

Canada Day

Cooperation, trade relations flourish with Japan

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AMBASSADOR OF CANADA TO JAPAN

On behalf of the government of Canada, I extend to all Canadians and friends of Canada a very happy Canada Day, *joyeuse fête du Canada*, on this 143rd anniversary of Canadian Confederation.

Canada Day in Japan offers an opportunity to reflect on, and share with you, some of Canada's accomplishments over the past year, and plans for our continued engagement with Japan and the world in the year ahead.

Canada is an active and engaged member of the international community, participating in efforts to promote peace, security and development globally and to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth in the world economy. Canada's economy remains strong. Our banks did not require public bailouts, and appropriate regulation of our banking system has helped to ensure that Cana-



dian banks remain strong and continue to lend, supporting businesses, jobs and future growth.

We were extremely pleased to show Canada to the world through our hosting of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games, and to host world leaders for the recently concluded G-8 and G-20 Summits in Muskoka, Ontario, and Toronto.

Canada and Japan enjoy a vital and mutually beneficial trading relationship. Canada remains a lucrative market for Japanese exporters and investors, particularly with respect to automobiles, consumer electronics and machinery. As a major exporter of many commodities and the world's fifth-ranked energy producer, Canada helps meet Japan's needs for energy, metals, minerals, food and forest products. Closer economic relations between Canada and Japan through an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) would benefit the economies of both countries.

The Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative is strengthening Canada's com-

petitive position in meeting North Asian and North American commercial needs through expedited supply chains with lower costs and reduced risks. Following agreement on enhanced Canada-Japan bilateral air services, new services have been inaugurated between Tokyo and Calgary, Alberta, helping to enhance business and personal links.

Canada-Japan relations have flourished over the years, building on people-to-people ties to encompass political, economic, commercial, defense, cultural and educational links. Canada and Japan work together at the United Nations, the G-7, G-8 and G-20, APEC and in other global forums. Shared values and shared interests are reflected in our contributions to international security and development, such as through our shared vocation of U.N. peacekeeping and our commitment to the development and reconstruction of Afghanistan, Haiti and other countries in need of international support.

On the sidelines of the G-8 Summit in Muskoka, Prime Minister Stephen Harper met

with Prime Minister Naoto Kan and agreed in principle to set up a new framework for political, peace and security cooperation between Canada and Japan. They will meet again in Yokohama in November when Japan hosts APEC 2010.

Alongside the successful Working Holiday Program, which allows for over 7,000 young Japanese to experience Canada each year, the Embassy of Canada has established a Canada-Japan Leadership Fund with contributions from Canadian and Japanese businesses and expatriate communities in Japan to facilitate youth exchange and the development of future interlocutors for Canada-Japan relations.

Canada looks to Japan as a key partner on the world stage and by continuing our efforts to work together, we can make the world a safer, more prosperous and harmonious place. We look forward to continuing to work closely with Japan in the leadup to the November meeting of APEC leaders and throughout the coming year.

Happy Canada Day! *Bonne Fête du Canada!*