The 2013 EJCA history project survey: Background, Findings, and How to Access It
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In 2013, the Edmonton Japanese Community Association (EJCA) History Project committee created a survey attempting to capture some of the current Japanese/Canadian cultural landscape in northern Alberta. This survey was designed to add a contemporary context to the historical materials being collected by the broader EJCA history project that was itself charged with identifying and gathering evidence of the local history to provide easier access both in the present and the future. This session will describe the process we used to create and administer the survey in two languages both in print and online, how we collated statistical and narrative results, and how anyone interested in the results can get access. Although the main purpose of the project was to gather information for others to use, we will share some interesting insights gathered from the responses we received.

(D)evaluation: The state management of Japanese-Canadian personal property in the 1940s
Kaitlin Findlay, University of Victoria

When the Canadian state forcibly uprooted nearly 22,000 Japanese Canadians from the west coast of British Columbia in 1942, what happened to the property they left behind? This paper addresses a little-understood process that touched each Japanese Canadian in the 1940s: the forced sale of their personal property. Set within the overarching policies of dispossession (which also included the forced sale of real estate and fishing vessels), the seizure and sale of Japanese Canadians’ personal belongings tells a singular story of injustice and racism. We draw from theories of valuation to highlight the interplay between the valuation (and devaluation) of individuals and their things that emerges in the state record of dispossession. Foundationally premised on the devaluation of their rights as property owners and citizens, the forced sale of Japanese Canadians’ personal belongings required the complicity of thousands. In examining these processes, we build a fuller picture of state racism in the 1940s.

Lost and Found: Reconsidering ‘Diaspora’ in Japanese Canadian Experience in Canada and Japan
Masumi Izumi, Doshisha University

The pivotal episodes of detention, dispossession, dispersal and deportation during and after World War II have given the Japanese Canadian experience prototypical elements of ‘diaspora.’ However, when we look at the JC history through a transnational lens, the
application of the notion ‘diaspora’ requires closer examination, because thinking only of the dislocation within Canada leads to the omission from the JC history what happened to those who experienced transnational relocation and dislocation. This paper shares some recent findings made in Japan about the returnees and deportees from Canada, and problematizes the relationship between the usage of the notion ‘diaspora’ and severing of the JC history on the two sides of the Pacific.