



Consul-General of Japan in Toronto, Ms. Takako Ito

Welcome to the webpage of the Consul-General of Japan in Toronto!

I just assumed my position here as Consul-General on Oct. 10. Indeed, this is actually my second assignment in Canada; the first was 26 years ago, when I spent two years in Ottawa on the overseas training program of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, followed by an assignment at the Embassy of Japan in Canada immediately afterwards. Since my husband is Canadian, I have visited this country a number of times, but this time I feel the full weight of assuming the responsibility of Consul-General in Canada's largest metropolis, overseeing our jurisdiction of Ontario where over 30,000 Japanese nationals and Japanese Canadians reside.

While Canada this year celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation, Japan is also marking the 150th anniversary since the Meiji Restoration. Although both countries started on the path to modernization the same year, we can observe a stark contrast between Japan – with its long history, large population and scarce natural resources, having opened its borders after an extended period of isolation – and Canada, a vast country rich in resources, which grew through accepting a large number of immigrants. Such differences in their histories notwithstanding, the two countries today are developed nations which share common values, and are invaluable partners within the G7 and elsewhere on the world stage. The issues surrounding both countries have also evolved over time, and we now find ourselves confronting many global challenges, including the environment, terrorism and infectious diseases.

Countless individuals in both Japan and Canada have devoted tremendous effort toward establishing close ties between the two countries. I would like to take this opportunity to express to them my utmost respect and appreciation. I also intend to do everything I can to travel further on the path that they have cleared for us and develop even closer ties between Japan and Canada in various fields.

Promoting greater understanding of Japan among Canadians, developing further exchange between the two countries, assisting Japanese businesses and Japanese regional governments with their overseas activities, ensuring the safety of local Japanese nationals and tourists – these are just some of the many functions of our Consulate-General. I sincerely hope we can count on your support and cooperation as we undertake these and other tasks to the utmost of our ability.

Next year, we will commemorate the 90th anniversary of Japan-Canada diplomatic relations, and we are already planning ways to promote even greater exchange between the two countries. I look forward to working with all of you here in Toronto as we prepare to celebrate another auspicious milestone.