
Canada Day

Investing in future of Japan's affected regions

Jonathan T. Fried
AMBASSADOR OF CANADA

On behalf of the government of Canada, I extend to all Canadians and friends of Canada a happy Canada Day.



This 145th anniversary of Canadian Confederation provides an opportunity to reflect on and share key developments over the past year, and our plans for engagement with Japan and the world going forward.

The catastrophic events of March 11 in Tohoku changed the lives and perspectives of people not only in Japan, but also from all corners of the globe. Canadians were deeply moved by the tragedies and now carry a renewed sense of loyalty to the enduring friendship between our two nations.

Private citizens, corporations and community organizations in Canada contributed over \$40 million to relief efforts. Many Canadians living in Japan continue

to volunteer tirelessly to help their adopted home.

As attention turns from recovery to renewal, we are looking forward and investing in the future of the affected region. This investment is for communities, through the Tohoku-Canada Reconstruction Project, as well as for the young citizens, through the Hope for Youth Scholarship Program, to bolster Japan's courage and confidence to continue to play a leading role in the world.

Canada's reputation as a champion of peace, security, and global development is manifested by our ongoing promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and of sustainable and balanced growth, at home and abroad.

Despite the challenging global economic environment, Canada's economy remains the envy of many: Forbes magazine ranks Canada as the best place on the planet for businesses to grow and create jobs. The OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) predict our economy will again be among the leaders of the industrialized world

over the next two years. And, for the fourth year in a row, the World Economic Forum says our banks are the soundest in the world.

Canada-Japan relations have flourished over the years, building on people-to-people ties and shared values and interests to encompass political, economic, commercial, defense, cultural and educational links.

Canada and Japan enjoy a vital and mutually beneficial trade and investment relationship, reaffirmed this March when Prime Ministers Stephen Harper and Yoshihiko Noda launched free trade negotiations — a historic step that will create jobs and growth for both countries, with Canada as a reliable source of energy and wholesome, high-quality food. Supported by joint defense-foreign policy talks, we are partners in security, promotion of peace-keeping and humanitarian relief.

On the academic front, the ties between our two countries are strong and diverse. The Japan Association for Canadian Studies has for many years played an important role in informing Japanese students about Canada. And our country

remains a destination of choice for Japanese students interested in studying abroad at all levels.

The Canada-Japan partnership is an important contributor to making the world a safer, more prosperous and harmonious place. While our governments will continue to work together, the future of our bilateral relations depends on the commitment, dedication and enthusiasm you, the Canadians and friends of Canada bring to bear as individuals and through the friendship societies, bilateral chambers of commerce and 75 sister city relationships we enjoy throughout Japan. Thank you for your continuing support in furthering Canada-Japan relations.

Happy Canada Day! Bonne Fête du Canada!

The Canadian Embassy encourages Canadians residing in Japan for more than three months to register with the Registration of Canadian's Abroad (ROCA), available online at www.travel.gc.ca, used in the event of an emergency.
