

Since taking up office, I have been reading a Secondary III & IV textbook on Canada's and Quebec's history. Although comprised of two volumes totaling approximately 1,000 pages, it is especially well-made with its easy-to-understand text, its many complementary maps, photos, graphs, and illustrations, and its questions at every step to confirm the reader's understanding. Considering the target readership, one does not require extensive prior knowledge to grasp its content, and the French used is comparatively simple and allows the learning of a basic history lexicon, making such a book appropriate learning material for someone like me, a non-native speaker who just moved to Quebec. Thanks to that reading, I feel like I can every day better understand the context of the different topics brought up by local people I meet or in the news.

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts's Ando Hiroshige ukiyo-e exhibition I introduced in some of my previous messages has apparently received many positive reviews and was extended until October 13. I rejoice at this clear indication of interest in Japan. If you haven't already, I encourage you to discover the exhibition. To prepare your visit, why not take a look at the following video in which I discuss the significance and salient points of the exhibition with its curator, Laura Vigo? [English](#) | [Français](#) | [Italiano](#)

[JFF Theater](#) is a website by the Japan Foundation screening online free Japanese films for anyone, anywhere, anytime. The platform offers various cinematographic works, from popular films to next generation independent cinema or documentaries, but one new feature is the availability of French subtitles. I hope many francophones will log in and take advantage of this!

*Note: The Japan Foundation is an independent administrative institution affiliated with the Government of Japan and the only organization in Japan dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world.*

On August 28, I met with Honorary Consul of Canada in Hiroshima (and Hiroshima University of Economics President) Yuko Ishida, at which time we exchanged views and opinions on further strengthening the friendship between Japan and the Canadian provinces in the Consulate General's jurisdiction.



On September 5, I paid a courtesy visit to Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal (CCMM) President and CEO Michel Leblanc. Our discussion focused on topics such as Japan-Quebec economic relations.

On September 27, I attended the first 2024-2025 monthly activity of the Montreal Chapter of Ikebana International. Representatives from each ikebana school created and exhibited on site impressive arrangements based on the theme of “Variation on a material: Chrysanthemum”. Around 30 participants watched in awe as the pieces took form before their eyes while the artists introduced their schools and works.



On September 28, Deputy Consul General Yoshiki Takaku attended the Japanese calligraphy workshops and exhibition presented by the Espace Japon calligraphy club at Université Laval in Québec City. With more than 900 visitors, there is no doubt as to the extent of Quebecers’ interest in this art form.



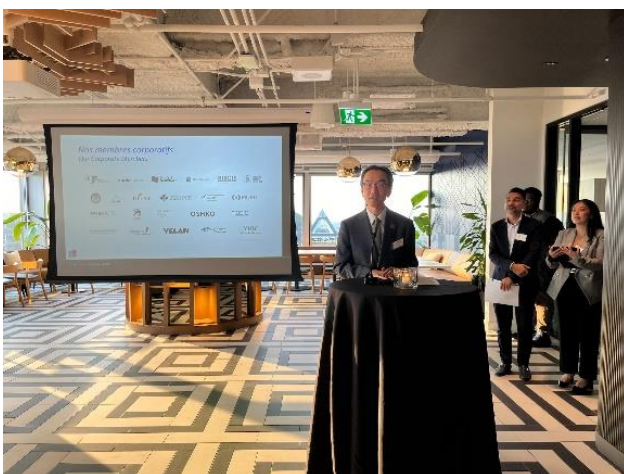


As with the above and Ikebana International's activity, there are across various regions those who tirelessly strive to promote Japanese culture; they have my gratitude, and I wish to underscore the fact that the Consulate General also will remain a supporter of Japan's culture.



On September 19, I took part in an activity organized by the Quebec Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie (MRIF) for the Consular Corps, during which I discussed recent Japan-Quebec relations with Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie Martine Biron.

On October 3, I joined a networking reception held by the Quebec Japan Business Forum (QJBF). It was for Anais Nguyen her first such event since her nomination as the association's new President. I deeply respect past and current executive members who, as volunteers, have over the course of its 37-year-long history supported the association, thus deepening Japan-Quebec economic relations.



*\*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.*