

Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society

Human Rights Committee Annual Report 2024



Introduction

2024 marked the second full year of the Human Rights Committee (HRC). We continued to meet monthly, typically on the first Monday of each month via Zoom. These meetings have been instrumental in developing new goals, objectives, and activities that focus our efforts for 2024 and beyond.

Membership

The HRC currently consists of eight dedicated members:

- **Mark Collins**
- **Karen Geiger**
- **Miwa Sugino**
- **Tsugio Kurushima**
- **Misty Cozac**
- **Yumiko Mizuno** (New Member)
- **Yoko Funahashi** (New Member)
- **Marg Cooke** (New Member)

Unfortunately, the committee lost one member during the year, **Pieta Van Dyke**, and we thank Pieta for her contributions.

Accomplishments

1. Strategic Planning:

In December 2023, we began a strategic planning process to review and confirm our mission, goals, and objectives. This process was completed early in 2024 and has helped guide our tasks throughout the year. The updated mission and goals are available on the [HRC website](#).

2. VNCS Cultural Fair:

2024 marked the first year the HRC participated in the **VNCS Cultural Fair** in August. We had a booth featuring a banner with a new logo designed by one of our NAJC HRC members. This logo will be used for future promotional materials and advertising.

3. Inclusivity Pilot Workshops:

In September, several board members participated in an **Inclusivity Pilot**, which was then presented at the **NAJC 2024 Northern Lights Conference** in Edmonton (October 3-6) and later at the **NAJC Board meeting** in late October. The workshops were designed and facilitated by HRC members **Misty Cozac** and **Yumiko Mizuno**.

4. 2024 Northern Lights Conference:

A number of HRC members (Karen Geiger, Misty Cozac, Yumiko Mizuno, and Tsugio

Kurushima) attended the **NAJC Northern Lights Conference** held from October 3-6, 2023, in Edmonton, AB, which focused on human rights issues.

Expenditures

The total expenditures for the HRC in 2024 amounted to **\$168**, which was used for the creation of the banner for the VNCS Cultural Fair.

Looking Ahead: 2025 Activities

As we move into 2025, the HRC is excited to continue building on our past work. We have already planned some key activities:

- **Open House:** On **January 27, 2025**, we will host an **Open House** event to engage with the community and share our mission and goals for the upcoming year.
- **Fireside Chat with Art Miki:** In **April 2025**, we will host a **Fireside Chat** with **Art Miki**, where we will discuss human rights issues and the ongoing work of the committee.

Conclusion

2024 demonstrated the capacity and interest in the HRC's work. We are looking forward to utilizing the insights gained this year to align our 2025 activities with our core goals and objectives. We are enthusiastic about the opportunities that lie ahead and the continued support of our community.