



NANAIMO MUSEUM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nanaimo Museum

Social Justice & Cultural Celebrations at the Nanaimo Museum

Nanaimo – 22,000 Japanese Canadians were forced to leave their homes on BC's coast during World War II. Many were transported to internment camps while the government sold their homes, businesses and belongings. Their struggle to gain an apology and compensation from Canada is celebrated in *A Call for Justice: Fighting for Japanese Redress (1977-1988)*, a traveling exhibit from the Nikkei National Museum. The exhibit runs from May 12-September 3 at the Nanaimo Museum.

A Call for Justice explores human rights and the determination of the Japanese Canadian community. "This story is especially relevant on the coast," says Aimee Greenaway, Curator at the Nanaimo Museum. "Friends and neighbours were forced out of the community with little warning." The exhibit examines the ten-year fight for redress using historic photographs, artifacts, poetry, personal statements, art and video. 2018 is the 30th anniversary of the Canadian government's official apology to Japanese Canadians.

The Nanaimo Museum has partnered with the Central Vancouver Island Japanese-Canadian Society to lead workshops on traditional Japanese practices. The sessions are part of Crafternoons, a new summer program for adults. On certain Saturdays May through August, Crafternoon workshops will engage participants in creative, hands-on activities within the museum. Asuka Naomi will lead a Chado (Tea Ceremony) session on May 26th from 1-3pm and a session on traditional Kimono styles on June 23rd from 1-4pm. Kim Cowley-Adam will teach Saori handweaving on June 9th from 1-4pm, a technique that embraces individualism and mistakes.

Crafternoons will also feature practices from other cultures. On July 7th, Chepximiya Siyam, Chief Janice George and Skwetsimeltxw Buddy Joseph will lead a full-day session on Coast Salish weaving. From Squamish Nation, George and Joseph have been teaching the art of Coast Salish weaving for over 10 years. Participants will create their own weaving, using a variety of techniques, textures, and colours.

"This series is a fantastic opportunity to connect with the many cultures and groups that make up our city," says Steph Kveton, Program Coordinator at the museum. "Learning about history by creating or doing something in a traditional way helps to make the historical fact more real, more tangible." Pre-registration is required for Crafternoons. Cost varies between sessions and includes all materials and museum admission. Age restrictions apply and are determined by the facilitator.



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The museum's winter hours are Monday to Saturday from 10am-5pm and open seven days per week from May long weekend until Labour Day. For more information please visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca or call 250 753-1821.

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