

...Canada's first ambassador to Japan was a Cabinet member (Minister of Fisheries), Robert W. Mayhew, who was posted to Japan in November 1952. A number of bilateral agreements were negotiated dealing with commerce, airline traffic, and the waiving of visa fees. C.D. Howe, Canada's Minister of Trade commented: "Japan has already become our third largest customer. It seems probable that Japan will continue in the future to increase in importance as a market"...

...Crown Prince Akihito visited Canada as early as 1953, and his aunt and uncle, Prince and Princess Takamatsu, representing the Emperor and Empress of Japan, visited Canada in 1967 on the occasion of Montreal's Expo '67...

...Seven Japanese prime ministers have visited Canada — Shigeru Yoshida (1954), Nobusuke Kishi (1960), Hayato Ikeda (1961), Kakuei Tanaka (1974), Masayoshi Ohira (1980), Zenko Suzuki (1981), Yasuhiro Nakasone (1986). Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita is the eighth to visit Canada...

...Bilateral trade which was \$115 million in 1952 increased tenfold to \$1.1 billion by 1969. In 1986 it had reached \$13.6 billion.

...Former Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Jean Luc Pepin once commented that we were the perpetual purveyors of "rocks and logs" for the Japanese market. Virtually all Canadian imports from Japan are fully manufactured goods. The 1986 Japanese Investment Mission however, discovered a "New Canada", a "High-Tech Canada"...

...Until 1983, for more than two decades, the trade balance favoured Canada by an average of close to a billion dollars per year. Since 1984, however, Canada has run a trade deficit with Japan — \$82 million in 1984, \$368 million in 1985, \$1.72 billion in 1986. The deficit is expected to be smaller in 1987...

...Five Canadian prime ministers have visited Japan: Louis St. Laurent (1954), John C. Diefenbaker (1961), Pierre Elliott Trudeau (who has been to Japan half a dozen times, but whose official visits came in 1970 and 1976), Joe Clark (who attended a summit meeting in 1979 within a few weeks of becoming prime minister) and Brian Mulroney (1986)...

...Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado (he is a nephew of the Emperor of Japan) visited Canada for nine days in May 1987, stopping in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia. Prince Takamado studied for three years at Queens University in Kingston (1978-1981). In Japan the Prince is the Patron of the Canada-Japan Society...

...The Japan-Canada Businessmen's Conference is co-chaired by Mr. David Culver (President of Alcan Aluminum Ltd.) and by Mr. Minoru Kanao (Chairman of the Board of Nippon Kokan Steel Company). The conference was formed in Tokyo in 1978 and has met annually, alternating between major cities in Canada and Japan. Canada's Ambassador to Japan, Barry C. Steers, has called it "the strongest bilateral business group between Canada and any other country"...

...Some 34 Canadian communities have established sister-city affiliations with comparable communities in Japan, a practise referred to as "twinning". The first twinning was between New Westminster, B.C. and Meriguchi City in Osaka Prefecture in 1962. In 1980 the province of Alberta twinned with the island of Hokkaido. Twinning involves mutual goodwill visits, youth exchanges, educational and cultural missions, and exchanges of art, technology, animals and plants...

...In 1986, 235 000 Japanese tourists visited Canada, up from 174 500 in 1985. Some 45 000 Canadians visited Japan in 1986...

...The Canada-Japan Trade Council, an Ottawa-based non-profit trade promotion organization, was formed in 1961. The council has 500 Japanese and Canadian corporate members and distributes its monthly newsletter to some 4 000 interested parties all over the world. It publishes special studies on various aspects of trade and investment between Canada and Japan and periodically organizes special symposia for people and corporations interested in the Canada-Japan trade relationship...