

Legacies of Loss Interview

Loss of Education & Faith in Canada, Part 1

Yoshiaki (b. 1928) recalls the federal and provincial governments' failure to provide education in the internment camps and his decision – out of anger at the government – to end his schooling. He expresses regret at his decision.

Excerpt from Landscapes of Injustice oral history interview with Yoshiaki Nagao.

YOSHIAKI NAGAO

When we were expelled from BC, I was still in grade school and when we went to camp, at the beginning ... The government didn't provide education but they, after some time, they gave it to us. But my, my thoughts were at that time, at a tender age, I told myself why should I go and get an education when they taught me all lies up till that time. So as a consequence, I haven't gone beyond grade school ... But, through good fortune and, I think, partly through my curious mind, I retired, you know, working in an engineering office. So I don't know, I wish I had, I had the opportunity under different circumstances to have a university education, but not so.