

## Ceremony Confers the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, to Mr. Stephen Oikawa

2021/8/4



### **Consul-General SASAYAMA presented Mr. Oikawa with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays**

On Aug. 4, Mr. Stephen Oikawa, former President of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC), was presented with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, at the official residence of the Consul-General of Japan, Mr. SASAYAMA Takuya, for his contributions toward the promotion of Japanese culture in Canada and to the well-being of the Japanese Canadian community.

Mr. Oikawa served as the JCCC's President twice: first, for two years from 1991; then for one year from 2000. As well, with respect to the JCCC's expansion project which commenced in 1991, he first assumed leadership as the Chair of its planning committee then provided support from a variety of positions until its completion 21 years later. He

undertook many financial responsibilities with respect to this plan, including obtaining grants from the Government of Ontario. He thereby contributed immensely toward the solidarity of the Japanese Canadian community.

Mr. Oikawa also became an instructor for the JCCC's karate club in 1974, and provided guidance for 13 years to karate students ranging in age from 10 to their sixties. He also gave many public demonstrations of forms and self-defence, introducing audiences to the many appealing aspects of karate.



(from left) Mrs. Sasyama, Consul-General SASYAMA, Mr. Oikawa and members of the Oikawa family