

First, let me address the senseless murder of a Japanese man which took place in Vancouver before dawn on June 5th, local time. I would like to offer my deepest condolences and sincere sympathies for this tragic loss. On June 10, Vancouver local police announced they had arrested a suspect in the case.

On a note of a completely different order, we continue to be blessed by warm weather this month, and Japan-related events multiply.

A short while ago, I came into contact with the *Association japonaise des études québécoises* (AJEQ), a Japan-based and Quebec-focused organization whose goal is to promote and support Francophonie-related academic research and artistic and cultural exchanges. They introduced to me the following two books which, translated into Japanese, are part of a 15th anniversary commemoration project put together.

“Une histoire du Québec”, by Jacques Lacoursière, translated by Kazuko Ogura et al., and published by Suiseisha

“56 chapitres pour connaître le Québec”, edited by the AJEQ and published by Akashi Shoten

I am very grateful that it is possible to read about such topics as Quebec’s history and current affairs in Japanese. After such readings, building and street names I see every day appear of a different color as I think of the history and meaning infused in each of them. I believe that is one of the true charms of studying a country or a region and living there at the same time.

While on an official visit to Prince Edward Island from May 22 to 24, I met with Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry, Premier Dennis King, Legislative Assembly Speaker Darlene Compton, Economic Development, Innovation and Trade Minister Gilles Arsenault, Fisheries, Tourism, Sport, and Culture Minister Cory Deagle, and Charlottetown Mayor Philip Brown, with whom I exchanged ideas and opinions on the strengthening of Japan-PEI relations. I also discussed the promotion of inter-university exchanges between Japan and PEI with University of Prince Edward Island Interim President Greg Keefe. The province is rich in attractions, including Lucy Maud Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables, which is popular in Japan, but also fresh, delicious local cuisine, and breathtaking landscapes that seem straight out of a movie.

I went on to visit the Japanese company Sekisui Diagnostics, the Green Gables Heritage Place, which received the Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendation in 2020, the Bedeque Area Historical Museum, and the former schoolhouse where author Lucy Maud Montgomery once taught. Former PEI Premier and former Member of Parliament Catherine Callbeck kindly accompanied me during my tour of those last two sites. It is worth mentioning that Ms. Callbeck's family once hosted the Mizuno family, the first Japanese family to immigrate to Prince Edward Island after leaving Second World War internment camps. Documents recounting the Mizuno family's story are also on display at the museum. The PEI Protocol Office has my thanks for organizing this official visit.

Message by Consul General Uchikawa (2024.06)



On May 29th, I held at my official residence a reception to celebrate the winners of last March's 34th Japanese Language Speech Contest of Quebec. Invitees also included Japanese language education professionals, and members of the JET Alumni Association Quebec/Atlantic (JETAA Q/A) and the Japanese Scholarship Alumni Association Quebec/Atlantic (JSAA Q/A). My heartfelt congratulations to all the winners, whose achievements reflect their dedication to daily Japanese language studies! I would also wish to express my sincere gratitude to everyone involved in organizing the speech contest, and commend all participants for their hard work and determination. The Consulate General of Japan will continue to spare no effort to support and promote Japanese language education in Quebec.



On May 30, I took part in a Mont-Laurier graphite mine visit organized by the Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie for the Montreal Consular Corps. I came to understand just how much importance Quebec places on the development of the strategic mineral value chain. I am deeply grateful to the MRIF for offering this opportunity and to the enterprise representatives who welcomed us.



photo credit: MRIF Protocol Office

On June 7, I made my way to the unveiling ceremony of the newly renovated Montreal City Hall. The work having taken five years, the stately building with its city council hall now also boasts various modern touches, as on the terrasse for instance, and is well set to serve as a symbol of Montreal.



On June 13, I attended YATAI MTL's opening ceremony. A variety of Japanese food, sake, teas, condiments, sweets, accessories, flowers, bonsai trees, calligraphy, pottery, clothing and kimono, stationery, music, dance, martial arts, and so much more were showcased at the 56 kiosks lining the venue. The event organizers and each and every exhibitor gave their all in presenting various aspects of Japanese culture, which liven up the venue in a maelstrom of colors, as of a kaleidoscope. I heard that the weekend, June 15 and 16, saw a large number of visitors, especially locals, crowding the site despite its spaciousness. My heartfelt congratulations on the event's success!



On June 14, the Quebec Japan Business Forum (QJBF) held its Annual General Meeting and, on the same occasion, its Annual Forum dedicated to the evolution of relations between Quebec and Japan. During the latter, Deputy Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie Alain Sans Cartier (who joined the event online) and I delivered opening speeches, and participants offered many comments. The Board of Directors convened next to elect a new president and new members, with Deputy Consul General Morimoto present as representative of the Consulate. The Consulate General of Japan will continue to deploy its efforts to strengthen economic relations between Japan and Quebec.



In addition to the above, I was able to exchange ideas and opinions with various Japanese and Canadian people and organizations, making for a meaningful month.