

Canada day

Imperial visit a symbol of strong ties

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AMBASSADOR OF CANADA TO JAPAN

On behalf of the government of Canada, I would like to wish you a very happy Canada Day, “une joyeuse fete du Canada,” on this 142nd anniversary of Canadian Confederation. 2009 also marks the 100th anniversary of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, and the 80th anniversary of the establishment of Canada’s first diplomatic mission in Japan.



The highlight of Canada’s celebration of these special milestones will be the visit to Canada of Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, from July 3 to 14. Their historic visit, which also marks the 20th anniversary of the Emperor’s ascension to the throne and the 50th anniversary of the Imperial Couple’s wedding, is a powerful symbol of the importance and strength of the relationship between our two countries.

Over the years, the Canada-Japan relationship, founded on people-to-people ties, has flourished into a multifaceted relationship that encompasses

strong political, economic, commercial, defense, cultural and educational links.

In July 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper initiated a rejuvenation of the Canada-Japan partnership by visiting Tokyo after the G-8 summit, leading the way for the visits by Minister of International Trade Stockwell Day and Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon in the spring of this year.

I am grateful for your continuing engagement in supporting Canada-Japan economic relations, and cooperation on peace and security.

Looking ahead, Canada will

welcome the world to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Vancouver and Whistler in February and March 2010. In June, Canada will host the G-8 summit in Huntsville, Ontario, and in November, Japan will host the APEC leader’s summit in Yokohama. While there will be friendly, yet spirited, competition at the games, the G-8 and APEC forums provide further opportunities for Canada and Japan to collaborate in global leadership, and to continue to strengthen our bilateral relationship.

Happy Canada Day, “joyeuse fete du Canada!”