

To the Mayor, the members of Council, and all the staff of Burnaby City

Dear sirs and madams,

We would like to present you the petition sheets which contain signatures of those who oppose construction of the Comfort Women statue and the monument at Burnaby Park in Burnaby City.

We can classify the important comments into types as follows:

1. This statue erection violates the policy and philosophy of Canada, multiculturalism. And any local government should not be involved in international affairs. It should work on the promotion of happiness, prosperity, welfare, safety, and harmony of the citizens.
2. The "Comfort Women" issue is not a present issue, but a past issue. It happened more than seventy years ago, and Japan officially apologized to them many times and compensated them financially.
3. One comment requested to Burnaby Council to make new ordinance and enforce the penalty in case that the hate crime, bullying, and discrimination against Japanese occur. I would like you to refer to "The Independent Verification Committee report for Comfort Women articles by Asahi Shimbun.", as being attached. ✕
4. Many Japanese will stop visiting Canada. The negative impact to Canada tourism industry would be extensive. Canada has a good image of beautiful, peaceful, and easy place to enjoy nature. This image will change for Japanese. For your reference, the number of Japanese who visited Korea decreased by 30% from 2012 to 2013.
5. Boycott of Canadian products might start. For your reference, many Japanese stop going to Korean restaurants in Shinjuku area (Korean town in Tokyo) and due to this boycott campaign, Korean restaurant business is at the brink of death. After the erection of the statue, the Japanese might start a boycott of Canadian products.
6. Japanese might sue Burnaby City and Councillors, in which you can refer to the case of Glendale in the US.
7. It is inappropriate to erect such a statue which exposes sex related content to our park; it is disturbing to the natural surroundings.

I am deeply concerned about the proposal to erect the Comfort Women statue in Burnaby as it will prevent your efforts to keep a good living-standard of Burnaby's citizens. I wish for the wise judgment of Burnaby City Council on this matter considering a peace and tranquility within the local community. I believe you will protect the children who are currently facing the problem, and those who would have a future in a future at Burnaby.

Sincerely Yours,


Peter Kohno

(A member of the petitioners and a Burnaby resident since 1983)

Mr. Kohno submitted a petition containing 443 signatures in opposition to a "Comfort Woman" statue. The petition is available in the Office of the City Clerk.