

## TUG-FOR-TRUTH ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

**Claim:** *It was necessary to uproot and intern Japanese Canadians.*

### **Evidence supporting the claim**

#### **Mutual Hostages**

- interracial clashes possible
- evacuation would protect Japanese Canadians
- Coastal defences were weak and vulnerable to sabotage
- Removal of Japanese Canadians would remove possibility of sabotage and espionage
- considerable local feeling of hostility toward Japanese Canadians and many local politicians calling for removal

#### **Reid Editorial**

- Japanese Canadians are unassimilable and cannot fit into Canadian society
- threat is cultural and military
- Japanese Canadians will spy and commit acts of sabotage because they are loyal to Japan, not Canada
- Canadians in Japan are being treated very harshly, we should do the same to Japanese in Canada
- fishing industry has suffered in B.C. under the weight of Japanese Canadian fishermen and boats; removing them will restore the industry and save the salmon runs

#### **Notice to All Persons of Japanese Racial Origin**

- outlines specific restrictions imposed by the federal government on all Canadians with Japanese racial origins
- confiscating cars, trucks, radios, transmitters, and cameras
- encouraged Japanese Canadians to move from the 'Protected Area' to remove threats of sabotage and espionage on West Coast
- allowed warrantless searches of Japanese Canadians and their property
- restrictions applied to 'race' not to citizenship, therefore the restrictions applied to citizens and non-citizens alike if they had Japanese racial origins

### **Evidence refuting the claim**

#### **R.C.M.P. Commissioner S.T. Wood**

- information comes from British Intelligence Network
- found no evidence of espionage, sabotage or potential for breaches of security
- draws conclusion that the Japanese Canadians on the West Coast pose no threat to national security by early 1942
- report was submitted early in 1942, before full weight of evacuation, internment and forced property sales had been implemented
- concludes that Japanese Canadians were largely cooperative and unlikely to pose a serious risk

#### **The Enemy That Never Was**

- cites Admiral Stark of US stating that after the Battle of Midway (June 1942) there was little if any threat of Japanese attacks on the West Coast of North America
- US and Canadian military leadership agreed that by February 1942 coastal invasion was essentially impossible and therefore Japanese Canadians (and Americans) were not a threat
- Notes that by April 1942 the defence perimeter from Alaska to Hawaii to Australia would prevent any Japanese assaults on the west coast of North America

#### **Murphy Editorial**

- Japanese Canadians are targeted for their race and skin colour, not because they pose a security threat
- if liberties must be violated then the system should maintain adherence to fundamental civil liberties like Habeus Corpus and trial by jury
- the legal system should not be bypassed in the interest of narrow agendas
- Racism is not a justifiable basis for the violation of civil liberties
- Japanese Canadians demonstrated their valour and commitment to Canadian democratic values through their military service in WWI