2026 JAPANESE CANADIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (JCLP)
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

AT A GLANCE

- ☑ Participants: Approximately 5 Japanese Canadian leaders
- ☑ Programme Dates: November 29 (Sun) – December 5 (Sat), 2026
- ☑ Pre-Departure Orientation: November 27 (Fri) – November 28 (Sat), 2026 (Toronto, mandatory)
- ☑ Language: English
- ☑ Programme Locations: Tokyo and a regional destination related to participants' heritage and/or interests
- ☑ Cost: International airfare, accommodation, domestic transportation, and official programme expenses covered by MOFA
- ☑ Application Deadline: **July 31, 2026**

OVERVIEW

The **JAPANESE CANADIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (JCLP)** provides an opportunity for a select group of Nikkei Canadian leaders from across Canada to visit Japan and engage with leaders in government, business, academia, culture, and civil society. Through these exchanges, participants gain a deeper understanding of contemporary Japan and explore opportunities to strengthen Japan-Canada relations.

The programme also provides Japanese stakeholders with an opportunity to learn from the experiences and perspectives of a diverse new generation of Nikkei Canadians. As Japanese Canadian communities continue to evolve across regions and generations, the programme seeks to strengthen connections among Nikkei leaders throughout Canada and foster a nationwide network committed to deepening ties with Japan.

PROGRAMME GOALS

- Build a nationwide network of emerging Nikkei leaders across Canada.
- Strengthen long-term ties between Japan and the Japanese Canadian community.
- Foster future leaders who will contribute to Japan-Canada relations in government, business, academia, culture, and civil society.

BACKGROUND

For generations, Japanese Canadians have served as an important bridge

between Japan and Canada and have contributed significantly to the development of strong people-to-people ties between the two countries.

As Japanese Canadian communities continue to evolve through generational change and increasing diversity, it is important to foster a new generation of leaders who can strengthen connections both within the Nikkei community and between Japan and Canada.

Recognizing the vital role that Japanese Canadians play in supporting the long-term development of Japan–Canada relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan established **JAPANESE CANADIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (JCLP)** to identify, connect, and support promising future leaders from across Canada and deepen their engagement with Japan.

PROGRAMME

- The 2026 Programme will bring together approximately five participants from across Canada for a one-week visit to Japan.
- The programme will provide opportunities to deepen participants' understanding of contemporary Japan and Japan-Canada relations through exchanges with leaders from government, business, academia, and civil society, as well as visits to regional communities and cultural institutions.
- The itinerary is expected to include:

✓ Briefings and exchanges with Japanese government officials and other leaders

✓ Discussions on Japan-Canada relations and contemporary issues

✓ Visits to organizations, museums, and innovation hubs showcasing Japan's culture, history, and technology

✓ Opportunities to learn about the history of Japanese migration and Nikkei communities

✓ Networking opportunities with fellow participants

Note: Past programmes and related exchanges have included visits to the National Diet, JICA Yokohama Japanese Overseas Migration Museum, Kawasaki Robostage, Mori Building Urban Lab, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Memorial Park, Lake Biwa Museum, and Kyoto Museum of Crafts and Design.

Important: A pre-departure orientation will be held in Toronto prior to the visit to Japan. Participation in the orientation is mandatory.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Applicants must:

- ✓ Be Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry (including Sansei, Yonsei, Gosei, Shin-Nisei, and other Nikkei backgrounds)
- ✓ Demonstrate achievement and leadership potential in their profession or community activities
- ✓ Have a strong interest in Japan and Japan–Canada relations
- ✓ Be committed to continued engagement with Japan and the Nikkei community following the programme
- ✓ Be available to participate in all official programme activities, including the mandatory pre-departure orientation

Important: Previous participants in the programme are not eligible to apply.

Particular consideration may be given to applicants active in:

- Public policy and government
- Business and finance
- Entrepreneurship and startups
- Technology and innovation
- Community leadership and non-profit organisations
- Arts and culture
- Education and academia

PROGRAMME EXPENSES

The following expenses will be covered by MOFA:

- ✓ Domestic transportation within Canada required for participation in the pre-departure orientation
- ✓ Round-trip airfare between Canada and Japan
- ✓ Transportation, accommodation, and meals provided as part of the official programme

The following expenses are not covered:

- × Personal expenses
- × Telephone and internet charges
- × Expenses incurred outside the official programme
- × Costs associated with personal travel before or after the programme

Important: As a general rule, accompanying family members are not permitted during the official programme.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must submit:

- ✓ Completed JCLP Application Form
- ✓ Resume/CV (maximum three pages)

Applications should be submitted either by email or by mail to the Japanese diplomatic mission responsible for the applicant's area of residence.

Applicants may be invited to participate in an online interview as part of the selection process.

The Embassy of Japan and Japanese Consulates in Canada will review applications and recommend candidates to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Final participants will be selected by MOFA.

Only selected applicants will be notified of the final selection results.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding eligibility, application procedures, or programme details, please contact the Japanese diplomatic mission responsible for your area of residence.

Personal information provided through the application process will be used solely for programme administration and selection purposes and will be handled in accordance with applicable privacy regulations.