

5. Language Services Branch, Alberta Education

Workshops and in-service training: offered on an ad hoc basis during the school year or summer break to Alberta teachers.

6. Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education

Three seminars/workshops per year and an annual conference in June.

7. Japan Foundation Language Centre, Santa Monica

Japan Foundation's language-related programs in North America. Please refer to the chapter on the Centre.

The Asia Pacific Foundation (APF) and Japan Foundation also provide ad hoc training seminars. Be sure you are on their mailing list.

HOW TO RECRUIT TEACHERS AND MONITORS FROM JAPAN

Boards and schools in Canada have relied upon teachers and monitors from Japan to meet a number of different needs:

- Where qualified Canadian teachers of Japanese have not been available, teachers from Japan have been hired to permit introduction of Japanese-language programs.
- Monitors have taught classes in Japanese culture, offering a glimpse of real-life Japan to students and enhancing the cultural understanding components of the curriculum.
- Monitors assist Canadian Japanese-language teachers and help place the language in its cultural context.

For the most part, the experience of Canadian educators with their teachers or monitors from Japan has been positive. However, you will want to bear in mind the following:

- Japanese teachers have been trained in a different tradition and may not be used to North American pedagogical approaches or to North American students. An orientation session prior to the start of the school year is useful.

- Often, language skills do not permit the Japanese teacher to teach subjects other than Japanese. Since few schools have enough classes in Japanese to fill a timetable, the teacher's time may not be fully utilized. You might consider sharing a teacher with a neighbouring school or board, introducing non-credit evening courses which the teacher could offer or taking advantage of the teacher's expertise to prepare learning materials and tests.

- Depending on their competency in English and familiarity with North American culture, the teachers or monitors will feel more or less comfortable in Canada. It is important to ensure that there are support systems in place to assist them in settling into Canadian life, especially because guests in Japan usually receive more structured attention than is the custom here.

Some boards recruit teachers on their own, going to Japan to interview graduates of programs such as English-as-a-Second-Language. The Asia Pacific Foundation may be able to assist you in this. There are, however, several programs which can help you in a direct manner to find a teacher or monitor.

The Japanese Language Initiative in Canada (J-LINC program) brings monitors to Canada to help teaching assistants in providing Japanese-language programs. Some financial support is provided by the Government of Canada. Boards are expected to provide the basic salary and housing. Three monitors came to Canada for the 1992-93 school year.