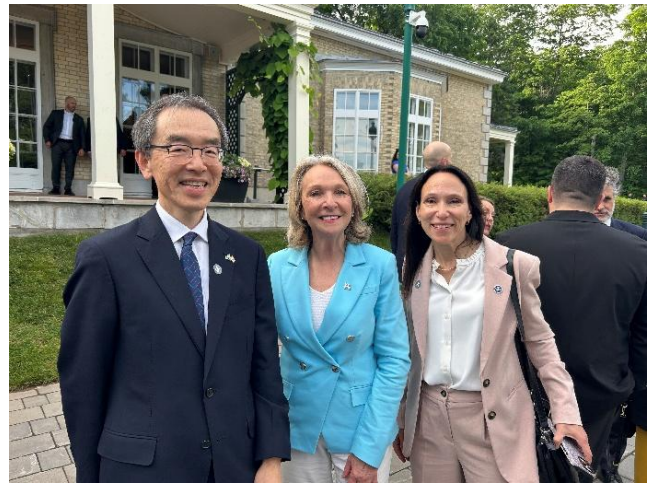


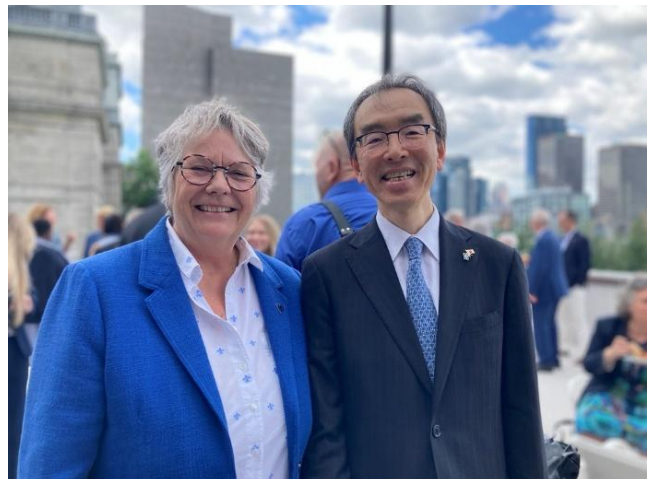
How are you all doing as we slowly delve deeper into summer? The month of June was packed with various events including some related to Quebec's National Day and Japanese culture, as you will see below.

Quebec National Day Celebrations

On June 17 in Québec City, I attended the Quebec National Day celebration hosted by Premier Christine Fréchette. In the relaxed setting it provided, I had the opportunity to speak with the Premier and other ministers. The event brought together a large number of guests, including provincial senior officials, public corporations' representatives, as well as consuls general and honorary consuls from various countries. Following the Premier's speech, all engaged in cordial conversation in a warm and friendly atmosphere, enjoying traditional Quebec music performed by a live ensemble. I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Quebec, including the Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie (MRIF), for its hospitality.



A few days later, on June 24, I attended the Quebec National Day ceremony hosted at the City Hall by Montreal Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada. I conveyed my gratitude for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony held annually at the Montreal Botanical Garden by the City of Montreal, sister-city to Hiroshima, and reaffirmed my desire to see relations between Japan and Montreal developed further. I also exchanged views with Ms. Chantal Rouleau, Minister of Social Solidarity and Community Action, and Ms. Pauline Marois, UQAM Chancellor and former Quebec Premier.



YATAI MTL

From June 4 to 7 was held in Montreal the annual YATAI MTL. During its opening ceremony, I delivered remarks in the presence of a Member of the National Assembly of Quebec and Montreal City Councillors. The event site featured numerous booths offering a wide variety of Japanese products, including street food, sake, tea, condiments, as well as accessories, calligraphy, ceramics, clothing and kimonos, and stationery items. In total, the event attracted approximately 32,000 visitors. The stage program included concerts, dance performances, and martial arts demonstrations. Newly this year, the festival was extended to indoor spaces, where workshops on tea and wagashi (Japanese sweets) making were offered.

Taking full advantage of the event's attractiveness with the local population, the Consulate General also operated a booth showcasing Japanese culture, the JET Programme, and the MEXT scholarships. The many inquiries we received about travel and tourism in Japan reflect the strong public interest in the country. I would like to express my appreciation to the volunteers for their dedicated efforts.



Ikebana Demonstration

On June 5, with the cooperation of the Montreal Chapter of Ikebana International, my spouse, Mrs. Cristina Iori, the Chapter's Honorary President and the Coordinator for the Consular Spouses Association of Montreal, and I hosted an ikebana demonstration.

As part of it, Chapter Executives introduced the history and artistic appeal of Ikebana to a senior official from Quebec's Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie, Consuls General of other countries, and members of the Consular Spouses Association.



The participants expressed their admiration for the presentation and were captivated by the transformation of flowers into beautiful arrangements before their very eyes. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Montreal Chapter of Ikebana International for their cooperation and my respect for their efforts in promoting ikebana culture.

Annual General Meeting of the Quebec-Japan Business Forum (QJBF)

On June 10 was held the Quebec-Japan Business Forum (QJBF) Annual General Meeting, during which I delivered opening remarks. Mr. Mario Girard, Delegate General of Québec in Tokyo, who was visiting Montreal at the time, presented business opportunities available in Japan to Quebec companies. As part of his presentation, he highlighted the “17 Strategic Sectors” identified by the Headquarters for Japan’s Growth Strategy under



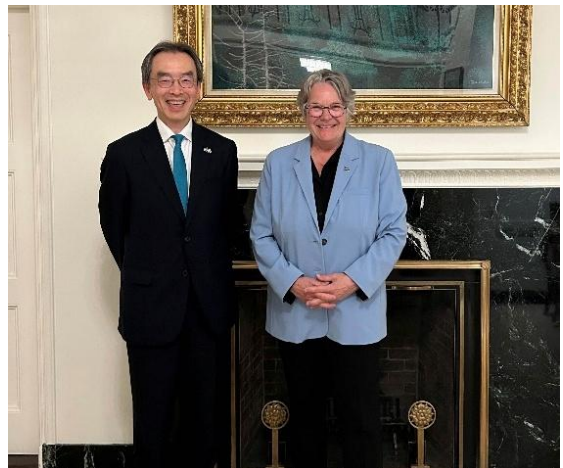
the Takaichi Administration as areas offering significant potential for Quebec enterprises. Following the presentation, a panel discussion featuring Mr. Girard and Quebec business representatives led to lively and insightful exchanges.

During the Board of Directors meeting held prior to the Annual General Meeting, the resignation of Anaïs Nguyen, who served as President for nearly two years, was announced. Members approved the appointment of Christine Lavoie-Gagnon as President, as well as that of the Forum’s new officers and board members.

Our Consulate General will continue to work towards the strengthening of economic relations between Japan and Quebec.

Meeting with Minister Chantal Rouleau

On June 15, I met with Ms. Chantal Rouleau, Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action, and Minister Responsible for the Metropolis and the Montréal Region, and we exchanged views on a wide range of issues, including the current situation of Quebec. The minister being in charge of the Montreal region, we have had many opportunities to meet in the past, notably last March when she delivered a speech as Quebec’s representative at our National Day Reception on the occasion of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan’s Anniversary.





Baseball: Les Capitales de Québec

When you think of Quebec, hockey immediately comes to mind, but baseball also enjoys its own share of popularity. In Eastern Canada, in the Frontier League, there are professional baseball teams based in Québec City, as well as in Trois-Rivières and Ottawa. In fact, on June 18, I visited the home stadium of the Capitales of Québec. This multinational team features one coach and four players from Japan, and other Japanese athletes, including pitchers, have apparently also excelled there in the past.

The Québec City Capitales are a team boasting a long history spanning 27 years since 1999, and have apparently won the league championship several times. On the day of my visit to the stadium, I was welcomed by the team's President, Mr. Charles Demers, and its Manager, Mr. Patrick Scalabrini, and had the opportunity to watch a practice session.

Beyond winter sports, the fact that there are also ties between Japanese athletes and Quebec in the realm of baseball allowed me to realize the magnitude of Japan-Quebec exchanges. I would like to thank all the members of the Capitales for their warm welcome, and wish the team much growth and its Japanese players every success.

Presentation of the Consul General of Japan Award to Dr. Laura Vigo

On June 19, I presented the Consul General of Japan's Award to Dr. Laura Vigo, Curator of Asian Art and Archaeology at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Since 2008, Ms. Vigo has served as curator and has contributed to the promotion of Japanese art and culture in the region through the conception and implementation of permanent and temporary exhibitions devoted to Japanese art at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, as well as the conservation of artworks with the collaboration of Japanese institutions, and through lectures and scholarly publications.

I would thus like to praise here her outstanding achievements and extend once more my heartfelt congratulations.





École des métiers de la restauration et du tourisme de Montréal Visit

On June 23, I visited the École des métiers de la restauration et du tourisme de Montréal and toured its facilities, guided by Director Denis Boivin. Just as the ITHQ, this is a school with excellent facilities, with many students from abroad. I also had a promising exchange of views with Mr. Boivin regarding the promotion of Japanese cuisine in the region.

Quebec's International Policy Announcement

On June 16, the Quebec provincial government announced its new international policy, which mentions Japan and positions the Indo-Pacific as a new economic and geopolitical focal point, and a key partner for diversification. Japan and Canada are key partners for the Indo-Pacific region that share fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, and will continue to collaborate with the Province of Quebec toward the realization of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)."

Diplomatic Bluebook

The English translation of the summary (Chapter 1) of the 2026 Diplomatic Bluebook on Japan's Foreign Policy, which I mentioned in my previous message, has been posted on the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs website](#). It also covers the topic of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific."

The full English version and a French summary are also scheduled to be posted by the end of September.

**In addition to the above, I was able to exchange ideas and opinions with various Japanese and Canadian people and organizations, making yet again for a very meaningful few weeks.*