In February 1942, when Japanese Canadians in coastal British Columbia were uprooted from their homes and interned, the Canadian government assured them that their property would be safeguarded for the duration of the war. A year later, however, officials resolved to sell everything they owned, contributing to material losses that would, in today’s currency, amount to close to one billion dollars. This talk analyzes the forced sale of Japanese-Canadian-owned property by examining three individuals: federal politician Ian Mackenzie, bureaucrat Glenn McPherson, and Kishizo Kimura, a Japanese Canadian who participated in administering the sales. In addition to detailing the origins of the policy, this talk will ask what historians can learn by foregrounding the individuals involved in historical injustice. I propose that an understanding of these people, including their own subjectivities, is essential to both understanding the past and extracting its lessons.

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**About the Madam Justice Mary Southin Lecture**
Endowed by her friends and colleagues, the Madam Justice Mary Southin Lecture pays tribute to Madam Justice Southin’s many contributions to the development of the common law in BC. It is to address either the Law of Equity or British Columbia legal history, and it alternates between the UBC and UVic Law Faculties. This lecture qualifies for one hour of Continued Professional Development Credit.