

The **Japanese Language Teacher Development Program** provides funding for recruitment of Japanese teachers to overcome the short-term lack of qualified Japanese-language teachers.

For information on the above two programs, please refer to the chapter on "Government of Canada Programs" and contact the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.

The **Regional and Educational Exchanges for Mutual Understanding Program (REX)** of the Japanese Ministry of Education and Culture sends fully qualified Japanese teachers abroad for two years.

For further details, please refer to the chapter "Government of Japan Programs".

If you are in British Columbia, you should apply to the International Division of the Ministry of Education if you would like a REX teacher. Generally, two REX teachers are provided to B.C. each year. If you are in Alberta, contact the National and International Division of your Department of Education.

In other provinces, you should contact the International Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Education of Japan to find out how you might receive a REX teacher.

In addition, every year some 4,000 Japanese between the ages of 18 and 30 come to Canada on the Working Holiday Program, and another 300 come under arrangements with the Council on International Exchange in Tokyo. Almost all speak English, and some are very fluent. Once in Canada they search for jobs. The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Toronto office and one of the CFS Travel Cuts offices in Vancouver provide notice boards for posting job advertisements for these young people. (Please see key address Chapter.) You may wish to consider this source of Japanese expertise to assist teachers in the classroom.

HOW TO SET UP SCHOOL TWINNINGS

Twinning has proved to be an important element of school programs on Japan. Many schools which are twinned with a Japanese partner do not offer Japanese language programs but use twinning to support social or cultural studies, musical or sports activities, business programs or art programs.

Schools make use of twinning for various reasons:

- to create interest in Japanese language and/or culture and learn about a country of paramount importance to Canada;
- to motivate students through interactions with their Japanese counterparts;
- to provide opportunities to practice language skills;
- to help students appreciate cultural diversity and gain tolerance of other ethnic groups.

If you have decided it would be beneficial for your school to twin with a partner in Japan, you may wish to follow these steps:

1. Determine the level of interest of students, parents, teachers, the school administration and the community.

Will these groups be prepared to support the twinning in an active and holistic manner? What resources - people and money - will be available?

2. Determine if you will be able to obtain the necessary approval within your school system.
3. Establish a small committee with representatives from the student body, administration, the teaching staff and the community. Representatives with some experience of Japan would be very useful to you.