

# Acts of Ownership Interview

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## Casting a Samurai Sword into Burrard Inlet

**Jeanne (b. 1932) describes her mother's refusal to have her family's samurai sword seized by the government or vandals and decision to cast it into Burrard Inlet in the dead of night.**

**Excerpt from a Landscapes of Injustice oral history interview with Jeanne Ikeda-Douglas.**

JEANNE IKEDA-DOUGLAS

And the only thing that my mother vowed was that she did not want to give up the, the sword that had been in our family. Because we had come originally, way back, from a warlord family of samurai. And so, we had, you know, like armour and a sword that had always been on the wall. And she said there's no way she was handing that in after all these generations. And so, although Japanese people were not supposed to be out after dark, one night, my mother and our relatives that lived in North Vancouver, that were the boatmakers, they came over and said "Ok, we're going to row out into the Straits." Where all the big ships would come through. And she threw it overboard.

HEATHER READ

Oh no!

JEANNE IKEDA-DOUGLAS

And so she says, she didn't want to hand it in to, into the RCMP because she didn't think she'd ever get it back anyway. And a lot of people who did the handing in did not get it back, so she said she was sorry that after the war that we didn't have it, but ...