Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee meeting of

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May 22, 2025

Dear Mayor Malcolm Brodie, Councillors, and PRC Services Committee

Re: Installation of Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's Legal Case Plaque

We the undersigned endorse and propose Homma Elementary School located at 5100 Brunswick Drive, Richmond, B.C. is the most visible, effective, and significant place for the installation of the Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma Legal Case Plaque.

Placing this plaque at this school complements the sign's message and will be in harmony with the school entrance. It is not only visible but also catch the attention of both students and parents since there is a significant number of daily foot traffic.

Since the school is named in honour of him, there is no other site more suitable than at this school for the installation of this plaque which will serve as an educational resource for the students of all ages.

Placing this plaque in front of the Japanese Fishermen's Hospital's administration office and doctors' office has no significant connection with this building.

The pioneering Japanese immigrant fishermen formed the first Fraser River Fishermen's Association on November 20,1897 and appointed Tomekichi Homma as its president pro tempore but resigned on May 29,1899 and he had not served in any capacity on the Japanese Fishermen's Benevolent Society founded in 1900. Steveston Fishermen's Benevolent Society Hospital or Japanese Fishermen's Hospital was officially opened on July 20, 1900.

I and the undersigned are strongly recommending the Council members and Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Committee to support the placement of the plaque at Homma Elementary School which was named after Tomekichi Homma to pay tribute to him for his achievements, courage, determination, and perseverance in obtaining the franchise for Japanese Canadians.

Sincerely submitted,

Jim H. Tanaka 7571 Montana Road, Richmond, B.C. V7C 2K9 < jhtanaka@shaw.ca>

Past president of B.C. Wakayama Kenjin Kai and Board of Director

Co-founder and co-organizer of Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival (2017-25)

Recipient of Cultural Leadership Award in 2023

Mary Hirano 3531 Francis Road, Richmond, B.C. V7C 1J4

Board of Director of B.C. Wakayama Kenjin Kai

Co-founder and co-organizer of Richmond Cherry Blossom Festival (2017-25)

Recipient of Cultural Leadership Award in 2021



B.C. WAKAYAMA KENJIN KAI

Re: Installation of Tomekichi "Tomey" Homma's Legal Case Plaque

Dear Mayor Malcom Brodie, Council, and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

On behalf of the B.C. Wakayama Kenjin Kai (Association), please accept this letter of endorsement and support for the installation of the above Plaque at Tomekichi Elementary School located at 5150 Brunswick Drive, Richmond, B.C.

Our Association was founded by a handful of visionaries in 1965. Our current Association's declining paid-membership is a remnant of the many senior members that once was part of this history. Since 1965 our Association and members supported projects in Richmond that raise awareness about Japanese customs, culture, tradition, and heritage including good will to bring Richmond's diversified and multi-cultured Island community together.

The following projects our Association spearheaded and supported with the assistance of the City of Richmond:

- 1) Construction of Kuno Garden in 1988 to commemorate the 100th year of his arrival in Canada and donated to the City of Richmond in 1989
- 2) Nikkei Fishermen's Reunion Project erection of Nikkei fisherman's statue located at ex-phoenix cannery site and donated to the City of Richmond
- 3) Planting of 255 Akebono cherry trees at Garry Point Park and donated to the City of Richmond for the citizens of Richmond and visitors to enjoy the transient beauty of cherry blossoms
- 4) Preservation and restoration of over a century old charcoal pit kiln located in Bluff Park on Galiano Island (the pioneering Japanese immigrants from Wakayama prefecture made charcoal during off fishing season to supplement their incomes)
- 5) Hosted BBQ salmon and beef luncheon for the visiting Nippon Maru and Kaiwo Maru to Richmond
- 6) Preservation and re-location of Japanese Fishermen's Hospital administration/Doctor's office to the museum site (3811 Moncton Street)
- 7) Three members of the Association (Mary Hirano and her late husband, Sammy Hirano and Jim Tanaka co-founded and co-organized the first Cherry Blossom Festival in Richmond in 2017 with the support of the City of Richmond and celebrated the 8th in-person festival this year).

Our Association always encourage and promote Japanese Canadians to work together on matters of concern to all Canadians and undertake collective action for a better Canada free from racism and inequality.

This is the first ever school named in honour of a Japanese Canadian and it is extremely significant to the Japanese community because of its roots prior to the internment during WW11.

Sincerely

B.C. Wakayama Kenjin Kai

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