Journey Act in 1908; a provision — which on the outside remained free from discrimination — that would indirectly end South-Asian immigration into the country. Immigrants could only enter Canada directly from their country of birth, and with \$200 on their person. When the government forced the Canadian Pacific company to stop its service between Vancouver and Calcutta, the unwanted immigrants became obvious. These new requirements virtually eliminated immigration to Canada from India.

In 1914, a group of 376 South-Asian passengers arranged to test Canada's "colour bar" of exclusionary immigration policies by sailing directly into Vancouver on the freighter Komagata Maru. We are coming into the 95th anniversary of the infamous Komagata Maru incident which took place in Vancouver's English Bay. The Komagata Maru and her passengers were caught in a tug-of-war between the vessel's organizers and the Canadian government, who refused to let them land.

This year, we celebrate the changes that have occurred over the past century, and remember those who were affected by this act. The Anniversaries of Change Network invites you to celebrate 100 years this July. A series of academic and community events will be hosted by the Anniversaries Committee and the Komagata Maru Heritage Foundation.



Japanese and Chinese immigrants on board ship docked at Vancouver harbour, circa 1908. Philip Timms photo (VPL 3027; Special thanks to The Nikkei Museum and Heritage Centre).



"The Fall and Rise Again of Pacific Canada" Conference Saturday, July 19, 2008, UBC

Panels include topics such as "*1908 and the End of Pacific Canada*" discussing the Continuous Journey Act and the Hayashi-Lemieux Agreement, which curtailed South Asian and Japanese migration to Canada a century ago; "*150 Years of BC/150 Years of Chinese*" detailing the long history of Chinese settlement in B.C. and their interactions with First Nations peoples; and "*The Return of Pacific Canada?*" which celebrates the 20th Anniversary of Japanese Canadian Redress by exploring how inter-community coalitions have been instrumental in rebuilding a Pacific Canada ended a century ago by Asian exclusion.

Check the www.anniversaries07.ca website for schedule and details.

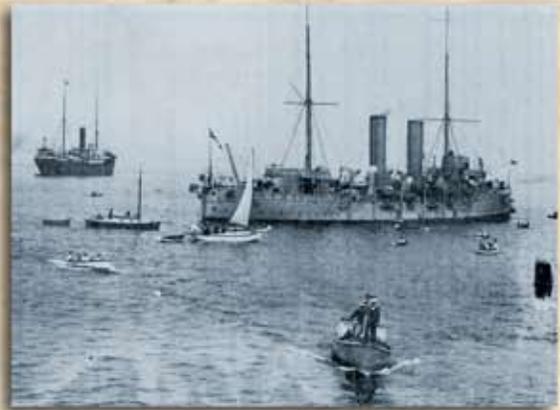
Above Left: Japanese men moving salted salmon, Steveston, 1908. Philip Timms photo (VPL 2143; Special thanks to The Nikkei Museum and Heritage Centre).

Komagata Maru Historic Walk

Sunday, July 20, 2008, Stanley Park: Lumberman's Arch

Following the conference, join us for a historical walk around Vancouver's Stanley Park on Sunday July 20. The purpose of this gathering is to remember the long journey of Canada and its people, and to be reminded of the success and struggle which had molded Canada into a plural country. This will also remember that Stanley Park is recognized by the Squamish First Nation as part of their traditional territory and recognize their work and struggles." The walk will be lead by the Komagata Maru Heritage Foundation, starting at Lumberman's Arch and ending at Portal Park.

For details of the event, and to sign-up, visit www.anniversaries07.ca



Canadian farmworkers organize - 1980 rally in Fraser Valley (Jim McDowell, Pacific Tribune).

2008 Reconciliation Dinner

Wednesday, July 23, 2008, Surrey Convention Centre

On Wednesday July 23, 94 years since the Komagata Maru was forced to leave Vancouver's Harbour, a reconciliation dinner will be held at the Surrey Convention Centre, 7475 - 135 St. Surrey. We invite you to join us on another anniversary year, with proceeds going towards the creation and implementation of social-studies curriculum materials focused on inclusiveness and active citizenship. This year's dinner menu will feature Indian food and desserts. A panel with a mix of members from academia, labour, and the community will be speaking; including Henry Yu of UBC, and Harbhajan Gill of the Komagata Maru Heritage Foundation. The A07 Committee will also acknowledge the traditional territory of Semiahmoo Nation and Quayqayt Nation and invite them to the dinner and event. Last year's dinner

completely sold out. Purchase your tickets as soon as possible to guarantee your seat. Email admin@anniversaries07.ca with subject heading: **Dinner Tickets** More event details to be announced. Check the website www.anniversaries07.ca for more information.

Tickets: \$35 each; Table sponsorship for organizations: \$500; Make cheques payable to Komagata Maru Heritage Foundation

Steering Committee

- Hank Bull, Centre A
- George Chow, Vancouver City Councillor
- Stan Fukawa, Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre
- Charan Gill, Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society
- Karin Lee, Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC
- Bill Saunders, Vancouver District Labour Council
- Rika Uto, Vancouver Japanese Language School and Japanese Hall
- Hayne Wai, Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC
- Harley A. Wylie, Aboriginal Liaison - Provincial Capital Commission
- John Price, University of Victoria
- Henry Yu, University of British Columbia
- Harbhajan Gill, Komagata Maru Heritage
- Miko Hoffman, Powell Street Festival Society
- Tatsuo Kage, JCCA Human Rights Committee
- Mabel Tung, Vancouver District Labour Council

Join the Anniversaries Network at www.anniversaries07.ca

Contact Us

Sarah Jimenez, Communications Coordinator
Email: admin@anniversaries07.ca
Telephone: 778-232-3928



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