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JAPANESE IMPERIAL TOUR OF CANADA

VANCOUVER - The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado of Japan have accepted his invitation to visit Canada.

Prince and Princess Takamado will be visiting Canada between May 13 and May 21. While in Canada they will be travelling to Ottawa, Québec City, Toronto, Kingston, Calgary, Banff, Victoria and Vancouver. During their tour Their Imperial Highnesses will be meeting with federal and provincial leaders as well as a cross-section of prominent Canadians.

In commenting upon the impending visit, the Secretary of State for External Affairs said, "I am confident that the visit of Their Highnesses will significantly contribute to a greater mutual understanding between Canadians and Japanese in all walks of life". This will be the first official visit of a member of the Japanese Imperial Family since the 1967 visit of Prince Takamatsu during the Canadian Centennial celebrations.

Prince Takamado studied at Queen's University between 1978 and 1981. He was the first member of The Japanese Imperial Family to study in Canada and since his return to Japan, he has maintained and further developed his interest and contact with Canada. The Prince serves as Patron to the Canada-Japan Society and actively participates in Canada-related events particularly in the cultural field.