

cultural relationship between the two countries. Both sides have recognized that enhancing the fundamental nature of the bilateral relationship required momentum over an extended period of time before the "Canada/Japan dimension" becomes an obvious and automatic part of their respective foreign policies.

Current State of the Relationship

Seen in this longer term context, Canada-Japan relations are progressing smoothly. 1979 marked the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Japan. It was celebrated on both sides by a number of special events and by further efforts to develop the type of mature and wide-ranging relationship which accurately reflects the importance of the association to Canadians and Japanese alike.

In the political sphere, 1979 began with the visit to Japan of the Leader of the Opposition, who subsequently as Prime Minister returned to Tokyo in June for the Economic Summit accompanied by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Flora MacDonald and the Minister of Finance, John Crosbie. The visit of Prime Minister Ohira in May will be the first such visit since 1974 when Prime Minister Tanaka came to Canada. The habit of consultation has been further strengthened by discussions at other multilateral economic meetings such as the OECD and International Energy Agency ministerial meetings. Frequent contacts at the official level continued on a variety of issues both in respective capitals and at annual consultations at the United Nations.