

LESSON 3 **HANDOUT 3.7** A PROMISE BROKEN

Critical Question:

What caused the change in policy regarding the care and custody of Japanese Canadian owned property?

Using the source material provided and the fishbone diagram, identify three primary causes for the change in policy with supporting details. Be prepared to share your findings with peers.

On 19 January 1943 the federal government passed into legislation Order-in-Council PC 469 which authorized the Custodian to sell off all Japanese Canadian owned property. This was a change from the policy laid out in O.I.C. PC 2483 in which the federal government promised to control and manage the property of uprooted Japanese Canadians. All Japanese Canadians had, by this time, been removed from the coast and were forced to leave moveable property (chattels), real estate, and businesses behind in the care of friends, agents, and the Custodian. What caused the government to change its policy? Who was responsible for the change? In this activity you will explain the change in policy and assess the causes and consequences of this change.

Historical Thinking Competencies – Cause and Consequence

When considering the causes of actions in the past it is helpful to apply the following constructs:

- Historical actors or agents are people, and they cause change in the context of social, economic, political, and historical contexts
- Actions caused by actors and agents of change can have both intended and unintended consequences
- Actors and agents causing change carry a variety of perspectives and are not motivated by the same considerations
- Individual actors or agents can cause change but so too can ideas, beliefs, institutions, and other events.

Adapted from *Benchmarks of Historical Thinking* URL: www.historybenchmarks.ca

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