

# Canada Day Special

## Ties deepen across various areas

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AMBASSADOR OF CANADA



I am delighted to convey my best wishes to your readers on this day, the 152nd Anniversary of Canada's Confederation.

This has been a banner year in Canada-Japan relations — and one steeped in symbolism, as we mark the 90th anniversary of Canada's diplomatic presence in this country, and Japan celebrates the dawn of its new Reiwa Era.

In late April, we were honored to welcome Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Canada for the second time in as many years. His visit laid the foundation for closer ties and stronger cooperation on a range of global and regional issues. At a time when our shared values and the global institutions they underpin are under such great stress, it is more important than ever for our two countries to continue to work together

to shore up the rules-based international order. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's active participation in the Osaka G20 leaders' summit just days ago was a clear illustration of how our two countries can work together toward that shared goal.

The rich people-to-people ties between our two countries continue to flourish. In the area of sports, we eagerly anticipate Canada's participation both in the Rugby World Cup this fall and in the Olympic and Paralympic Games here next summer. Basketball enthusiasts should take note that the Toronto Raptors — now the reigning NBA champions — will play two preseason games at Saitama Super Arena in October, so mark your calendars. Meanwhile, Canadian cultural expression of all types continues to attract large followings in Japan, from our iconic Cirque du Soleil performers, classical and jazz artists, to major pop stars like Shawn Mendes and Carly Rae Jepsen — both of whom will visit Japan this fall.

Commercial ties also reached new heights during the past year, driven by our landmark new trade agreement — the Com-

prehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. This agreement, which reflects the bold leadership of Abe, is already generating significant benefits for our businesses and consumers alike. Moreover, Canada's highly skilled labor force, world-class technology and dynamic innovation ecosystem are attracting important new Japanese investments, notably in the burgeoning field of artificial intelligence.

This year also marks a new chapter in Canada's energy partnership with Japan, with the first shipment of Canadian liquefied petroleum gas having arrived in May. Large volumes of Canadian liquefied natural gas will start flowing to Japan as early as 2024, via a massive new export facility now under construction in British Columbia. Japanese companies are playing a major role in these projects, which will ensure our place as a major, stable and competitive supplier of energy resources to Japan for decades to come.

Canada is also stepping up its contribution to the stability and security of this region, highlighted during the recent visit of Canada's minister of national defence. Twice



last year, our military forces participated, alongside Japan and other partners, in surveillance efforts targeting North Korea's attempts to evade U.N. sanctions through ship-to-ship transfers at sea. In April, Canada announced the continuation of such key deployments over the next two years.

In short, as we look back on 90 years of diplomatic engagement, Canada-Japan relations have become comprehensive in scope, and reached an advanced level of maturity, sophistication and mutual benefit.

It is an honor for me to represent Canada in this remarkable country, and I look forward to another exciting year ahead.

Happy Canada Day!

**Many people wear red and white and the maple leaf in honor of Canada's flag on Canada Day on July 1.** CANADIAN TOURISM COMMISSION

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

**Happy Canada Day**  
**Congratulations**  
**to the People of Canada**  
**on the 152nd Anniversary of**  
**the Canadian Confederation**

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**