

Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society

Human Rights Committee

Annual Report 2023



Introduction

2023 was the first full year of the Human Rights (HR) Committee. The committee meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month via Zoom. Out of these monthly meetings three events were organized, one newsletter article was written, the NAJC Capacity Building Symposium was attended, and a strategic planning process was started.

Membership

Our current complement is 6 members: Mark Collins, Pieta Van Dyke, Karen Geiger, Miwa Sugino, Tsugio Kurushima, and Misty Cozac. Misty Cozac is our representative on the NAJC HR Committee. The HR committee lost one member during the year, Reyna Goshinmon.

Events

We held three events:

- The first was a Bystander Intervention Training Workshop on Feb 5, 2023. This was facilitated by Tariro Murwira, ICA Community Engagement Coordinator. 23 people attended. This Workshop was subsidized by VNCS. The budget was \$1,250, and the actual cost was \$886.
- Healing Circle for Change led by Dr. Satsuki Ina & Nora Yasumura, from Tsuru for Solidarity, was held on May 2, 2023 and was attended by 9 people. Dr. Ina and Nora Yasumura provided their services for free. VNCS made a \$250 USD (\$345.94 CAD) donation to Tsuru for Solidarity. The budget was \$350.
- A Nonviolent Communication Workshop was held on Nov 18, 2023 at the Gorge Park Pavilion. 18 people participated. It was led by Mitch Miyagawa who was assisted by Myriam Verzat. The budget was \$2150, and the actual cost was \$1,638.

Symposium

Several HR Committee members (Karen Geiger, Misty Cozac and Tsugio Kurushima) attended the NAJC Capacity Building Symposium in Winnipeg, Sep 22- 24, 2023 and participated in sessions in the HR Stream. Misty Cozac attended the Symposium as a NAJC HR Committee representative.

Article

One article was published in the VNCS Newsletter - "Where Are You From?" by Reyna Goshinmon.

Strategic Planning

In December, we started a strategic planning process to revisit and confirm our mission, goals, and objectives and to identify our tasks for 2024. This strategic planning process is in progress.

Expenditures

Total HR Committee expenditures for 2023 was \$2,870.

Conclusion

This year showed the capacity of and interest in the HR Committee. We are looking forward to using the information from the past year to align 2024 activities and tasks to our newly formed goals and objectives.