

**Estimates of the Number of Japanese Canadian Survivors of the War Time Experience**  
**By Takashi Ohki, St. Albert, Alberta**  
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## **Introduction**

On May 5, 2021, the Government of British Columbia announced a grant of \$2 million to the Nikkei Seniors Health Care and Housing Society. The grant will be used for the development and implementation of programs that will benefit Japanese Canadian survivors who were directly impacted by the actions of BC Governments during the 1942-1949 period.

This report presents estimates of the number of Japanese Canadian survivors in 2021 who were in Canada between 1942 and 1949 by city and by province. We use the following 2016 Census of Canada data, "Visible Minority (15), Generation Status (4), Age (12) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 Census, Statistics Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016190", for this estimate.

In the 2016 Census of Canada had one question, "Is this person\_\_?" that could be answered by choosing one of the visible minority categories including Japanese. The census data compiled in the above Statistics Canada data shows, for each city and province, the number of Japanese Canadians (who had chosen "Japanese" in answering the above question) by sex, age group, and generational status (the first, second, and third generation and above). We use this census data to estimate the number of Japanese Canadian survivors by city and by province.

## **Method**

We use a simple and robust method to preserve the reliability of the original census data. Each step of the method is recorded in the excel file "Estimates of Japanese Canadian Survivors," together with the original Statistics Canada data so that the estimates can be independently verified.

The youngest Japanese Canadian survivors of the 1942-49 experience are those who were born in 1949. They are 72 years old in 2021 and were 67 years old in the census year of 2016. So, we try to identify the number of Japanese Canadians who were 67 years old and over in the 2016 census data. Unfortunately, the census data are available only for age groups such as 65 to 74, 65 and over and 75 and over, but not for each age. We estimate the number of Japanese Canadians who were 67 years and over from the number of Japanese Canadians who were 65 to 74 years old and who were over 75 years and over in 2016.

The number of Japanese Canadians who were between 65 and 74 years old in 2016 = 7,880.  
The number of Japanese Canadians who were 75 years and over in 2016 = 6,415.

The above numbers include new Japanese immigrants who came to Canada after 1949 and their descendants. To exclude them from the Japanese Canadian survivors, we use census information on the generational status.

We assume the following:

- The first-generation Japanese Canadians who were 67 years and over in 2021 were new Japanese immigrants who came to Canada after 1949. This was because the first-generation Japanese Canadians (old isseis) who had been in Canada before 1979 would be very old by 2021. For example, an issei of age 40 in 1949 would be 107 years old in 2021. Therefore, we assume all old first-generation of Japanese Canadians have died by 2016.
- The second-generation Japanese Canadians who were 67 years old and over in 2016 must be the children of the old isseis and cannot be the children of the new Japanese Canadians. Most new Japanese immigrants came to Canada after the mid-1970s and their children would not have reached 67 years of age by 2016.
- The third-generation Japanese Canadians who were 67 years old and over must be the grandchildren and descendants of the old isseis. Thus, the sum of the second-generation and third- and over-generations of Japanese Canadians who were 67 years old and over in 2016 would be the Japanese Canadian survivors.

The sum of second-generation and third- and over-generations of Japanese Canadians in 2016 were: those who were 65 to 74 years old in 2016 = 3,885 and those who were 75 and over in 2016 = 4,670.

We estimate the Japanese Canadians who were 67 to 74 years old by taking 80 percent of those who were 65 to 74 years old. This assumes that the number of Japanese Canadians 65 to 74 years of age were spread evenly for each age.

$$3,885 \times 0.8 = 3,108$$

Now we estimate how many Japanese Canadians who were 67 years old and over have survived until 2016. For this purpose, we use the Canadian annual mortality rates by age group compiled by Statistics Canada.

The Canadian annual mortality rates in 2018 by age group (the number of deaths per 1,000 people)

65 to 69	11.1
70 to 74	17.2
75 to 79	29.0
80 to 84	50.6

We estimate the average annual mortality rate for the 65 to 74 age group as 14.2 per 1,000 and use this estimate for the Japanese Canadians who were 67 to 74 years old in 2016.

Over the five-year period from 2016 to 2021, (1.42% x 5 = 7.1%) of the Japanese Canadians who were 67 to 74 years old have died between 2016 and 2021. Therefore, the number of Japanese Canadian survivors in 2021 who were 67 to 74 years old in 2016 is:

$$3,108 \times (1.0 - 0.071) = 2,887$$

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We estimate the average annual mortality rate for the 75 and over age group as 39.8 per 1,000. Over the five-year period from 2016 to 2021, the five-year mortality rate would be (3.98% x 5 = 19.9%). Therefore, the number of Japanese Canadians survivors in 2021 who were 75 years and over in 2016 is:  $4,670 \times (1.0 - 0.199) = 3,741$ .

Finally, the number of Japanese Canadian survivors in 2021 who were 67 years and over in 2016 is:  $2,887 + 3,741 = 6,628$ .

The above process is applied to Japanese Canadians in each city and province in 2016 and produces a table, "Estimates of Japanese Canadian Survivors in 2021 Who Experienced BC Government Policies During the 1942-1949 Period."

Five-year mortality rates (%) 65 to 74      7.1  
Five-year mortality rates (%) 75 and over   19.9

### Highlights

In 2021, there are 6,628 Japanese Canadian survivors in Canada who were directly impacted by the actions of BC Government during the 1942-1949 period.

They are scattered all over Canada but are mainly located in:

British Columbia	2,938
Ontario	2,556
Alberta	739
Manitoba	224
Quebec	129

In cities, they are concentrated in:

Vancouver	1,919
Toronto	1,803
Calgary	238
Hamilton	224
Lethbridge	222
Winnipeg	209
Kelowna	185
Kamloops	142
Edmonton	116
Montreal	102
Ottawa – Gatineau	100
Vernon	81
Victoria	65
London	50

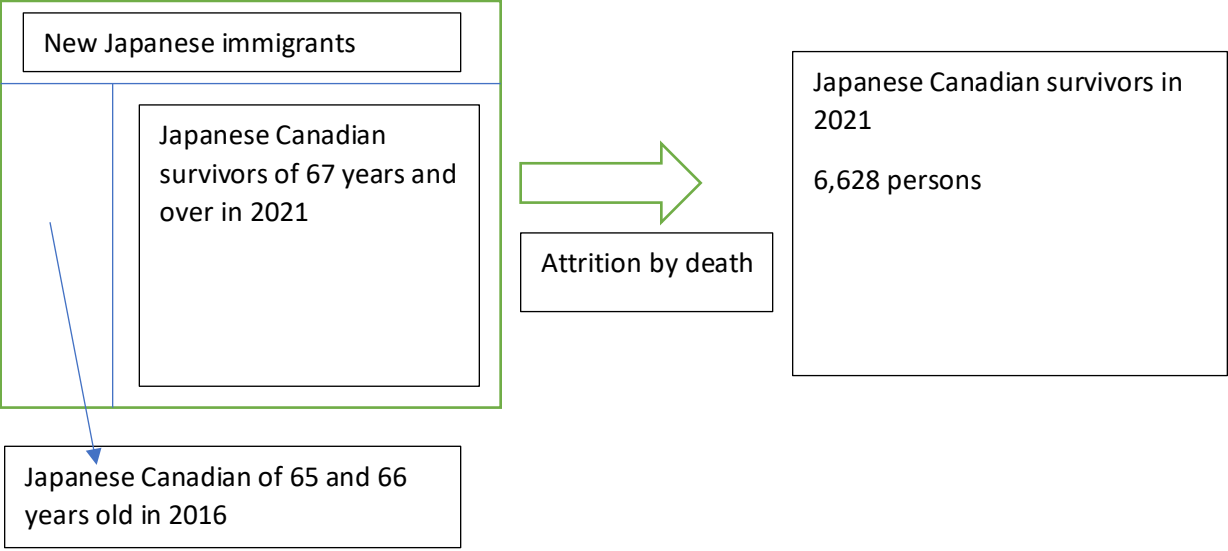
St. Catharines-Niagara	46
Peterborough	39
Kitchener-Waterloo	38
Penticton	38
Salmon Arm	34
Oshawa	34
Nanaimo	31
Campbell River	31
Courtenay	27
Abbotsford-Mission	23
Duncan	19
Thunder Bay	19
Windsor	16
Medicine Hat	15
Red Deer	15
Parksville	15
Quesnel	15
Prince Rupert	15
Regina	12

There are more cities with fewer than 12 Japanese Canadian survivors. In these cities, there were Japanese Canadians in 2016 but we are not sure if some of them are still there in 2021 because our assumption of the mortality rates between 2016 and 2021 has stronger influence on the small number of Japanese Canadians than the large number of Japanese Canadians.

The estimates have room for errors coming from the assumptions used. But the original data are from the 2016 Canada census and have a solid statistical base. Since the same assumptions are used to estimate the number of Japanese Canadian survivors for the provinces and cities, the relative size of the Japanese Canadian survivors by city and by province will be reliable.

**Estimation process diagram**

Japanese Canadians of 65 years and over in 2016



**Estimates of Japanese Canadian Survivors in 2021  
Who Experienced BC Government Policies  
During the 1942-1949 Period**

Province and City	Number of Survivors	Province and City	Number of Survivors
<b>Canada</b>	6,628	<b>Ontario</b>	2,556
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	7	Cornwall	0
St. John's	7	Hawkesbury	0
Bay Roberts	0	Hawkesbury (Quebec part)	0
Grand Falls-Windsor	0	Hawkesbury (Ontario part)	0
Gander	0	Ottawa - Gatineau	100
Corner Brook	0	Ottawa - Gatineau (Quebec part)	0
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	7	Ottawa - Gatineau (Ontario part)	96
Charlottetown	0	Arnprior	0
Summerside	0	Carleton Place	0
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	15	Brockville	0
Halifax	7	Pembroke	0
Kentville	0	Petawawa	0
Truro	0	Kingston	0
New Glasgow	0	Belleville	8
Cape Breton	0	Cobourg	0
<b>New Brunswick</b>	15	Port Hope	0
Moncton	0	Peterborough	39
Saint John	0	Kawartha Lakes	7
Fredericton	0	Centre Wellington	15
Bathurst	0	Oshawa	34
Miramichi	0	Ingersoll	0
Campbellton	0	Toronto	1,803
Campbellton (New Brunswick part)	0	Hamilton	224
Campbellton (Quebec part)	0	St. Catharines - Niagara	46
Edmundston	0	Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo	38
<b>Quebec</b>	129	Brantford	0
Matane	0	Woodstock	0
Rimouski	8	Tillsonburg	0
Rivière-du-Loup	0	Norfolk	0
Baie-Comeau	0	Guelph	8
Saguenay	0	Stratford	0
Alma	0	London	50
Dolbeau-Mistassini	0	Chatham-Kent	0
Sept-Îles	0	Leamington	0
Québec City	0	Windsor	16
Sainte-Marie	0	Sarnia	0
Saint-Georges	0	Wasaga Beach	7
Thetford Mines	0	Owen Sound	0
Sherbrooke	0	Collingwood	0
Cowansville	0	Barrie	8
Victoriaville	0	Orillia	11
Trois-Rivières	0	Midland	7
Shawinigan	0	North Bay	0
Drummondville	0	Greater Sudbury	0
Granby	0	Elliot Lake	0
Saint-Hyacinthe	0	Timmins	0
Sorel-Tracy	0	Sault Ste. Marie	0
Joliette	0	Thunder Bay	19
Montréal	102	Kenora	0
Salaberry-de-Valleyfield	7		
Lachute	0		
Val-d'Or	0		
Rouyn-Noranda	0		

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Province and City	Number of Survivors	Province and City	Number of Survivors
<b>Manitoba</b>	224	<b>British Columbia</b>	2,938
Winnipeg	209	Cranbrook	0
Winkler	0	Nelson	7
Steinbach	0	Penticton	38
Portage la Prairie	0	Kelowna	185
Brandon	8	Vernon	81
Thompson	0	Salmon Arm	34
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	27	Kamloops	142
Regina	12	Chilliwack	8
Yorkton	0	Abbotsford - Mission	23
Moose Jaw	0	Vancouver	1,919
Swift Current	0	Squamish	0
Saskatoon	0	Victoria	65
North Battleford	0	Duncan	19
Prince Albert	0	Nanaimo	31
Estevan	8	Parksville	15
Weyburn	0	Port Alberni	0
<b>Alberta</b>	739	Courtenay	27
Medicine Hat	15	Campbell River	31
Brooks	0	Powell River	0
Lethbridge	222	Williams Lake	15
Okotoks	0	Quesnel	15
High River	0	Prince Rupert	7
Calgary	238	Terrace	7
Strathmore	0	Prince George	11
Canmore	7	Dawson Creek	0
Red Deer	15	Fort St. John	0
Sylvan Lake	0	<b>Yukon</b>	7
Lacombe	7	Whitehorse	7
Camrose	0	<b>Northwest Territories</b>	0
Edmonton	116	Yellowknife	0
Lloydminster	0	<b>Nunavut</b>	0
Lloydminster (Saskatchewan part)	0		
Lloydminster (Alberta part)	0		
Cold Lake	0		
Grande Prairie	0		
Wood Buffalo	0		
Wetaskiwin	0		

Notes:

Original data are 2016 Census of Canada, Catalogue Number 98-400-X2016190

First generation is new Japanese immigrants

Second generation is the children of the old isseis.

Third generation is descendants of the old isseis.

Five-year mortality rate for 67 to 74 years old is 7.1%

Five-year mortality rate for 75 and over is 19.9%.