

Canada Day Special

Rising together to meet global needs

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Canadians around the world today celebrate the 153rd anniversary of our confederation. Canada Day this year occurs during a period of tremendous global turbulence. Countries

everywhere are struggling to contain a pandemic that has already taken a devastating human and economic toll. It is also a time of heightened global tensions, threats to our climate and — more recently — public protests against racial injustice. Against this sobering backdrop, however, it has been inspiring to see both the extraordinary courage of health care and other essential workers battling COVID-19 on the front lines, and the seriousness with which societies all over the world are now confronting long-standing and difficult issues relating to diversity, inclusion and social justice.

In such uncertain times, the close, steady partnership that Canada and Japan have forged over the years is a source of reassurance. Our ties are rooted in shared values — respect for human rights, democracy, rule of law, open markets and a clean environment — and an abiding commitment to the global institutions these values underpin. These are all now under great strain, however, making it more important than ever for us to work together with other like-minded partners — in the Group of Seven, Group of 20, World Health Organization and other critical bodies — to shore up the rules-based international order and tackle common challenges like the current health crisis.

In parallel, our two countries are working to advance a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, and Canada is strengthening its commitment to regional security. In close cooperation with Japan and other partners, we have stepped up military deployments to help enforce U.N. sanctions against North Korea. Additionally, through joint exercises and personnel exchanges, our respective armed forces are delivering on the ambitious goals outlined in the first-ever

Canada-Japan joint ministerial statement on defense cooperation issued in June 2019.

Bilateral commercial ties are firing on all cylinders, and taking on added importance as we respond to the economic fallout from COVID-19. The Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership underscores our shared commitment to rules-based trade, as do our joint efforts to reform the World Trade Organization, and to preserve open supply chains for medical, agricultural and other essential goods and services. Canada has long been a key source of many critical supplies for the Japanese economy, and our trade this year has been growing notwithstanding the challenging global environment. Innovation partnerships are also increasingly important, and show great promise given synergies between our research and development ecosystems, and complementary strengths in areas such as artificial intelligence, information technology, quantum computing and clean energy.

Moreover, our rich people-to-people connections continue to flourish, highlighted by the cross-Canada visit that Her Imperial



The Canadian flag in front of Parliament Hill in downtown Ottawa
OTTAWA TOURISM

Highness Princess Takamado honored us with last summer. In sport, our national men's team was welcomed warmly during the Rugby World Cup, and our Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls who visited Japan for training are looking forward to returning next summer. In the arts, numerous Canadian performers have established loyal followings in Japan and will be keen to reconnect with local audiences. Likewise, tourism and educational exchanges are sure to rebound as travel restrictions lift.

Our bilateral relations rest on a solid foundation and are sure to thrive in the years to come. The most pressing issues facing us are global in nature, however, requiring multi-lateral solutions. Canada and Japan are well-positioned to play an indispensable role in this regard, and I am confident we will step up together to meet these challenges.

Happy Canada Day.

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 Anniversary of

the Canadian Confederation

 **Mitsubishi Corporation**