

# New Japanese Immigrants in the Japanese Canadian Community

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## Executive Summary

### Introduction and Historical Shift

For much of the 20th century, the Japanese Canadian identity was defined by the struggle against racial exclusion, the trauma of World War II internment, and the subsequent fight for redress. However, the community's composition underwent a fundamental transformation following 1967, when the Canadian government abolished race-based immigration quotas in favour of a merit-based point system. This policy shift facilitated the arrival of Shin-Ijusha (New Japanese Immigrants). Between 1967 and 2022, over 46,000 immigrants arrived from Japan. As of 2021, these new immigrants and their children represent 62.2% of the Japanese Canadian population, constituting a demographic majority distinct from the pre-war Issei and their descendants.

### Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile

The Shin-Ijusha demographic is characterized by specific gender and economic disparities.

- **Female Dominance:** A defining feature of this cohort is the predominance of women. In 2021, women accounted for 73% of new Japanese immigrants.
- **Migration Channels:** There is a stark gender divide in admission categories. Among men, 74% entered as economic immigrants driven by professional advancement, whereas only 24% entered as family-sponsored immigrants. Conversely, 61% of women entered as family-sponsored immigrants (often through marriage), while only 37% arrived as economic immigrants.
- **Education vs. Income:** New immigrants possess high educational capital; 44.7% of first-generation men hold bachelor's degrees or higher, surpassing rates in subsequent generations. Despite this, income disparities persist. While Japanese Canadian men generally out-earn the national average for visible minorities, Japanese immigrant women face significant underemployment. Their average employment income (\$36,720 for those with postsecondary certificates) is markedly lower than that of Canadian-born Japanese women (\$59,800).
- **Geographic Diffusion:** While British Columbia remains the population center (hosting 44.7% of new immigrants), the population has diffused across Canada, with significant communities in Ontario, Alberta, and Quebec, and even 100% first-generation populations in smaller towns in the Maritimes.

### Inter-Generational Dynamics

A complex relationship exists between the Shin-Ijusha and the descendants of the historic community (Sansei and Yonsei).

- **Cultural Divergence:** The descendants of pre-war immigrants are typically English-speaking, deeply integrated into Canadian society, and view their identity through the lens of historical injustice and redress. In contrast, new immigrants maintain strong transnational ties to Japan, retain proficiency in Japanese, and often lack awareness of the community's historical struggles.
- **Barriers and Opportunities:** Linguistic divides and differing priorities can lead to separation. Newcomers often feel anxious about their English skills, which inhibits their participation in established organizations. However, new immigrants revitalize the community by introducing contemporary Japanese culture, while pre-war descendants serve as models of civic engagement and integration.

### Institutional Adaptation and Integration

Community organizations are actively evolving to bridge the divide between these distinct cohorts.

- **National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC):** Historically focused on redress, the NAJC has recently pivoted to include newcomers. In 2023, it established the Japanese New Immigrant Committee (JNIC) to address specific newcomer concerns, including health, human rights, and the isolation of women in mixed marriages.
- **Local Community Hubs:** Organizations like the Edmonton Japanese Community Association (EJCA), Vancouver's Tonari Gumi, and Toronto's Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC) have successfully integrated newcomers. New immigrants serve as essential volunteers, supporting seniors and cultural programs, which provides them with Canadian work experience and social connections.
- **Language Schools:** Both supplementary schools (following Japan's curriculum) and heritage schools (focused on cultural identity) serve as critical networking hubs for new immigrant families, particularly mothers.

### Conclusion

The future of the Japanese Canadian community depends on the successful integration of its two halves. New immigrants can learn resilience and advocacy from the history of the pre-war community. At the same time, descendants can reconnect with their heritage through the linguistic and cultural vibrancy brought by newcomers. By engaging in joint activities—from storytelling projects to advocacy—these groups can forge a cohesive, diverse identity that honours the past while embracing the contemporary transnational experience.

### **I. Introduction**

For much of the 20th century, the history of the Japanese Canadian community was defined by struggle, resilience, and the fight for redress following the injustices of the Second World War. However, a pivotal shift occurred in 1967 when the Canadian government abolished race-based immigration quotas and introduced a merit-based point system. This policy change opened the door to a new wave of immigration from Japan, giving rise to a distinct demographic known as *Shin-Ijusha*, or "New Japanese Immigrants."

While the narrative of the pre-war *Issei* and their descendants (*Nisei*, *Sansei*, and *Yonsei*) remains central to the community's identity, the arrival of over 46,000 Japanese immigrants between 1967 and 2022 has fundamentally reshaped the community's composition. Today, these new immigrants and their children account for a significant majority of the Japanese Canadian population. Yet, their experiences, motivations, and challenges often differ markedly from those of the established community.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a comprehensive demographic and sociological analysis of these New Japanese Immigrants and to examine their evolving role within the broader Japanese Canadian community. Specifically, this study aims to:

1. **Profile the *Shin-Ijusha*:** Analyze the demographic characteristics of this group, including the predominance of female immigrants, their high educational attainment, and their unique economic motivations, which stand in contrast to the labour-driven migration of the early 1900s.
2. **Explore Inter-Generational Dynamics:** Investigate the complex interactions between these new arrivals and the descendants of pre-war immigrants. This includes examining the cultural and linguistic divides that exist between the two groups, as well as the shared spaces where they intersect.
3. **Assess Institutional Integration:** Evaluate how community organizations—from the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) to local cultural centers and language schools—are adapting to bridge the gap between these distinct cohorts, fostering a more inclusive and cohesive Japanese Canadian identity for the future.

By understanding the distinct profile of the *Shin-Ijusha* and their relationship with the historic community, we can better appreciate the diversity of the contemporary Japanese Canadian experience.

## II. Demographic Profile of New Japanese Immigrants (*Shin-Izyusha*)

### 1. Canada's immigration policy for the Japanese immigrants

Following a surge of Japanese immigrants at the beginning of the 20th century and anti-Asian riots in Vancouver in 1907, Canada and Japan signed the Lemieux-Hayashi Gentlemen's Agreement, which significantly restricted Japanese immigration to Canada and reshaped migration patterns. Japan voluntarily agreed to limit emigration to Canada to 400 people per year, mostly family members of Japanese already in Canada. But the agreement allowed the arrival of wives and children, leading to the picture-bride system. With fewer new arrivals from Japan, the Japanese Canadian population began to settle more permanently, forming families and communities along the coast of B.C.

Even after the end of World War II, the Canadian government maintained anti-Japanese Canadian policies, forcing the Japanese Canadians either to go to Japan (deportation) or to move east of the Rocky Mountains. As a result of these policies, a total of 3,964 Japanese Canadians were deported to Japan. Besides those deported Japanese Canadians, there were 1,688 Japanese Canadian children who had been sent by their parents to Japan to go to school.

Besides the deportation and dispersion policies, the Canadian government implemented a policy of not allowing new Japanese immigrants to Canada. This policy continued, in principle, until 1967, when the Canadian government abolished the race-based immigration policy and introduced a point system for

selecting new immigrants. Between 1945 and 1967, the Canadian government reluctantly allowed the return of Japanese Canadians to Canada after a series of petitions from the Japanese Canadian Citizens' League.

Between 1945 and 1951, Canada admitted over 157,000 refugees from war-torn Europe, including Holocaust survivors, Eastern Europeans fleeing Soviet control, and others uprooted by the war, including Germans and Italians. These refugees built the ethnic communities in Canada that served as a basis for further immigration. The total number of Japanese immigrants between 1951 and 1976 was 2,397 (see Table 1), and almost all of them were the Japanese Canadians deported to or stranded in Japan during and after World War II. Pre-war Japanese immigrants in Canada could not encourage family members, relatives, and friends to immigrate, and new immigrants could not build a community. Thus, the Japanese Canadians must start rebuilding their communities from small, scattered bases across Canada.

Discriminatory policies of the Canadian government against Japanese Canadians were finally abolished on March 31, 1949. Yet the Canadian government maintained strict restrictions on new immigrants from Japan, effectively prohibiting them until the immigration regulations changed in 1967, when a point system was introduced, abolishing any preference based on race, religion, and nationality. The immigrants from Japan to Canada after 1967 were called "new Japanese immigrants or Shin-Izyusha in the Japanese Canadian community.

## 2. New Japanese immigrants

Table 1  
Number of Immigrants to Canada with Japanese Citizenship

| Year        | Number | Year        | Number | Year | Number | Year | Number |
|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|
| 1945        | 0      | 1965        | 188    | 1985 | 205    | 2005 | 1,065  |
| 1946        | 1      | 1966        | 500    | 1986 | 273    | 2006 | 1,210  |
| <b>1947</b> | 0      | <b>1967</b> | 858    | 1987 | 446    | 2007 | 1,250  |
| 1948        | 5      | 1968        | 693    | 1988 | 346    | 2008 | 1,285  |
| 1949        | 11     | 1969        | 766    | 1989 | 541    | 2009 | 1,195  |
| 1950        | 11     | 1970        | 797    | 1990 | 365    | 2010 | 1,165  |
| 1951        | 3      | 1971        | 883    | 1991 | 492    | 2011 | 1,265  |
| 1952        | 6      | 1972        | 718    | 1992 | 586    | 2012 | 1,210  |
| 1953        | 46     | 1973        | 1,105  | 1993 | 910    | 2013 | 985    |
| 1954        | 71     | 1974        | 859    | 1994 | 956    | 2014 | 1,125  |
| 1955        | 97     | 1975        | 635    | 1995 | 835    | 2015 | 995    |
| 1956        | 121    | 1976        | 498    | 1996 | 1056   | 2016 | 1,035  |
| 1957        | 180    | 1977        | 412    | 1997 | 971    | 2017 | 1,085  |
| 1958        | 183    | 1978        | 359    | 1998 | 1,021  | 2018 | 1,035  |
| 1959        | 190    | 1979        | 666    | 1999 | 1,356  | 2019 | 1,115  |
| 1960        | 159    | 1980        | 737    | 2000 | 1,010  | 2020 | 615    |
| 1961        | 114    | 1981        | 770    | 2001 | 1,090  | 2021 | 1,405  |
| 1962        | 134    | 1982        | 630    | 2002 | 805    | 2022 | 885    |
| 1963        | 171    | 1983        | 330    | 2003 | 815    | 2023 |        |
| 1964        | 140    | 1984        | 250    | 2004 | 975    | 2024 |        |

Source : Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada

Table 2  
Number of Immigrants to Canada with  
Japanese Citizenship

| Period      | Number |
|-------------|--------|
| 1967 -1976  | 7,812  |
| 1977- 1986  | 4,632  |
| 1987 - 1996 | 6,533  |
| 1997 - 2006 | 10,318 |
| 2007 - 2016 | 11,510 |
| 2017 - 2022 | 6,140  |
| Total       | 46,945 |

Source : Immigration, Refugees, and  
Citizenship Canadian

Between 1967 and 2022, a total of 46,945 Japanese immigrants came to Canada.

Table 3 presents the age distribution of Japanese Canadians by generation status as of 2021, based on the 2021 Canadian Census. Here, Census definitions for generation status are:

- **First generation** — Persons who were born outside Canada (foreign-born). The person’s place of birth determines generation status; if the person was born outside Canada, they are classified as first-generation.
- **Second generation** — Persons who were born in Canada and have at least one parent who was born outside Canada. This classification is derived using the person’s place of birth and the place of birth of both parents.
- **Third generation or more** — Persons who were born in Canada and whose parents were also born in Canada. This category is labelled “third generation or more” in Census products and is produced from the same place-of-birth, parent, and person derivation.

Table 3  
People of Japanese Ethnic or Cultural Origin by Generation Status, Sex and Age Group in 2021

| Generation status | Total   |        |        | First generation |        |        | Second generation |        |        | Third generation or more |        |        |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|--------|--------|--------------------------|--------|--------|
|                   | Total   | Men    | Women  | Total            | Men    | Women  | Total             | Men    | Women  | Total                    | Men    | Women  |
| Total - Age       | 129,430 | 56,845 | 72,580 | 48,190           | 16,120 | 32,070 | 38,810            | 19,265 | 19,545 | 42,425                   | 21,460 | 20,965 |
| 0 to 14 years     | 30,900  | 15,930 | 14,970 | 3,715            | 1,815  | 1,900  | 15,080            | 7,785  | 7,300  | 12,100                   | 6,330  | 5,775  |
| 15 to 19 years    | 9,670   | 4,805  | 4,860  | 2,495            | 1,155  | 1,340  | 3,970             | 2,010  | 1,960  | 3,200                    | 1,640  | 1,560  |
| 20 to 24 years    | 8,505   | 4,145  | 4,360  | 2,585            | 1,190  | 1,395  | 3,030             | 1,470  | 1,560  | 2,890                    | 1,485  | 1,405  |
| 25 to 34 years    | 16,750  | 6,925  | 9,825  | 7,130            | 2,395  | 4,735  | 3,810             | 1,810  | 2,000  | 5,810                    | 2,715  | 3,090  |
| 35 to 44 years    | 18,020  | 6,630  | 11,395 | 9,825            | 2,695  | 7,130  | 3,795             | 1,800  | 2,000  | 4,395                    | 2,130  | 2,265  |
| 45 to 54 years    | 17,485  | 6,200  | 11,285 | 10,420           | 2,625  | 7,790  | 2,700             | 1,315  | 1,385  | 4,370                    | 2,260  | 2,110  |
| 55 to 64 years    | 11,755  | 4,995  | 6,765  | 4,680            | 1,330  | 3,355  | 1,435             | 740    | 700    | 5,640                    | 2,930  | 2,710  |
| 65 to 74 years    | 8,610   | 3,910  | 4,695  | 4,310            | 1,740  | 2,575  | 1,250             | 625    | 630    | 3,055                    | 1,555  | 1,500  |
| 75 years and over | 7,735   | 3,310  | 4,430  | 3,030            | 1,180  | 1,850  | 3,740             | 1,715  | 2,030  | 965                      | 420    | 550    |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0338-01, Ethnic or cultural origin by generation status

In 2021, there were 129,430 Canadians with a single Japanese ethnic or cultural origin or Japanese as one of their multiple ethnic or cultural origins (we refer to them as Japanese Canadians in this paper). Out of them, 48,190 persons were in the first generation (Issei, new Japanese immigrants) and accounted for 37.2% of Japanese Canadians.

If we assume that people aged 55 and over in the second generation were the children of pre-World War II immigrants, 32,285 persons in the second generation were the children of the new Japanese immigrants. Thus, the latest Japanese immigrants and their children totalled 80,575 persons in 2012,

accounting for 62.2% of the number of Japanese Canadians in 2021. The new Japanese immigrants and their children are now central components of the Japanese Canadian community.

Another significant demographic characteristic of the new Japanese Canadians is the dominant number of women. In the first generation (the new Japanese Canadians), women accounted for 66.5%.

Table 4

**People of Japanese Ethnic or Cultural Origin by Generation Status and Sex in 2021**

|                            | Total sex | Men    | Women  |
|----------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Total                      | 129,430   | 56,845 | 72,580 |
| First generation           | 48,190    | 16,120 | 32,070 |
| Second generation          | 38,810    | 19,265 | 19,545 |
| Third and more generations | 42,425    | 21,460 | 20,965 |

**Percentage Distribution of People of Japanese Ethnic or Cultural Origin by Generation Status and Sex in 2021**

|                            | Total sex | Men  | Women |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|-------|
| Total                      | 100.0     | 43.9 | 56.1  |
| First generation           | 100.0     | 33.5 | 66.5  |
| Second generation          | 100.0     | 49.6 | 50.4  |
| Third and more generations | 100.0     | 50.6 | 49.4  |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0338-01, Ethnic or cultural origin by generation status

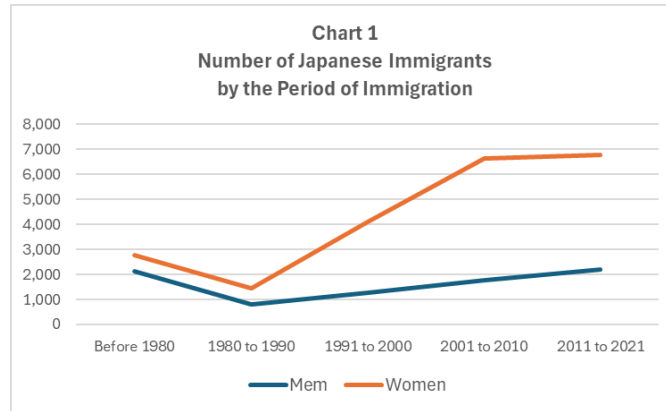
Table 5 presents the number of Japanese immigrants by sex and period of immigration in 2010. 4,925 Japanese immigrants came to Canada before 1980. A very few of them could have been pre-WWII immigrants (those born in 1941 were 80 years old in 2010). Therefore, 29,930 visible minority Japanese immigrants were almost all new immigrants from Japan.

Table 5

**Japanese Visible Minority Immigrants by Period of Immigration and Sex in 2021**

| Period of immigration | Immigrants   | Before 1980  | 1980 to 1990 | 1991 to 2000 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total - Gender        | 29,930       | 4,925        | 2,225        | 5,360        |
| Men                   | 8,200        | 2,140        | 795          | 1,275        |
| Women                 | 21,730       | 2,785        | 1,430        | 4,080        |
|                       |              |              |              |              |
| Period of immigration | 2001 to 2010 | 2011 to 2015 | 2016 to 2017 | 2018 to 2021 |
| Total - Gender        | 8,410        | 4,405        | 1,800        | 2,805        |
| Men                   | 1,765        | 1,080        | 475          | 660          |
| Women                 | 6,645        | 3,325        | 1,325        | 2,145        |

Source: Statistics Canada. 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0325-01



Here are notes on the terms used in Tables 5 and 6.

Visible minority groups: Persons, other than Indigenous peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour, as defined in the Employment Equity Act; this is the Statistics Canada census definition of visible minority. Visible minority groups include South Asian, Chinese, Black, Filipino, Arab, Latin American, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Korean, and Japanese. Immigrants are foreign-born persons who have obtained permanent resident status. The number of Japanese visible minorities is smaller than the number of Japanese Canadians. For example, in 2021, the number of Japanese visible minority groups was 98,895, while the number of Japanese Canadians was 129,430. This was because some Japanese Canadians do not recognize themselves as members of a visible minority.

Table 6  
Percentage Distribution of Japanese Visible Minority Immigrants by Period of Immigration and Sex in 2021

| Period of immigration | Immigrants   | Before 1980  | 1980 to 1990 | 1991 to 2000 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total - Gender        | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          |
| Men                   | 27           | 43           | 36           | 24           |
| Women                 | 73           | 57           | 64           | 76           |
| Period of immigration | 2001 to 2010 | 2011 to 2015 | 2016 to 2017 | 2018 to 2021 |
| Total - Gender        | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          |
| Men                   | 21           | 25           | 26           | 24           |
| Women                 | 79           | 75           | 74           | 76           |

Source: Statistics Canada. 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0325-01

Women have been the predominant group among new Japanese immigrants in the post-World War II period. In 2021, 73 percent of the latest Japanese immigrants were women.

Table 7 presents the number of Japanese immigrants by period of immigration and admission category in 2021. categories. There were four admission categories:

- **Economic immigrants** include immigrants who have been selected for their ability to contribute to Canada's economy through their ability to meet labour market needs, to own and manage or to build a business, to make a substantial investment, to create their own employment or to meet specific provincial or territorial labour market needs. The principal applicant includes

immigrants who were designated as the principal applicant on their permanent residence applications. Secondary applicants include immigrants who were identified as the married spouse, the common-law or conjugal partner, or the dependant of the principal applicant on their application for permanent residence.

- **Immigrants sponsored by family** include immigrants who were sponsored by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and were granted permanent resident status based on their relationship, either as the spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, child or other relative of this sponsor. The terms 'family class' or 'family reunification' are sometimes used to refer to this category.
- **Refugees** include immigrants who were granted permanent resident status based on a well-founded fear of returning to their home country. This category includes persons who had a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or for political opinion (Geneva Convention refugees), as well as persons who had been seriously and personally affected by civil war or armed conflict or have suffered a massive violation of human rights. Some refugees were in Canada when they applied for refugee protection for themselves and their family members (whether they were in Canada or abroad). Others were abroad and were referred for resettlement to Canada by the United Nations Refugee Agency, another designated referral organization or private sponsors.
- **Other immigrants** include immigrants who were granted permanent resident status under a program that does not fall under the economic immigrants, the immigrants sponsored by family or the refugee categories.
- The economic immigrant category selects **principal applicants** for economic reasons; accompanying family members (spouse/common-law partner and dependent children) are typically included on the same application and granted permanent residence with the principal applicant if the application is approved.
- **Secondary applicants** are people who were listed on an economic principal applicant's permanent-resident application as their spouse, common-law or conjugal partner, or dependent (for example, dependent children under 22 and over 22 but were unable to support themselves because of a physical or mental condition).

- **Immigrants sponsored by a family**

A sponsor must be 18 or older and a Canadian citizen, a person registered in Canada as an Indian under the Indian Act, or a permanent resident living in Canada. A sponsor must sign an undertaking to provide financial support for the sponsored person(s) for a prescribed period (length varies by sponsor category) and repay certain social assistance payments the sponsored person receives. For some categories (notably parents and grandparents), a sponsor must meet minimum necessary income requirements for recent tax years or provide a co-signer/financial undertaking as allowed; program-specific income thresholds and documentation apply.

- **Who can be sponsored (main categories)**

Spouse, common-law partner, or conjugal partner — includes married spouses, partners in a conjugal relationship, and partners who meet the common-law definition.

Dependent children — children under 22 with no spouse or common-law partner, or older children who are financially dependent due to a physical or mental condition.

Parents and grandparents — via the Parents and Grandparents Program (subject to intake rules, sponsorship undertakings, and income requirements).

In limited cases (e.g., if the sponsor has no other close relatives in Canada), certain other relatives may be sponsored; eligibility is narrow and conditional.

- Canada’s immigration point system evaluates applicants based on factors like age, education, language skills, and work experience. The two central systems are the Federal Skilled Worker (FSW) 100-point grid and the Express Entry Comprehensive Ranking System (CRS), which scores candidates on a 1,200-point scale. The point system is applied to primary applicants of economic immigrants, but not to immigrants sponsored by family.

Table 7  
Japanese Immigrants by Period of Immigration and Admission Category in 2021

| Men and Women                                | Total - Period of immigration | 1980 to 1990 | 1991 to 2000 | 2001 to 2010 | 2011 to 2021 | 2011 to 2015 | 2016 to 2021 |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Admission category and applicant type</b> |                               |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Total - Admission category                   | 25,830                        | 2,270        | 5,715        | 8,860        | 8,985        | 4,535        | 4,445        |
| Economic immigrants                          | 11,960                        | 1,325        | 2,795        | 3,580        | 4,255        | 2,310        | 1,945        |
| Principal applicants                         | 6,455                         | 585          | 1,530        | 1,825        | 2,520        | 1,290        | 1,230        |
| Secondary applicants                         | 5,505                         | 745          | 1,265        | 1,760        | 1,735        | 1,025        | 720          |
| Immigrants sponsored by family               | 13,410                        | 870          | 2,840        | 5,150        | 4,555        | 2,150        | 2,405        |
| Refugees                                     | 205                           | 25           | 45           | 70           | 75           | 15           | 55           |
| Other immigrants                             | 250                           | 50           | 30           | 65           | 100          | 60           | 40           |
| <b>Men</b>                                   |                               |              |              |              |              |              |              |
|  | Total - Period of immigration | 1980 to 1990 | 1991 to 2000 | 2001 to 2010 | 2011 to 2021 | 2011 to 2015 | 2016 to 2021 |
| <b>Admission category and applicant type</b> |                               |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Total - Admission category                   | 6,435                         | 795          | 1,450        | 2,005        | 2,185        | 1,150        | 1,035        |
| Economic immigrants                          | 4,745                         | 635          | 1,095        | 1,415        | 1,595        | 890          | 715          |
| Principal applicants                         | 3,030                         | 460          | 720          | 805          | 1,045        | 540          | 505          |
| Secondary applicants                         | 1,715                         | 175          | 375          | 615          | 555          | 350          | 205          |
| Immigrants sponsored by family               | 1,560                         | 140          | 335          | 545          | 540          | 245          | 305          |
| Refugees                                     | 75                            | 10           | 15           | 30           | 15           | 0            | 10           |
| Other immigrants                             | 60                            | 0            | 10           | 20           | 25           | 15           | 0            |
| <b>Women</b>                                 |                               |              |              |              |              |              |              |
|  | Total - Period of immigration | 1980 to 1990 | 1991 to 2000 | 2001 to 2010 | 2011 to 2021 | 2011 to 2015 | 2016 to 2021 |
| <b>Admission category and applicant type</b> |                               |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Total - Admission category                   | 19,390                        | 1,475        | 4,265        | 6,850        | 6,800        | 3,390        | 3,415        |
| Economic immigrants                          | 7,210                         | 690          | 1,700        | 2,165        | 2,660        | 1,425        | 1,235        |
| Principal applicants                         | 3,425                         | 125          | 810          | 1,020        | 1,475        | 750          | 720          |
| Secondary applicants                         | 3,785                         | 570          | 890          | 1,145        | 1,185        | 670          | 515          |
| Immigrants sponsored by family               | 11,850                        | 725          | 2,510        | 4,605        | 4,015        | 1,910        | 2,105        |
| Refugees                                     | 135                           | 10           | 25           | 35           | 60           | 15           | 45           |
| Other immigrants                             | 195                           | 45           | 25           | 45           | 75           | 40           | 35           |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0317-01 Period of immigration by admission category and place of birth: Canada,

Table 8 presents the percentage distributions of the data in Table 7. Significant findings from Tables 7 and 8 are:

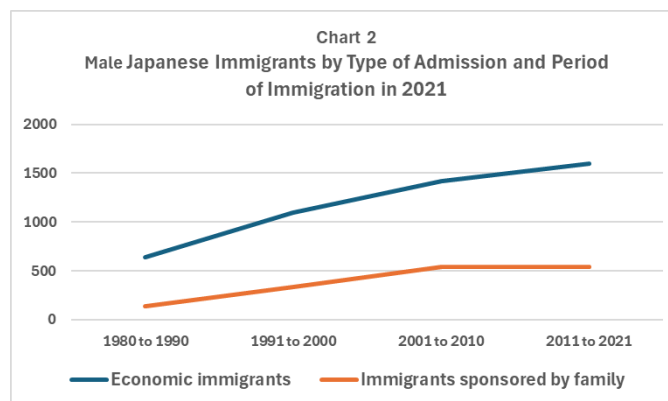
- In 2021, 25,830 Japanese immigrants were born in Japan and came to Canada between 1980 and 2021.

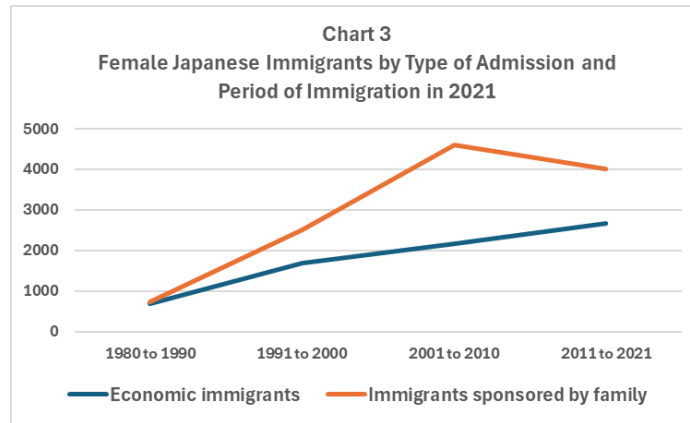
- During this period, economic immigrants were 46%, immigrants sponsored by family 52%, refugees 1% and other immigrants 1%. However, this percentage distribution differed significantly for men and women.
- For men, economic immigrants were 74% and immigrants sponsored by family 24%.
- For women, economic immigrants were 37% and immigrants sponsored by family 61%.
- These patterns of Japanese immigrants have remained stable since 1991.

Table 8  
Percentage Distribution of Japanese Immigrants by Period of Immigration and Admission Category in 2021

| Men and Women                         | Total - Period of immigration | 1980 to 1990 | 1991 to 2000 | 2001 to 2010 | 2011 to 2021 | 2011 to 2015 | 2016 to 2021 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Admission category and applicant type |                               |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Total - Admission category            | 100                           | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          |
| Economic immigrants                   | 46                            | 58           | 49           | 40           | 47           | 51           | 44           |
| Principal applicants                  | 25                            | 26           | 27           | 21           | 28           | 28           | 28           |
| Secondary applicants                  | 21                            | 33           | 22           | 20           | 19           | 23           | 16           |
| Immigrants sponsored by family        | 52                            | 38           | 50           | 58           | 51           | 47           | 54           |
| Refugees                              | 1                             | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 0            | 1            |
| Other immigrants                      | 1                             | 2            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            |
| Men                                   |                               |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Total - Period of immigration         | 100                           | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          |
| Economic immigrants                   | 74                            | 80           | 76           | 71           | 73           | 77           | 69           |
| Principal applicants                  | 47                            | 58           | 50           | 40           | 48           | 47           | 49           |
| Secondary applicants                  | 27                            | 22           | 26           | 31           | 25           | 30           | 20           |
| Immigrants sponsored by family        | 24                            | 18           | 23           | 27           | 25           | 21           | 29           |
| Refugees                              | 1                             | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 0            | 1            |
| Other immigrants                      | 1                             | 0            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 0            |
| Women                                 |                               |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Total - Period of immigration         | 100                           | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100          |
| Economic immigrants                   | 37                            | 47           | 40           | 32           | 39           | 42           | 36           |
| Principal applicants                  | 18                            | 8            | 19           | 15           | 22           | 22           | 21           |
| Secondary applicants                  | 20                            | 39           | 21           | 17           | 17           | 20           | 15           |
| Immigrants sponsored by family        | 61                            | 49           | 59           | 67           | 59           | 56           | 62           |
| Refugees                              | 1                             | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 0            | 1            |
| Other immigrants                      | 1                             | 3            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            | 1            |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Canada, Table 98-10-0317-01 Period of immigration by admission category and place of birth: Canada,





#### 4. Education

Table 9  
Percentage Distribution of Visible Minority Japanese Canadians in 2021 by Generation and Gender of Age 15 and Over

| Gender  | All Generations |       |       | First Generation |       |       | Canada         |       |       |
|---|-----------------|-------|-------|------------------|-------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|
|   | Total - Gender  | Men   | Women | Total - Gender   | Men   | Women | Total - Gender | Men   | Women |
| Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree                  | 100.0           | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0            | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0          | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| No certificate, diploma or degree                               | 8.4             | 10.7  | 6.8   | 5.2              | 7.9   | 4.0   | 16.7           | 18.0  | 15.4  |
| High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate      | 25.1            | 27.1  | 23.7  | 21.7             | 24.4  | 20.6  | 27.5           | 27.5  | 27.5  |
| Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree                    | 66.6            | 62.2  | 69.5  | 73.0             | 67.7  | 75.4  | 55.9           | 54.5  | 57.1  |
| Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma                 | 4.6             | 6.8   | 3.2   | 4.1              | 5.2   | 3.6   | 10.3           | 14.6  | 6.1   |
| Non-apprenticeship trades certificate or diploma                | 2.2             | 2.4   | 2.1   | 2.4              | 2.6   | 2.3   | 5.6            | 6.5   | 4.7   |
| Apprenticeship certificate                                      | 2.4             | 4.4   | 1.1   | 1.7              | 2.7   | 1.3   | 4.7            | 8.1   | 1.4   |
| College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma   | 18.9            | 14.8  | 21.8  | 21.5             | 12.3  | 25.4  | 20.4           | 17.5  | 23.2  |
| University certificate or diploma below bachelor level          | 3.8             | 2.9   | 4.4   | 5.8              | 5.4   | 6.0   | 2.6            | 2.1   | 3.1   |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                                     | 39.2            | 37.8  | 40.2  | 41.7             | 44.7  | 40.4  | 22.6           | 20.4  | 24.8  |
| Bachelor's degree   | 28.4            | 26.1  | 30.0  | 30.5             | 29.3  | 31.0  | 15.0           | 13.2  | 16.8  |
| University certificate or diploma above bachelor level          | 2.0             | 1.8   | 2.2   | 2.1              | 2.2   | 2.1   | 1.6            | 1.4   | 1.8   |
| Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry | 0.9             | 1.2   | 0.8   | 0.7              | 0.9   | 0.6   | 0.5            | 0.6   | 0.5   |
| Master's degree   | 6.2             | 6.3   | 6.0   | 6.1              | 8.0   | 5.3   | 4.7            | 4.3   | 5.0   |
| Earned doctorate  | 1.7             | 2.3   | 1.2   | 2.3              | 4.4   | 1.4   | 0.8            | 0.9   | 0.7   |
| Percentage of people age 15 to 19*                              | 23.9            | 28.0  | 20.6  | 7.7              | 11.3  | 5.9   |                |       |       |

Table 9 continued

| Gender  | Second Generation |       |       | Third or More Generation |       |       |
|---|-------------------|-------|-------|--------------------------|-------|-------|
|   | Total - Gender    | Men   | Women | Total - Gender           | Men   | Women |
| Total - Highest certificate, diploma or degree                  | 100.0             | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0                    | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| No certificate, diploma or degree                               | 14.3              | 15.6  | 13.2  | 8.8                      | 9.7   | 7.8   |
| High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate      | 29.6              | 29.4  | 29.7  | 26.9                     | 28.0  | 25.7  |
| Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree                    | 56.1              | 54.9  | 57.1  | 64.4                     | 62.3  | 66.4  |
| Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma                 | 5.0               | 7.1   | 3.1   | 5.1                      | 7.9   | 2.3   |
| Non-apprenticeship trades certificate or diploma                | 2.1               | 2.4   | 1.9   | 1.9                      | 2.1   | 1.7   |
| Apprenticeship certificate                                      | 3.0               | 4.7   | 1.2   | 3.2                      | 5.7   | 0.6   |
| College, CEGEP or other non-university certificate or diploma   | 15.6              | 14.8  | 16.3  | 17.6                     | 17.0  | 18.1  |
| University certificate or diploma below bachelor level          | 1.9               | 1.9   | 2.1   | 2.1                      | 1.3   | 2.9   |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                                     | 33.5              | 31.3  | 35.6  | 39.6                     | 36.1  | 43.2  |
| Bachelor's degree   | 24.5              | 22.9  | 26.1  | 28.1                     | 25.6  | 30.6  |
| University certificate or diploma above bachelor level          | 1.6               | 1.5   | 1.7   | 2.1                      | 1.6   | 2.7   |
| Degree in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or optometry | 0.9               | 1.0   | 0.8   | 1.4                      | 1.7   | 1.1   |
| Master's degree   | 5.4               | 4.8   | 5.9   | 6.8                      | 5.9   | 7.7   |
| Earned doctorate  | 1.0               | 1.0   | 1.1   | 1.2                      | 1.4   | 1.1   |
| Percentage of people age 15 to 19*                              | 38.9              | 40.4  | 37.3  | 28.5                     | 29.5  | 27.5  |

Note: \* calculated from Table 3.

Source: 2021 Census of Population, Table: 98-10-0429-01

Table 9 shows that in 2021, Japanese Canadians were better educated than Canadians as a whole:

- 66.6% of Japanese Canadians held postsecondary certificates or diplomas, while 55.9% of Canadians held these certificates or diplomas.
- 39.2% of Japanese Canadians held bachelor's degrees or higher, while 22.6% of Canadians held these degrees.

Table 9 also shows how educational attainment varied across generations of Japanese Canadians.

- The percentage of men with a bachelor’s degree or higher was 44.7% in the first generation (new Japanese immigrants), 31.3% in the second generation (mostly the children of the latest Japanese immigrants), and 36.1% in the third generation or over (mostly Sansei and over of the descendants of the pre-war immigrants). These percentages suggest that the new Japanese immigrants were better educated than their children and the descendants of pre-war Japanese immigrants. But this is not so.
- Table 9 presents the educational attainment of Japanese Canadians aged 15 years and over. The percentages of Japanese Canadians aged 15-19 are shown in the same table. They were small in the first generation (7.7%), very high in the second generation (38.9%) and high in the third generation or over (28.5%). In both Japan and Canada, people typically graduate from high school at 18 and from university at 22. Some individuals in the 15- to 19-year-old age range were attending high school or university but had not yet graduated. Therefore, the second and third or later generations showed that the percentages of people with postsecondary certificates and bachelor’s degrees were lower than those in the first generation.

## 5. Income

**Employment income** includes all income received as wages, salaries and commissions from paid employment and net self-employment income from farm or non-farm unincorporated business and/or professional practice during the reference period. For the 2021 Census, the reference period for income data is the calendar year 2020.

Table 10 presents the average employment income of visible-minority Japanese Canadians and non-visible-minority Canadian men (referred to as “Caucasians” or “Whites”) in 2020, broken down by immigration status and educational attainment. The significant findings are as follows:

- The average employment income of Japanese Canadians in 2020 was \$51,450 and was less than that of the non-visible minority Canadians (\$52,550). However, the average employment income of Japanese Canadian men (\$65,800) was higher than that of non-visible-minority Canadian men (\$60,900). In comparison, the average employment income of Japanese Canadian women (\$41,080) was lower than that of non-visible-minority Canadian women (\$43,440).
- Among the Japanese Canadians, the average employment income of immigrants was lower than that of the non-immigrant Japanese Canadians for both men (\$58,000 vs \$63,850) and women (\$34,680 vs \$49,280). In particular, the average employment income of new Japanese immigrant women with a postsecondary certificate (\$36,720) was much lower than that of the Canadian-born Japanese Canadian women with a postsecondary certificate (\$59,800).

Table 10

**Average Employment Income of Visible Minority Japanese Canadians and Non-Visible Minority Canadians in 2020 by Immigration Status, Gender and Educational Attainment in 2021**

| Immigrant status   | Total - Gender           |                        |                |                        |            |                        |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|
|  | Total - Immigrant status |                        | Non-immigrants |                        | Immigrants |                        |
|  | Japanese                 | Not a visible minority | Japanese       | Not a visible minority | Japanese   | Not a visible minority |
| Total educational attainment                               | 51,450                   | 52,550                 | 56,650         | 52,050                 | 41,080     | 57,250                 |
| No certificate, diploma or degree                          | 17,760                   | 27,760                 | 17,460         | 27,400                 | 18,400     | 31,800                 |
| High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate | 32,640                   | 37,800                 | 33,040         | 37,720                 | 29,760     | 38,960                 |
| Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree               | 59,450                   | 63,200                 | 70,100         | 62,950                 | 43,760     | 65,600                 |
| Postsecondary certificate or diploma below bachelor level  | 45,240                   | 50,840                 | 55,250         | 51,200                 | 33,920     | 47,400                 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                                | 68,700                   | 80,300                 | 78,600         | 80,600                 | 51,550     | 79,800                 |

| Immigrant status   | Men                      |                        |                |                        |            |                           |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
|  | Total - Immigrant status |                        | Non-immigrants |                        | Immigrants |                           |
|  | Japanese                 | Not a visible minority | Japanese       | Not a visible minority | Japanese   | Not a visible minority 13 |
| Total educational attainment                               | 65,800                   | 60,900                 | 63,850         | 60,200                 | 58,000     | 67,400                    |
| No certificate, diploma or degree                          | 21,140                   | 32,760                 | 20,520         | 32,360                 | 22,400     | 37,200                    |
| High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate | 39,240                   | 44,600                 | 37,240         | 44,480                 | 39,900     | 46,040                    |
| Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree               | 80,000                   | 74,900                 | 80,900         | 74,600                 | 63,800     | 77,800                    |
| Postsecondary certificate or diploma below bachelor level  | 62,500                   | 60,500                 | 64,500         | 61,100                 | 49,440     | 54,950                    |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                                | 91,000                   | 98,600                 | 92,400         | 99,300                 | 71,700     | 97,300                    |

| Immigrant status   | Women                    |                        |                |                        |            |                        |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|
|  | Total - Immigrant status |                        | Non-immigrants |                        | Immigrants |                        |
|  | Japanese                 | Not a visible minority | Japanese       | Not a visible minority | Japanese   | Not a visible minority |
| Total educational attainment                               | 41,080                   | 43,440                 | 49,280         | 43,240                 | 34,680     | 45,720                 |
| No certificate, diploma or degree                          | 13,360                   | 19,560                 | 13,040         | 19,220                 | 15,000     | 23,360                 |
| High (secondary) school diploma or equivalency certificate | 26,440                   | 29,680                 | 28,120         | 29,600                 | 24,700     | 31,240                 |
| Postsecondary certificate, diploma or degree               | 46,200                   | 51,900                 | 59,800         | 51,950                 | 36,720     | 52,150                 |
| Postsecondary certificate or diploma below bachelor level  | 34,560                   | 40,000                 | 44,200         | 40,200                 | 29,760     | 38,080                 |
| Bachelor's degree or higher                                | 53,950                   | 65,800                 | 67,200         | 66,600                 | 42,920     | 61,950                 |

## Notes:

Immigrant status refers to whether the person is a non-immigrant, an immigrant or a non-permanent resident.

Non-immigrants includes persons who are Canadian citizens by birth.

"Not a visible minority" includes all Canadians who do not belong to the visible minority groups.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0439-01

## 6. Language

Table 11

**Percentage Distribution of Mother Tongue of Japanese Canadians by Generation Status in 2021**

|                   | English | French | Japanese |
|-------------------|---------|--------|----------|
| All generations   | 56      | 2      | 47       |
| First generation  | 13      | 1      | 88       |
| Second generation | 71      | 4      | 37       |
| Third and more    | 97      | 2      | 2        |

Source: Statistics Canada Table 98-10-0325

In the first generation of Japanese Canadians (the new Japanese immigrants, Japanese was the mother tongue of 88% of them. It is interesting to note that 13 of them listed English as their mother tongue, and 1% listed French. They could be Japanese born in Japan or other countries, with English or French as their language at home. The table suggests that it was challenging to maintain Japanese as the mother tongue among the second generation (the children of the new Japanese immigrants) and in the third or later generations (the grandchildren of the latest Japanese immigrants and the third or later generations of the pre-war Japanese immigrants). The Japanese language in the Japanese Canadian community will be historically and socially reviewed in Chapter III.

## 7. Motivations for immigrating to Canada

Japanese immigrants in the early immigration period (Late 1800s–1930s) were motivated to immigrate to Canada as follows:

### Men (Issei)

- **Economic opportunity:** Many came from rural Japan seeking work in fishing, logging, mining, and railway construction.
- **Escape from poverty or rigid class structures** in Japan, especially younger sons with limited inheritance prospects.
- **Chain migration:** Men often followed friends or relatives who had already settled in British Columbia.

### Women

- **Family reunification:** Wives joined husbands already in Canada, often through arranged marriages.
- **Picture brides:** Women married by proxy in Japan who immigrated to Canada to join husbands they had never met.
- **Domestic roles:** Women supported family businesses, raised children, and helped build community institutions.

Contemporary Japanese immigrants (after the 1980s) were motivated to immigrate to Canada as follows:

### Men

- **Professional advancement:** Engineers, researchers, and entrepreneurs seek global experience and career growth.
- **Cultural curiosity:** Some are drawn to Canada's multiculturalism and bilingualism.
- **Business ties:** Canada's trade relationship with Japan encourages corporate transfers and investment.

### Women

- **Education and independence:** Many women pursue degrees, language study, or personal growth abroad.
- **Marriage migration:** Some immigrate after marrying Canadian partners.
- **Lifestyle and safety:** Canada’s reputation for safety, gender equality, and nature appeals to women seeking a balanced life.

7. A survey of new immigrants in Edmonton

In 2016, the Edmonton Japanese Canadian Association completed a history project that researched and published a report on the history of Japanese Canadians in the Edmonton area. The project included surveys with new Japanese Canadians, in which they were asked about the reasons for immigrating to Canada and their current occupations.

Table 12  
**A Survey of New Japanese Immigrants in Edmonton in 2012 by the Edmonton Japanese Community Association**

By Age and Gender

| Age         | Total | Men | Women |
|-------------|-------|-----|-------|
| 65 and over | 19    | 5   | 14    |
| 51 to 64    | 17    | 6   | 11    |
| 30 to 50    | 41    | 9   | 32    |
| Total       | 77    | 20  | 57    |

Percentage distribution

| Age         | Total | Men | Women |
|-------------|-------|-----|-------|
| 65 and over | 100   | 26  | 74    |
| 51 to 64    | 100   | 35  | 65    |
| 30 to 50    | 100   | 22  | 78    |
| Total       | 100   | 26  | 74    |

By Immigration Category and Gender

|       | Total | Economic immigrants | Immigrants sponsored by family |
|-------|-------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Men   | 20    | 18                  | 2                              |
| Women | 57    | 17                  | 40                             |
| Total | 77    | 35                  | 42                             |

Percentage distribution

|       | Total | Economic immigrants | Immigrants sponsored by family |
|-------|-------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Men   | 100   | 90                  | 10                             |
| Women | 100   | 30                  | 70                             |
| Total | 100   | 45                  | 55                             |

Source: History project by the Edmonton Japanese Community Association, 2012

A total of 77 new Japanese Canadians responded to surveys, comprising 20 men and 57 women.

Table 13

**Number of New Japanese Immigrants in Edmonton by Occupation, Gender, and Immigration Category in 2012**

| Occupation                     | Total | Professional | Trade | Household | Japanese language teacher |
|--------------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|-----------|---------------------------|
| <b>Men</b>                     |       |              |       |           |                           |
| Economic immigrants            | 18    | 13           | 5     | 0         | 0                         |
| Immigrants sponsored by family | 2     | 1            | 1     | 0         | 0                         |
| Total                          | 20    | 14           | 6     | 0         | 0                         |
| <b>Women</b>                   |       |              |       |           |                           |
| Economic immigrants            | 17    | 9            | 2     | 2         | 4                         |
| Immigrants sponsored by family | 40    | 3            | 7     | 22        | 8                         |
| Total                          | 57    | 12           | 9     | 24        | 12                        |

Source: History project by the Edmonton Japanese Community Association, 2012

All men who were economic immigrants were working in 2013, and two men who were family-sponsored immigrants were also working. Two women who were housewives and not working in 2013 became the wives of economic immigrant men. Of the 40 women who were family-sponsored immigrants, 18 worked, and 22 took care of the household in 2013. Among those working women, eight were teaching Japanese. Some of them were trained Japanese-language professionals teaching at colleges and universities, while others taught privately and at community organizations. Teaching Japanese at community organizations was a popular way for new Japanese immigrant women who arrived in Canada as sponsored immigrants to gain work experience.

Tale 14 presents the reasons for immigration and current jobs of the new Japanese immigrants who participated in the interviews.

Table 14  
**New Japanese Immigrants in Edmonton, 2012**  
**Reasons for Immigrating to Canada and Current Occupatons**

| Reason  | Occupation                           |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Men</b>  |                                      |
| Economic immigrant as architect                               | Architect                            |
| Economic immigrant as dental technician                       | Dental technician                    |
| Economic immigrant as university researcher                   | Researcher                           |
| Economic immigrant as university researcher                   | Researcher                           |
| Economic immigrant as dental technician                       | Dental technician                    |
| Economic immigrant as cook                                    | Cook                                 |
| Graduate school study abroad                                  | Researcher                           |
| University study abroad                                       | Seitai practitioner (body therapist) |
| Marriage to a Canadian  | Cook                                 |
| Study abroad for physiotherapist                              | Seitai practitioner                  |
| High school to graduate school in Canada due to father's work | Architect                            |
| Immigrated as a social worker                                 | Social worker                        |
| Immigrated as a cook  | Restaurant owner                     |
| Immigrated as a university professor                          | Researcher                           |
| Graduate school study abroad                                  | Researcher                           |
| Immigrated as a cook  | Cook                                 |
| Immigrated as a telephone technician                          | Technician                           |
| Emergency medical technician                                  | Technician                           |
| Marriage to a Canadian  | Teacher                              |
| Immigrated as a university researcher                         | Researcher                           |

Source: A history project, Edmonoton Japaense Community Association

Table 14 continued

| <b>Women</b>   |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | husband's place of work        |
| Marriage to a new immigrant                                | Cook                           |
| Graduate school study abroad                               | Lawyer                         |
| Marriage to a Canadian met in Edmonton                     | Baker                          |
| Met military husband in Africa during Overseas Youth Corps | Department of National Defence |
| Graduate school study abroad                               | Researcher                     |
| American husband got a job at the University of Alberta    | Japanese teacher               |
| Marriage to a Canadian living in Edmonton                  | Japanese teacher               |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | educating children in Canada   |
| Marriage to a Nisei (second-generation Japanese Canadian)  | Housewife                      |
| Husband's place of work                                    | Researcher                     |
| Married husband in Vancouver                               | Accounting                     |
| Marriage to a Japanese Canadian                            | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a new immigrant                                | Housewife                      |
| Entered graduate school                                    | Researcher                     |
| Economic immigrant as computer technician                  | Computer technician            |
| Marriage to a new immigrant                                | Housewife                      |
| Sponsored migration by new immigrant brother               | Office worker                  |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Japanese teacher               |
| Marriage to a Japanese Canadian                            | Office worker                  |
| Economic immigrant as caregiver                            | Caregiver                      |
| Accompanied husband's graduate school study abroad         | Japanese teacher               |
| Sponsored immigrant by Canadian husband                    | Housewife                      |
| Graduate school study abroad                               | Researcher                     |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Japanese teacher               |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Accountant                     |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Japanese teacher               |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Office worker                  |
| Study abroad in Edmonton where aunt lives                  | Nurse's aide                   |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Accompanied husband (university professor)                 | Japanese instructor            |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Office worker                  |
| Graduate school study abroad                               | IT technician                  |
| Family immigration   | Japanese teacher               |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Japanese teacher               |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Office worker                  |
| Immigrated after English training                          | Caregiver                      |
| Study abroad at nursing care school                        | Caregiver                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Family immigration   | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Shop clerk                     |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Family immigration   | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | IT technician                  |
| Immigrated as a violin teacher                             | Musician                       |
| Marriage to a Nikkei (person of Japanese descent)          | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |
| Marriage to a Canadian                                     | Housewife                      |

Source: A history project, Edmonoton Japaense Community Association

## 8. Geographical distribution

Talbe 15  
Distributon of Japanese Canadians by Province and Generation, 2021

|                           | Total -<br>Generation<br>status | First generation                 | Second<br>generation  | Third<br>generation or<br>more | % of First<br>generation |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Canada                    | 129,430                         | 48,190                           | 38,810                | 42,425                         | 37.2                     |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 150                             | 80                               | 25                    | 45                             | 53.3                     |
| Prince Edward Island      | 250                             | 165                              | 45                    | 35                             | 66.0                     |
| Nova Scotia               | 1,125                           | 585                              | 310                   | 230                            | 52.0                     |
| New Brunswick             | 445                             | 170                              | 105                   | 170                            | 38.2                     |
| Quebec                    | 7,465                           | 3,810                            | 2,405                 | 1,245                          | 51.0                     |
| Ontario                   | 42,250                          | 15,260                           | 13,215                | 13,775                         | 36.1                     |
| Manitoba                  | 2,770                           | 715                              | 665                   | 1,385                          | 25.8                     |
| Saskatchewan              | 1,295                           | 490                              | 330                   | 475                            | 37.8                     |
| Alberta                   | 18,605                          | 5,135                            | 5,090                 | 8,370                          | 27.6                     |
| British Columbia          | 54,640                          | 21,560                           | 16,500                | 16,580                         | 39.5                     |
| Yukon                     | 275                             | 130                              | 50                    | 95                             | 47.3                     |
| Northwest Territories     | 150                             | 75                               | 50                    | 20                             | 50.0                     |
| Nunavut                   | 15                              | 10                               | 10                    | 10                             | 66.7                     |
| Continued                 |                                 |                                  |                       |                                |                          |
|                           | % of Canada, all<br>generations | % of Canada,<br>first generation | % of all<br>Canadians |                                |                          |
| Canada                    | 100.0                           | 100.0                            | 100.0                 |                                |                          |
| Newfoundland and Labrador | 0.1                             | 0.2                              | 1.4                   |                                |                          |
| Prince Edward Island      | 0.2                             | 0.3                              | 0.4                   |                                |                          |
| Nova Scotia               | 0.9                             | 1.2                              | 2.6                   |                                |                          |
| New Brunswick             | 0.3                             | 0.4                              | 2.1                   |                                |                          |
| Quebec                    | 5.8                             | 7.9                              | 22.9                  |                                |                          |
| Ontario                   | 32.6                            | 31.7                             | 38.6                  |                                |                          |
| Manitoba                  | 2.1                             | 1.5                              | 3.6                   |                                |                          |
| Saskatchewan              | 1.0                             | 1.0                              | 3.0                   |                                |                          |
| Alberta                   | 14.4                            | 10.7                             | 11.5                  |                                |                          |
| British Columbia          | 42.2                            | 44.7                             | 13.5                  |                                |                          |
| Yukon                     | 0.2                             | 0.3                              | 0.1                   |                                |                          |
| Northwest Territories     | 0.1                             | 0.2                              | 0.1                   |                                |                          |
| Nunavut                   | 0.0                             | 0.0                              | 0.1                   |                                |                          |

Source: Table 98-10-0338-01

Comparing the percentage distribution of Japanese Canadians (% of Canada, all generations) to that of all Canadians (% of all Canadians), we can see that:

- The percentage of Japanese Canadians in Quebec (5.8%) was much less than the percentage of Canadians in Quebec (22.9%) in 2021.
- The percentage of Japanese Canadians in Ontario (32.6%) was slightly less than the percentage of Canadians in Ontario (38.6%) in 2021.
- The most noticeable difference was in British Columbia. The percentage of Canadians in British Columbia was 13.5%, while the percentage of Japanese Canadians was 42.2%. Before World War II, more than 90% of Japanese Canadians lived in British Columbia. After World War II, the Canadian government dispersed the Japanese Canadians to the east of the Rocky Mountains

and forbade them from returning to British Columbia until April 1, 1949. By 2021, 42.2% of the Japanese Canadians lived in British Columbia.

Table 15 also shows how the first generation of Japanese Canadians (new Japanese immigrants) were distributed geographically in 2021:

- The distribution of the new Japanese immigrants was similar to that of the Japanese Canadians in 2021.
- The most significant percentage of the new Japanese immigrants was in British Columbia (44.7%), followed by Ontario (31.7%), Alberta (10.7%), and Quebec (7.9%).

Table 16 shows the distribution of Japanese Canadians by generation and by location in 2021:

- In Maritime provinces (Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick, Halifax (870) was the only city with more than 300 Japanese Canadians. Four hundred sixty-five of the Japanese Canadians were new immigrants.
- In Quebec, out of 7,645 Japanese Canadians in 2021, 5,940 were in Montreal, and 3,180 of them (53.5%) were new immigrants.
- In Ontario, Japanese Canadians lived in large and small cities and towns. Toronto had the most significant number of Japanese Canadians (27,255), followed by Ottawa (3,725), Hamilton (2,330), Kitchener-Cambridge-Waterloo (1,520), London (1,125), and St. Catharines-Niagara (995).
- In Manitoba, out of 2,770 Japanese Canadians in the province, 2,370 lived in Winnipeg in 2021.
- Saskatchewan had 1,295 Japanese Canadians in 2021. They were split between Saskatoon (525) and Regina (380).
- In Alberta, the total number of Japanese Canadians was 18,605 in 2021. The top three cities were Calgary (8,540), Edmonton (4,255) and Lethbridge (1,995). In Calgary, 32.0% were new immigrants, in Edmonton, 29.7%, and in Lethbridge, 12.8%. In the resort town of Canmore, just outside Banff National Park, of the 320 Japanese Canadians, 170 were first-generation (new immigrants plus people on working holidays).
- In British Columbia, Japanese Canadians were scattered all over the province. Vancouver had the most significant number of Japanese Canadians (38,950), followed by Victoria (3,805), Kelowna (1,955), Kamloops (1,120), Nanaimo (885), and Abbotsford (875).
- In Whitehorse (Yukon), out of 220 Japanese Canadians, 125 were new immigrants in 2021.
- In Yellowhead (Northwest Territories), out of 110 Japanese Canadians, 55 were new immigrants.
- New immigrants lived in many small cities and towns in 2021. In some of them, Japanese Canadians were the majority. The census data do not reveal the reasons they chose those small cities and towns: exceptional job opportunities, hometowns of their Canadian spouses?

| Table 16  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Distribution of Japanese Canadians by City and Generation, 2021 |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |

|                                  | Total -<br>Generation<br>status | First<br>generation | Second<br>generation | Third<br>generation<br>or more | % of First<br>generation |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Canada</b>                    | 129,430                         | 48,190              | 38,810               | 42,425                         | 37.2                     |
| <b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b> | 150                             | 80                  | 25                   | 45                             | 53.3                     |
| Corner Brook (CA), N.L.          | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Gander (CA), N.L.                | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Grand Falls-Windsor (CA), N.L.   | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| St. John's (CMA), N.L.           | 90                              | 65                  | 10                   | 15                             | 72.2                     |
| <b>Prince Edward Island</b>      | 250                             | 165                 | 45                   | 35                             | 66.0                     |
| Charlottetown (CA), P.E.I.       | 175                             | 100                 | 45                   | 30                             | 57.1                     |
| Summerside (CA), P.E.I.          | 15                              | 15                  | 0                    | 0                              | 100.0                    |
| <b>Nova Scotia</b>               | 1,125                           | 585                 | 310                  | 230                            | 52.0                     |
| Cape Breton (CA), N.S.           | 25                              | 10                  | 20                   | 0                              | 40.0                     |
| Halifax (CMA), N.S.              | 870                             | 465                 | 250                  | 155                            | 53.4                     |
| Kentville (CA), N.S.             | 30                              | 30                  | 0                    | 0                              | 100.0                    |
| New Glasgow (CA), N.S.           | 10                              | 0                   | 0                    | 10                             | 0.0                      |
| Truro (CA), N.S.                 | 25                              | 15                  | 0                    | 0                              | 60.0                     |
| <b>New Brunswick</b>             | 445                             | 170                 | 105                  | 170                            | 38.2                     |
| Bathurst (CA), N.B.              | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Campbellton (CA), N.B./Que.      | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Edmundston (CA), N.B.            | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Fredericton (CMA), N.B.          | 95                              | 45                  | 15                   | 30                             | 47.4                     |
| Miramichi (CA), N.B.             | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Moncton (CMA), N.B.              | 135                             | 55                  | 40                   | 45                             | 40.7                     |
| Saint John (CMA), N.B.           | 70                              | 35                  | 10                   | 25                             | 50.0                     |
| <b>Quebec</b>                    | 7,465                           | 3,810               | 2,405                | 1,245                          | 51.0                     |
| Alma (CA), Que.                  | 25                              | 0                   | 10                   | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Amos (CA), Que.                  | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Baie-Comeau (CA), Que.           | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Cowansville (CA), Que.           | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Dolbeau-Mistassini (CA), Que.    | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Drummondville (CMA), Que.        | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Granby (CA), Que.                | 20                              | 10                  | 10                   | 0                              | 50.0                     |
| Joliette (CA), Que.              | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Lachute (CA), Que.               | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Matane (CA), Que.                | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Montréal (CMA), Que.             | 5,940                           | 3,180               | 1,840                | 920                            | 53.5                     |
| Québec (CMA), Que.               | 510                             | 265                 | 170                  | 80                             | 52.0                     |
| Rimouski (CA), Que.              | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Rivière-du-Loup (CA), Que.       | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |
| Rouyn-Noranda (CA), Que.         | 0                               | 0                   | 0                    | 0                              | 0.0                      |

|  |               |               |               |               |             |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Saguenay (CMA), Que.                         | 25            | 10            | 10            | 15            | 40.0        |
| Saint-Georges (CA), Que.                     | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Saint-Hyacinthe (CA), Que.                   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts (CA), Que.           | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Sainte-Marie (CA), Que.                      | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (CA), Que.          | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Sept-Îles (CA), Que.                         | 10            | 10            | 0             | 0             | 100.0       |
| Shawinigan (CA), Que.                        | 10            | 10            | 10            | 0             | 100.0       |
| Sherbrooke (CMA), Que.                       | 65            | 20            | 20            | 25            | 30.8        |
| Sorel-Tracy (CA), Que.                       | 15            | 10            | 10            | 0             | 66.7        |
| Thetford Mines (CA), Que.                    | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Trois-Rivières (CMA), Que.                   | 45            | 15            | 10            | 25            | 33.3        |
| Val-d'Or (CA), Que.                          | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Victoriaville (CA), Que.                     | 30            | 10            | 20            | 0             | 33.3        |
| <b>Ontario</b>                               | <b>42,250</b> | <b>15,260</b> | <b>13,215</b> | <b>13,775</b> | <b>36.1</b> |
| Barrie (CMA), Ont.                           | 345           | 90            | 85            | 165           | 26.1        |
| Belleville - Quinte West (CMA), Ont.         | 140           | 25            | 40            | 80            | 17.9        |
| Brantford (CMA), Ont.                        | 140           | 45            | 20            | 75            | 32.1        |
| Brockville (CA), Ont.                        | 35            | 25            | 0             | 10            | 71.4        |
| Centre Wellington (CA), Ont.                 | 55            | 0             | 25            | 30            | 0.0         |
| Chatham-Kent (CA), Ont.                      | 165           | 10            | 30            | 115           | 6.1         |
| Cobourg (CA), Ont.                           | 45            | 20            | 10            | 15            | 44.4        |
| Collingwood (CA), Ont.                       | 70            | 25            | 10            | 30            | 35.7        |
| Cornwall (CA), Ont.                          | 30            | 15            | 0             | 10            | 50.0        |
| Elliot Lake (CA), Ont.                       | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Essa (CA), Ont.                              | 30            | 0             | 0             | 25            | 0.0         |
| Greater Sudbury (CMA), Ont.                  | 105           | 45            | 40            | 20            | 42.9        |
| Guelph (CMA), Ont.                           | 345           | 115           | 90            | 140           | 33.3        |
| Hamilton (CMA), Ont.                         | 2,330         | 595           | 625           | 1,110         | 25.5        |
| Hawkesbury (CA), Ont./Que.                   | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Ingersoll (CA), Ont.                         | 25            | 0             | 10            | 15            | 0.0         |
| Kawartha Lakes (CA), Ont.                    | 25            | 0             | 0             | 20            | 0.0         |
| Kenora (CA), Ont.                            | 35            | 0             | 0             | 30            | 0.0         |
| Kingston (CMA), Ont.                         | 375           | 110           | 125           | 135           | 29.3        |
| Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo (CMA), Ont. | 1,520         | 605           | 395           | 520           | 39.8        |
| London (CMA), Ont.                           | 1,125         | 445           | 320           | 370           | 39.6        |
| Midland (CA), Ont.                           | 15            | 10            | 0             | 0             | 66.7        |
| Norfolk (CA), Ont.                           | 15            | 10            | 0             | 0             | 66.7        |
| North Bay (CA), Ont.                         | 65            | 20            | 25            | 25            | 30.8        |
| Orillia (CA), Ont.                           | 45            | 0             | 15            | 30            | 0.0         |

|   |        |        |       |       |      |
|---|--------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| Oshawa (CMA), Ont.                      | 885    | 175    | 250   | 465   | 19.8 |
| Ottawa - Gatineau (CMA),<br>Ont./Que.   | 3,725  | 1,285  | 1,260 | 1,170 | 34.5 |
| Owen Sound (CA), Ont.                   | 75     | 15     | 45    | 10    | 20.0 |
| Pembroke (CA), Ont.                     | 0      | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0.0  |
| Petawawa (CA), Ont.                     | 40     | 10     | 30    | 0     | 25.0 |
| Peterborough (CMA), Ont.                | 230    | 55     | 85    | 90    | 23.9 |
| Port Hope (CA), Ont.                    | 55     | 20     | 0     | 35    | 36.4 |
| Sarnia (CA), Ont.                       | 75     | 0      | 10    | 65    | 0.0  |
| Sault Ste. Marie (CA), Ont.             | 60     | 10     | 10    | 40    | 16.7 |
| St. Catharines - Niagara (CMA),<br>Ont. | 995    | 375    | 330   | 295   | 37.7 |
| Stratford (CA), Ont.                    | 45     | 35     | 0     | 10    | 77.8 |
| Thunder Bay (CMA), Ont.                 | 395    | 45     | 55    | 295   | 11.4 |
| Tillsonburg (CA), Ont.                  | 0      | 0      | 10    | 0     | 0.0  |
| Timmins (CA), Ont.                      | 40     | 10     | 15    | 15    | 25.0 |
| Toronto (CMA), Ont.                     | 27,255 | 10,780 | 8,920 | 7,550 | 39.6 |
| Wasaga Beach (CA), Ont.                 | 30     | 0      | 0     | 20    | 0.0  |
| Windsor (CMA), Ont.                     | 355    | 100    | 100   | 150   | 28.2 |
| Woodstock (CA), Ont.                    | 85     | 50     | 10    | 20    | 58.8 |
| <b>Manitoba</b>                         | 2,770  | 715    | 665   | 1,385 | 25.8 |
| Brandon (CA), Man.                      | 65     | 10     | 10    | 40    | 15.4 |
| Portage la Prairie (CA), Man.           | 15     | 0      | 0     | 10    | 0.0  |
| Steinbach (CA), Man.                    | 30     | 0      | 10    | 20    | 0.0  |
| Thompson (CA), Man.                     | 0      | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0.0  |
| Winkler (CA), Man.                      | 10     | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0.0  |
| Winnipeg (CMA), Man.                    | 2,370  | 610    | 595   | 1,165 | 25.7 |
| <b>Saskatchewan</b>                     | 1,295  | 490    | 330   | 475   | 37.8 |
| Estevan (CA), Sask.                     | 15     | 0      | 0     | 15    | 0.0  |
| Moose Jaw (CA), Sask.                   | 30     | 10     | 20    | 0     | 33.3 |
| North Battleford (CA), Sask.            | 0      | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0.0  |
| Prince Albert (CA), Sask.               | 30     | 0      | 0     | 15    | 0.0  |
| Regina (CMA), Sask.                     | 380    | 150    | 130   | 100   | 39.5 |
| Saskatoon (CMA), Sask.                  | 525    | 200    | 125   | 205   | 38.1 |
| Swift Current (CA), Sask.               | 20     | 0      | 0     | 20    | 0.0  |
| Weyburn (CA), Sask.                     | 20     | 10     | 10    | 0     | 50.0 |
| Yorkton (CA), Sask.                     | 20     | 15     | 0     | 10    | 75.0 |
| <b>Alberta</b>                          | 18,605 | 5,135  | 5,090 | 8,370 | 27.6 |
| Brooks (CA), Alta.                      | 85     | 0      | 10    | 75    | 0.0  |
| Calgary (CMA), Alta.                    | 8,540  | 2,730  | 2,600 | 3,210 | 32.0 |
| Camrose (CA), Alta.                     | 10     | 0      | 0     | 0     | 0.0  |
| Canmore (CA), Alta.                     | 320    | 170    | 120   | 35    | 53.1 |
| Edmonton (CMA), Alta.                   | 4,255  | 1,265  | 1,070 | 1,910 | 29.7 |
| Grande Prairie (CA), Alta.              | 235    | 30     | 60    | 140   | 12.8 |

|                                  |               |               |               |               |             |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| High River (CA), Alta.           | 40            | 10            | 10            | 20            | 25.0        |
| Lacombe (CA), Alta.              | 45            | 0             | 0             | 40            | 0.0         |
| Lethbridge (CMA), Alta.          | 1,995         | 255           | 495           | 1,240         | 12.8        |
| Lloydminster (CA), Alta./Sask.   | 60            | 10            | 20            | 25            | 16.7        |
| Medicine Hat (CA), Alta.         | 165           | 35            | 45            | 75            | 21.2        |
| Okotoks (CA), Alta.              | 65            | 10            | 20            | 40            | 15.4        |
| Red Deer (CMA), Alta.            | 325           | 55            | 75            | 200           | 16.9        |
| Strathmore (CA), Alta.           | 70            | 20            | 15            | 30            | 28.6        |
| Sylvan Lake (CA), Alta.          | 30            | 0             | 10            | 15            | 0.0         |
| Wetaskiwin (CA), Alta.           | 35            | 0             | 0             | 25            | 0.0         |
| Wood Buffalo (CA), Alta.         | 60            | 20            | 25            | 15            | 33.3        |
| <b>British Columbia</b>          | <b>54,640</b> | <b>21,560</b> | <b>16,500</b> | <b>16,580</b> | <b>39.5</b> |
| Abbotsford - Mission (CMA), B.C. | 875           | 245           | 340           | 285           | 28.0        |
| Campbell River (CA), B.C.        | 115           | 40            | 35            | 40            | 34.8        |
| Chilliwack (CMA), B.C.           | 525           | 145           | 130           | 250           | 27.6        |
| Courtenay (CA), B.C.             | 345           | 135           | 105           | 110           | 39.1        |
| Cranbrook (CA), B.C.             | 70            | 15            | 25            | 30            | 21.4        |
| Dawson Creek (CA), B.C.          | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Duncan (CA), B.C.                | 220           | 65            | 80            | 65            | 29.5        |
| Fort St. John (CA), B.C.         | 115           | 10            | 35            | 70            | 8.7         |
| Kamloops (CMA), B.C.             | 1,120         | 235           | 315           | 570           | 21.0        |
| Kelowna (CMA), B.C.              | 1,955         | 390           | 550           | 1,020         | 19.9        |
| Ladysmith (CA), B.C.             | 85            | 20            | 15            | 45            | 23.5        |
| Nanaimo (CMA), B.C.              | 885           | 330           | 265           | 290           | 37.3        |
| Nelson (CA), B.C.                | 190           | 65            | 40            | 85            | 34.2        |
| Parksville (CA), B.C.            | 110           | 50            | 30            | 25            | 45.5        |
| Penticton (CA), B.C.             | 275           | 35            | 50            | 180           | 12.7        |
| Port Alberni (CA), B.C.          | 60            | 20            | 0             | 35            | 33.3        |
| Powell River (CA), B.C.          | 100           | 30            | 20            | 45            | 30.0        |
| Prince George (CA), B.C.         | 345           | 55            | 60            | 230           | 15.9        |
| Prince Rupert (CA), B.C.         | 130           | 25            | 10            | 95            | 19.2        |
| Quesnel (CA), B.C.               | 50            | 25            | 10            | 15            | 50.0        |
| Salmon Arm (CA), B.C.            | 165           | 55            | 35            | 75            | 33.3        |
| Squamish (CA), B.C.              | 280           | 110           | 90            | 80            | 39.3        |
| Terrace (CA), B.C.               | 95            | 0             | 25            | 65            | 0.0         |
| Trail (CA), B.C.                 | 10            | 0             | 0             | 0             | 0.0         |
| Vancouver (CMA), B.C.            | 38,950        | 16,610        | 11,960        | 10,375        | 42.6        |
| Vernon (CA), B.C.                | 575           | 120           | 170           | 285           | 20.9        |
| Victoria (CMA), B.C.             | 3,805         | 1,800         | 1,095         | 905           | 47.3        |
| Williams Lake (CA), B.C.         | 120           | 20            | 30            | 70            | 16.7        |
| <b>Yukon</b>                     | <b>275</b>    | <b>130</b>    | <b>50</b>     | <b>95</b>     | <b>47.3</b> |
| Whitehorse (CA), Y.T.            | 220           | 125           | 50            | 50            | 56.8        |
| <b>Northwest Territories</b>     | <b>150</b>    | <b>75</b>     | <b>50</b>     | <b>20</b>     | <b>50.0</b> |

|                             |     |    |    |    |      |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|----|----|------|
| Yellowknife (CA), N.W.T.    | 110 | 55 | 45 | 10 | 50.0 |
| <b>Nunavut</b>              | 15  | 10 | 10 | 10 | 66.7 |
| Source: Table 98-10-0338-01 |     |    |    |    |      |

Notes to Table 16: In the census data, any number less than 10 was not listed in the table. Therefore in some rows, the totals were less than the sum of the numbers in the rows.

### III. Interactions Between New Japanese Canadians and the Descendants of Pre-World War II Japanese Immigrants

#### 1. Comparison of identities

##### A. The Sansei (third generation) and Yonsei (fourth generation) of the pre-World War II Japanese immigrants

- Cultural dilution: Many Sansei grew up with minimal exposure to the Japanese language or customs, aside from food or occasional rituals.
- Historical rupture: WWII internment and postwar dispersal led to cultural suppression and assimilation pressures.
- Identity questioning: Some Sansei actively explore their heritage later in life, seeking reconnection through travel, language study, or community events.
- Deep integration: Sansei are often indistinguishable from other Canadians in education, profession, and lifestyle.
- Civic engagement: Many contribute actively to Canadian society, with some leading redress movements and multicultural initiatives.
- A high rate of intermarriage forces them to negotiate how to integrate different cultural heritages
- Hybrid identity: While culturally Canadian, they may still identify as Nikkei, especially in historical or community contexts.

##### B. identities of new Japanese immigrants

- **Strong cultural continuity:** Many retain Japanese language fluency, celebrate traditional holidays, and maintain ties with family and institutions in Japan.
- **Transnational identity:** Some view themselves as global citizens, balancing professional or educational goals in Canada with cultural roots in Japan.
- **Community formation:** Newer immigrants often form distinct social circles, sometimes separate from older Japanese Canadian communities.
- **Selective integration:** While many embrace Canadian values like multiculturalism and gender equality, they may maintain Japanese norms in private life.
- **Professional and educational focus:** Immigration is often driven by career, study, or marriage, leading to pragmatic engagement with Canadian systems.
- **Language barrier:** Limited English or French proficiency can affect social integration, especially among older immigrants.

## 2. Interactions

The relationship between post-1967 Japanese immigrants and descendants of pre-WWII Japanese Canadians (Sansei and beyond) is marked by both cultural distance and occasional local and national collaboration, shaped by differing migration histories, language fluency, community priorities, and individuals involved.

### A. Historical and Cultural Divergence

#### Different Migration Contexts

- Pre-WWII immigrants (Issei and Nisei) faced racism, internment, and forced dispersal. Their descendants (Sansei and Yonsei) grew up in a context of assimilation and redress activism.
- Post-1967 immigrants arrived under Canada's new merit-based immigration system, often for education, work, or marriage, and did not experience wartime persecution in Canada.

### B. Language and Identity

- Sansei and later generations are typically English-speaking, with limited Japanese fluency.
- New immigrants often retain Japanese language and cultural practices, creating a gap in communication and cultural reference points.
- New Japanese immigrants often feel shy or anxious about speaking English, especially if they think their skills are poor, due to a mix of cultural, educational, and psychological factors. This tendency prevents them from actively participating in Japanese Canadian organizations and activities.

### C. Points of Connection

- New Japanese immigrants can bring in contemporary Japanese culture, such as cooking and pop culture, to local Japanese Canadian organizations. They can learn from the Sansei and Yonsei how to live in a multicultural society. For new female immigrants with non-Japanese husbands, the Sansei and Yonsei of intermarriage can serve as examples of how to negotiate different cultural backgrounds within the family.
- Sansei-led redress movements in the 1980s–90s helped establish a historical narrative that newer immigrants can learn. This will help new Japanese Canadians realize they are part of the historical Japanese Canadian community from a Canadian perspective.
- New immigrants may view Japanese Canadian identity as “too assimilated and have little interest in their heritage culture.” At the same time, Sansei may feel newer arrivals are “not part of the same struggle and do not realize that their current status in Canada is based on the struggles of the Sansei and Yonsei for human rights.”
- Social circles and networks of the new immigrants and the Sansei and Yonsei often remain separate, especially in urban areas with diverse Japanese-speaking organizations and informal groups, so it isn't easy to connect those diverse groups for certain focused events and

- Intermarriage and second-generation children of post-1967 immigrants are creating new hybrid identities that are closer to those of the Sansei and Yonsei than those of the new immigrants of Japanese couples.

#### **IV. Institutional Settings**

Several types of Japanese Canadian organizations can promote closer collaboration among new Japanese immigrants and the Sansei and Yonsei for mutual benefit.

##### **1. Member Associations of the National Association of Japanese Canadians**

There are members of the National Association of Japanese Canadians in major cities across Canada. They organize local events and programs. They are open to Sansei, Yonsei, new Japanese Canadians, and often to Canadians interested in Japan and Japanese culture.

##### **A. The Edmonton Japanese Community Association (EJCA)**

The Edmonton Japanese Community Association (EJCA) accepts Japanese Canadians, new immigrants and Canadians as its members, and several Canadians usually sit on its executive committee. In 2025, 25% of its members are Sansei or Yonsei, 25% are new immigrants, and 50% are Canadians. EJCA has a cultural centre, jointly managed with a local Canadian community association. EJCA accepts local groups interested in Japanese culture, such as Japanese cultural clubs, including Karate, Bonsai, Calligraphy, Seniors, Ikebana, Karaoke, Taiko, and Nihongo Conversation.

New immigrants have been active in many EJCA programs and events. They have been particularly active in preparing Japanese food for bazars, cooking classes, special Japanese dinners, lunches for seniors' meetings, summer festivals, and a multiethnic festival in Edmonton. EJA has been offering special educational programs to local junior and senior high schools, introducing students to Japanese history and culture on hand. Japan Today invites Grade 8 Social Studies students to the EJCA center for a half-day session, where instructors present Japanese language and culture, offer hands-on activities, and teach Karate. Every year, EJCA hosts students from about 30 schools with 2500 students attending.

Explore Japan provides students studying the Japanese language in Alberta high schools the opportunity to explore Japanese culture interactively. Through a wide variety of activities facilitated by Japanese community members, the program enhances Alberta youth's understanding of Japanese culture and promotes friendship and interest between Japan and Canada. The event directly supports the learning required by the Alberta Education Japanese language curriculum and, therefore, is an invaluable experience for the students enrolled in Japanese language programs taught in Alberta High schools. EJCA also offers Japanese language classes to the members. About 200 members attend classes.

Most of the instructors of these programs are new immigrants. These programs provide new immigrants with opportunities to gain experience teaching Japanese language and culture, which they can include in their resumes when applying for other jobs.

##### **B. The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC)**

NAJC has been addressing the issues involved in the collaboration of descendants of pre-World War II Japanese immigrants and new Japanese immigrants. For example, at the 2017 annual general meeting in

Ottawa, EJCA set up a special session for new immigrants. The significant points coming out of this session were:

- **Preparation and Language:** Many women in mixed marriages arrive unprepared for the Canadian environment regarding health, education, and human rights. Language remains a significant barrier to assimilation for this group.
- **Isolation:** Some new immigrants live completely independent of the local Japanese Canadian community. Women in mixed marriages specifically are often reluctant to discuss their struggles and lack opportunities to find trusted, Japanese-speaking support.
- **Role of Language Schools:** Local Japanese language schools serve as a critical meeting place for mothers in mixed marriages. However, these women often lose this social connection once their children stop attending the school.
- **Support Models:** The group noted that other ethnic groups, such as the Jewish community, utilize a "buddy system" to assist new families, a model which could be emulated.
- **Proposed Solutions:** It was suggested that a "single window" information service be established to help direct new immigrants to the services and information they require.
- **Historical Mandate:** The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) has historically focused on pre-war Japanese Canadians and lacks a specific mandate for new immigrants.
- **Information Gap:** NAJC currently lacks sufficient information about the nature and needs of new immigrants. It needs to actively search for first-hand information to address this gap.

#### C. The Japanese New Immigrant Committee of the NAJC

In 2021, a group of new immigrants began open discussions on Zoom about topics of interest. In 2022, this group proposed a new immigrant committee within the NAJC, and an ad hoc committee was approved. In May 2023, the ad hoc committee was upgraded to a standing committee, the Japanese New Immigrant Committee (JNIC).

JNIC's mission is to:

- Promote human rights and social justice for Japanese immigrants and all Canadians.
- Foster cultural dialogue and exchange between Japanese newcomers, Nikkei communities, and Canadian society, both nationally and globally.
- Provide educational opportunities about the history of Japanese Canadians and broader social issues in Canada.
- Expand networks that promote well-being, inclusion, and solidarity among newcomers across Canada.

JNIC was engaged in the following activities:

- A series of Japanese Canadian history seminars in Japanese
- A remote care handbook in Japanese in collaboration with JAMSNET
- Community roundtables in Japanese

- Zoom circle for Japanese immigrant women in mixed unions.

JNIC is the first NAJC committee to address the concerns of new Japanese immigrants. It can monitor current concerns in the new immigrant community through its members across Canada and present them to NAJC.

#### D. Tonari Gumi in Vancouver

Tonari Gumi, founded in 1974 in Vancouver, began as a grassroots response to the isolation and hardship faced by Japanese Canadian seniors (mostly pre-World War II Issei), and today it thrives as a volunteer-powered hub for cultural, social, and wellness support for Japanese Canadian seniors.

#### Historical Background

- **Origins (1973–1974):** Tonari Gumi—meaning “neighbourhood group” in Japanese—was established to support *Issei* (first-generation Japanese Canadians) who had returned to Vancouver after decades of displacement due to WWII internment and the 100-mile exclusion zone.
- **Early Mission:** The founders aimed to improve the lives of elderly Japanese Canadians, many of whom lived in poverty and isolation in Vancouver’s Downtown East Side.
- **Evolution:** Over nearly five decades, Tonari Gumi has grown into a recognized nonprofit, formally known as the Japanese Community Volunteers Association, offering a wide range of services to the Japanese Canadian community across Metro Vancouver.

#### Major Activities

- **Senior Support Services:** Tonari Gumi provides culturally sensitive assistance to aging Japanese Canadians, including wellness checks, social programs, and help navigating health systems.
- **Food Programs:** Bento lunch preparation and delivery for homebound seniors is a cornerstone service, fostering both nutrition and connection.
- **Cultural Events & Outreach:** The organization hosts festivals, workshops, and language programs to promote Japanese heritage and intergenerational exchange.
- **Tech to Go Program:** A newer initiative aimed at helping seniors adapt to digital tools and stay connected.

#### Volunteer Roles

Tonari Gumi is powered by nearly 200 volunteers, including new Japanese immigrants, who contribute in diverse ways:

- **Kitchen Volunteers:** Prepare and package bento lunches, manju, and other traditional foods.
- **Delivery Volunteers:** Bring meals and companionship to isolated seniors.
- **Office Volunteers:** Handle reception, newsletter mail-outs, and administrative support.

- **Event Volunteers:** Assist with cultural programming, festivals, and special events.
- **Tech Mentors:** Support seniors in learning digital skills through programs like Tech to Go.

Tonari Gumi remains a vital bridge between generations, cultures, and communities, and provides new Japanese immigrants with unique opportunities to work alongside the descendants of pre-World War II Japanese immigrants.

#### E. The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto

The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC) in Toronto, founded in 1963, is one of the largest and most vibrant Japanese cultural institutions outside Japan. It promotes Japanese culture and preserves Japanese Canadian heritage through diverse programming and community engagement.

##### Historical Overview

- **Founded:** 1963 by Japanese Canadians seeking to preserve their cultural identity and rebuild community ties after WWII internment and dispersal.
- **Growth:** From modest beginnings, the JCCC has expanded into a central cultural hub with over *5,000 members, 210,000 annual visitors, and 1,100 volunteers.*
- **Mandate:** To promote understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture and Japanese Canadian history through education, arts, and community service.

##### Major Activities

The JCCC offers a broad spectrum of programs and events, including:

- **Cultural Programs:** Traditional arts (ikebana, tea ceremony, calligraphy), language classes, and contemporary Japanese culture workshops.
- **Martial Arts:** Classes in judo, kendo, karate, aikido, and more, open to all ages and skill levels.
- **Festivals & Events:** Annual events like the *Sakura Gala, Natsu Matsuri, and Remembrance Day* ceremonies.
- **Heritage & Arts:** Exhibitions, film screenings, lectures, and archival projects that explore Japanese Canadian history and identity.
- **Community Services:** Outreach to seniors, newcomers, and youth, including wellness programs and cultural exchange initiatives.

##### Volunteer Roles

Volunteers are the backbone of the JCCC, contributing in many areas:

- **Event Support:** Assisting with setup, logistics, and hospitality during festivals and galas.
- **Cultural Program Assistants:** Supporting instructors and participants in arts and language classes.

- Heritage & Archives: Helping with digitization, cataloguing, and research for historical exhibits.
- Reception & Admin: Greeting visitors, answering inquiries, and supporting office operations.
- Youth & Student Volunteers: Many high school and university students volunteer to fulfill community service hours and gain cultural experience.

New Japanese immigrants are volunteers who work alongside Japanese Canadians and can help the Centre transmit contemporary Japanese culture to Japanese Canadians and Canadians in general.

#### F. The Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre in Burnaby

The Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre (NNMCC) in Burnaby, BC, was founded in 2000 to preserve and share the history and heritage of Japanese Canadians. It serves as a vibrant cultural hub, museum, and community space dedicated to education, remembrance, and intercultural exchange.

##### Historical Background

- Established: 2000, as a merger of the Japanese Canadian National Museum and the National Nikkei Heritage Centre.
- Purpose: To honour the legacy of Japanese Canadians, particularly the *Issei* and *Nisei* generations, and to educate the public about their contributions and struggles—including internment during WWII.
- Location: Burnaby, British Columbia, in a purpose-built facility that includes a museum, cultural centre, community spaces, and a Japanese garden.

##### Major Activities

The NNMCC offers a wide range of programs that blend history, culture, and community engagement:

- Museum Exhibits: Permanent and rotating exhibitions in the Karasawa Gallery and hallway displays explore Japanese Canadian history, art, and identity.
- Cultural Programs: Workshops and classes in Japanese arts (e.g., calligraphy, tea ceremony), language, and seasonal traditions.
- Community Events: Signature events include *Nikkei Matsuri* (a summer festival), *Matsuri Eve Beer Garden*, and cultural celebrations like Hinamatsuri and Kodomo no Hi.
- Educational Outreach: School programs, guided tours, and digital resources for educators and students.
- Archives & Research: The museum maintains a robust archive of photographs, oral histories, and documents related to Japanese Canadian life.

##### Volunteer Roles

Volunteers are essential to the NNMCC's operations and community spirit. Roles include:

- Festival Volunteers: Supporting Nikkei Matsuri and other events with setup, guest services, and cultural booths.
- Museum & Archives: Assisting with cataloguing, digitization, and exhibit preparation.
- Cultural Program Support: Helping instructors and participants during workshops and classes.
- Reception & Admin: Greeting visitors, answering questions, and supporting office tasks.
- Youth & Community Engagement: High school and university students often volunteer for service hours and cultural experiences.

NNMCC provides new Japanese immigrants with opportunities to learn about the history of Japanese Canadians and to work alongside them to transmit contemporary Japanese culture to Canadians.

### G. Japanese language schools

There are two types of language schools: Japanese supplementary language schools and Japanese heritage language schools.

#### (1) Japanese supplementary language schools

Japanese supplementary language schools in Canada aim to maintain Japanese language proficiency and cultural continuity for children of Japanese nationals living abroad. These schools follow Japan's curriculum and operate on weekends, serving families temporarily residing in Canada.

#### Purpose

- Educational Continuity: These schools help children stay aligned with Japan's national education system so they can reintegrate smoothly upon returning.
- Language Proficiency: Focused on maintaining fluency in reading, writing, and speaking Japanese, especially at an academic level.
- Cultural Preservation: Reinforce Japanese customs, values, and social norms through classroom activities and seasonal events.

#### Core Activities

- Curriculum-Based Instruction: Subjects include Japanese language, mathematics, social studies, and science, taught in Japanese using textbooks approved by Japan's Ministry of Education.
- Cultural Events: Celebrations of Japanese holidays (e.g., Hinamatsuri, Undōkai) and traditional arts like calligraphy and origami.
- Parent Engagement: Families often support school operations, fundraising, and event planning, fostering a strong community network.

#### Teachers

- **Qualified Educators:** Many are certified teachers from Japan or fluent Japanese speakers with teaching experience.
- **Professional Development:** Teachers participate in workshops and training offered by organizations like the Japan Foundation.
- **Volunteer Support:** Some schools rely on parent volunteers or community members to assist with instruction and administration.

#### Students

- **Children of Japanese Nationals:** Primarily children whose families are in Canada for work, study, or diplomatic assignments.
- **Age Range:** Typically, from kindergarten through junior high, though some schools offer high school-level classes.
- **Language Background:** Most students speak Japanese at home and attend local Canadian schools during the week.

#### (2) Japanese heritage language schools

Japanese heritage language schools in Canada aim to preserve the Japanese language and cultural identity among children of Japanese descent. They offer weekend or after-school programs focused on bilingual development, cultural literacy, and community connection.

#### Purpose

- **Cultural Continuity:** These schools help Japanese Canadian children maintain ties to their ancestral language and traditions.
- **Bilingual Development:** Instruction supports conversational fluency, literacy, and confidence in using Japanese alongside English or French.
- **Identity Formation:** Programs foster pride in Japanese heritage and encourage intergenerational understanding.
- **Community Building:** Schools often serve as hubs for Japanese Canadian families to connect and collaborate. This function is invaluable for newcomers to Canada.

#### Core Activities

- **Language Instruction:** Classes focus on hiragana, katakana, kanji, grammar, reading, and speaking. Materials are adapted for heritage learners rather than native speakers. Those schools either use Japanese textbooks or their own. The classes are arranged according to each student's language proficiency, not their age.
- **Cultural Education:** Students learn about Japanese holidays, customs, arts (e.g., origami, calligraphy), and history.

- **Seasonal Events:** Celebrations like Hinamatsuri (Girls’ Day), Kodomo no Hi (Children’s Day), and Tanabata are common.
- **Family Engagement:** Parents often participate in school governance, volunteer roles, and cultural events.

#### Teachers

- **Bilingual Educators:** Many teachers are fluent in Japanese and English, with experience in heritage language pedagogy.
- **Community Members:** Some are parents or volunteers with strong cultural knowledge and teaching skills.
- **Professional Development:** Organizations like the Japan Foundation and CAJLE offer training and networking for heritage language teachers.

#### Students

- **Children of new Japanese immigrants, *Sansei*, *Yonsei*, and *Gosei*** (third- to fifth-generation) learners.
- **Mixed-Heritage Families:** Children from intercultural households who want to connect with Japanese roots.
- **Age Range:** Typically preschool to junior high, though some schools offer adult or youth classes.

Some new immigrants send their children to a Japanese supplementary school if they are not sure how long they will stay in Canada. In cities where the number of Japanese Canadians is small, Japanese supplementary schools accept children who eventually return to the school system in Japan and those who will stay in Canada and attend the Canadian school system. This hybrid system is challenging to maintain because the level of Japanese fluency differs between the two student groups—successful hybrid schools schedule classes based on students' fluency, not their ages.

### **V. Concluding Remarks**

#### 1. What New Japanese Immigrants Can Learn from Prewar Descendants

- **Historical context of Japanese Canadian identity**  
They gain insight into the legacy of internment, dispossession, and redress, and how these events shaped a distinct Japanese Canadian identity rooted in resilience and adaptation.
- **Strategies for cultural integration**  
Prewar descendants often embody a hybrid identity—navigating Canadian society while preserving Japanese values. Their lived experience offers models for balancing cultural pride with social inclusion.
- **Community organizing and advocacy**  
Many descendants have deep experience in building institutions, advocating for rights, and

preserving heritage. Newcomers can learn how to navigate Canadian systems and amplify their voices through these established networks.

- Language adaptation and intergenerational communication  
Observing how descendants maintain cultural ties despite language loss can help immigrants understand the long-term dynamics of language, memory, and belonging in diaspora.

## 2. What Prewar Descendants Can Learn from New Immigrants

- Contemporary Japanese culture and language  
New immigrants bring fresh perspectives, idioms, and cultural practices from Japan, enriching the community's understanding of what it means to be "Japanese" today.
- Reconnection to ancestral roots  
For many descendants, especially Sansei and Yonsei, relationships with newcomers can reignite interest in Japanese language, customs, and values that may have faded over generations.
- Global perspectives on identity  
New immigrants often have a transnational outlook, shaped by global mobility and modern Japanese society. This can challenge and expand the community's understanding of identity beyond the historical Canadian context.
- Cultural humility and curiosity  
Engaging with newcomers can inspire descendants to reflect on their own assumptions and deepen their appreciation for the diversity within the Japanese diaspora.

## 3. What They Can Build Together Through Joint Activities

- Multigenerational storytelling projects  
Oral history workshops, bilingual publications, or digital archives can weave together memories of internment, immigration, and adaptation across time.
- Cultural festivals and food events  
Sharing traditional and modern Japanese cuisine—such as mochi-making with a twist or regional dishes—can foster joyful, hands-on learning.
- Language exchange and mentorship  
Descendants can practice Japanese while helping newcomers with English or French, creating mutual support networks.
- Advocacy and civic engagement  
Together, they can address issues like anti-Asian racism, elder care, or immigrant rights, drawing strength from both historical experience and contemporary urgency.