

2024 VNCS AGM NAJC Report

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In 2024, NAJC was busy in Year 2 of the Capacity Building Initiatives.

NAJC held Festival Planning Zoom meetings throughout the year, bringing together organizers of Japanese cultural festivals to share ideas and best practices.

In October, all member organizations gathered in Edmonton for the Northern Lights National Conference. This conference was larger than the usual annual conference as they had partnered with the University of Alberta. VNCS sent 5 delegates. The conference began with a Gordon Hirabayashi lecture by Dr Pamela Sugiman. There were concurrent sessions run by various committees such as the Japanese New Immigrants Committee (JNIC) and the Human Rights Committee. The second day was Arts and Culture Day, and participants enjoyed various presentations and workshops. The final day focused on capacity building and delegates met and discussed the different components of capacity building and shared their stories. VNCS delegates also met with delegates from other BC and Yukon NAJC member organizations, and we have begun planning for a BC/Yukon regional in-person conference in April 2025, to be held in Nanaimo.

NAJC also has very active committees - the Human Rights Committee, the Arts, Culture and Education (ACE) Committee, the Japanese New Immigrants Committee (JNIC) and the Young Leaders Committee, to name a few. Each committee went through their own strategic planning sessions in 2024 as part of the capacity building initiatives.

The JNIC Committee has hosted several seminars on Nikkei history and Zadankai - Canada Ijusha Conversations in 2024. The Young Leaders Committee holds regular online book clubs and other events, the Human Rights Committee has also held online events, and there are many opportunities for VNCS members to get involved and meet other Nikkeis from across Canada. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Yukari for more information.