Everyone, I trust this message finds you well?

As for me, after more than three years of service at the Consulate General of Japan in Montreal, I will in mid-October be leaving my post. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm support and cooperation so many of you in Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island have provided since my arrival in late September 2023.

During my tenure, I was first and foremost deeply impressed by Japan's significant presence and popularity in our jurisdiction. Japanese culture – from manga, anime, and video games to cuisine, sake, cinema, literature, architecture, martial arts, music, ikebana, the tea ceremony, and calligraphy – seems to be reaching an increasingly large public. I have also observed that, in parallel, Japanese companies and individuals here remain proactive in their respective fields and contribute to the enrichment of local society. One could say that this multifaceted interest in Japan is also encouraging local people to learn Japanese.

Secondly, I have been told by many that Canadians are exceptionally warm and kind; I can now confirm from personal experience that this reputation is fully deserved. If someone were to ask me what during my stay in Canada left the deepest impression, this would undoubtedly be what I would mention first.

Japanese citizens, Japanese-Canadian community members, and the many Canadians who cherish their ties with Japan have my sincere thanks for the warm welcome they have offered me during my various visits over the past three years. I have strived, as much as possible through direct on-site exchanges, to better understand the relations between Japan and the provinces within our jurisdiction and, whenever possible, to connect relevant parties to further develop and deepen said relations. With 2028 marking the centennial of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Canada, I hope that you will continue to extend your support and cooperation to the Consulate General, thereby maintaining and strengthening the good relations established thus far between Japan and this jurisdiction.

This is my final message as Consul General in Montreal. I would like to once more express my gratitude to everyone who has taken the time to read me. Thank you very much.

I offer you all my heartfelt wishes of health, success, and happiness.

Akihiko Uchikawa
Consul General of Japan in Montreal

Farewell visit to Quebec Lieutenant Governor Manon Jeannotte on October 1, 2026

Farewell visit to Quebec's International Relations and La Francophonie Deputy Minister Alain Sans Cartier on October 1, 2026