

TO: MAYOR & EACH  
COUNCILLOR  
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural  
Services Committee meeting of  
Richmond City Council held on  
Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

## ON TABLE ITEM

Date: May 27, 2025

Meeting: PRCS

Item: 1

From: Alan Sakai <asakai123@icloud.com>  
Sent: May 25, 2025 9:15 PM  
To: Mayor and Councillors  
Subject: TK Homma Commemorative Plaque Installation

Categories: - TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR / FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, - DISTRIBUTED ON  
TABLE



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May 24, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

I strongly support the placement of the plaque commemorating Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's Legal Case at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building (JFBSB).

- Placing the plaque at the JFBS building will serve as an educational resource to cultivate greater visibility and raise public awareness and understanding of the early Japanese settlers in a public space in the heart of historic Steveston.
- The current renewal landscape plan outside the JFBS building could incorporate the plaque, this is in progress by the City of Richmond's Culture team.
- The plaque promotes and preserves an aspect of Japanese Canadian history, heritage and contribution that can be shared with a broad audience.
- The plaque's location would be across the street where people can conveniently view the Nikkei Stories short video, Tomekichi Homma, Man of the Times on their cellphones. Information about Tomey would be centralized for those who are interested in learning more about his life.
- Tomey Homma was instrumental in fundraising and arranging support for the building of the Japanese Benevolent Fisherman's Society Building in Steveston and was the President of this society for many years. The connection to the JBS could be easily seen and enhance the story of the JBSB and its work during a difficult era.

The plaque recognizes the historic contribution to the hard-fought, long-awaited struggle for fundamental rights of citizenship. This placement is central to the story of Tomey Homma, and the Japanese Community that he fought for.

As this commemoration belongs to all citizens it should not be encumbered by placement in a location whereby access could be restricted by competing agendas more than in a public space. An example of this would be a school where access would require special dispensation during school hours or on certain dates due to the school calendar.

Alan Sakai,  
Director Steveston Judo Club,  
Director Steveston Community Society,  
Chair of the Japanese Canadian Heritage Committee of the Steveston Community Society,  
Chair Steveston Martial Arts Centre

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## Steveston Community Society

*Serving the Community of Steveston Since 1946*

### ON TABLE ITEM

Date: May 27, 2025

Meeting: PRCS

Item: 1

May 26, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: TK Homma Commemorative Plaque Installation**

The Steveston Community Society supports the placement of the plaque commemorating Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's Legal Case at the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society Building (JFBSB).

As this commemoration belongs to all citizens, it should not be encumbered by placement in a location whereby access could be restricted by competing agendas. An example of this would be a school where access would require special dispensation during school hours or on certain dates due to the school calendar.

By placing the plaque at the JFSB building, this will serve as an education resource to cultivate greater visibility and raise public awareness and understanding of the early Japanese settlers in a public space in the heart of historic Steveston.

The current renewal landscape plan outside the JFBS building that is in progress by the City of Richmond's Culture team, could incorporate the plaque that promotes and preserves an aspect of Japanese Canadian history, heritage and contribution that can be shared with a broad audience.

The plaque's location would also be across the street where people can conveniently view the Nikkei Stories short video, Tomekichi Homma, Man of the Times on their cellphones. Information about Tomey would be centralized for those who are interested in learning more about his life.

Tomey Homma was instrumental in fundraising and arranging support for the building of the Japanese Benevolent Fishman's Society Building in Steveston and was the President of this society for many years. The connection to the JBS could be easily seen and enhance the story of the JFBSB and its work during a difficult era.

The plaque recognizes the historic contribution to the hard-fought, long-awaited struggle for fundamental rights of citizenship. This placement is central to the story of Tomey Homma, and the Japanese Community that he fought for and is best placed at the JFBSB.

Yours truly,

Alan Clark  
President, Steveston Community Society



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