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IN THIS ISSUE > MEXICO SUPPLEMENT >

AVR - 3 2006  
APR - 3 2006

## *Building on a solid foundation:*

### **Future is bright for Chicago-Canada relationship**

With instability threatening many of the world's major oil-producing regions, Chicago's economy enjoys the rare benefit of importing about half of its petroleum from a nearby friend: Canada.

And as high oil prices worldwide accelerate the development of Canada's vast reserves, America's third-largest metropolitan economy will likely be fueled increasingly from the north via secure pipelines crossing our friendly border.

"The commercial and industrial capital of the American Midwest has from its earliest days been tied economically to Canada—first by water, then by rail, air, fibre optics and pipeline," says Paul O'Connor, Executive Director of World Business Chicago, a not-for-profit economic development corporation chaired by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley.

see page 2 - Chicago-Canada



Chicago

### **Canadian Consulate and Trade Office opens in Sapporo**

In February, Canada's Ambassador to Japan Joseph Caron officially opened the new Canadian Consulate and Trade Office in Sapporo in the Hokkaido prefecture. He was accompanied by Yutaka Hayase, Director of the Japan External Trade Organization in Hokkaido, and Peter MacArthur, Senior Trade Commissioner at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo.

"The opening is a renewal of Canada's commitment to Hokkaido which will further promote and solidify its relationship with this region of Japan," says Ambassador Caron. "The new Canadian Consulate and Trade Office can now provide better services to Canadian clients and Japanese contacts with the hope that this will generate more business for Canada."

In 2005, Alberta and Hokkaido celebrated the 25th anniversary of their sister province/prefecture relationship. Many cities in Alberta have special relationships with cities in Hokkaido and provide mutually beneficial economic and cultural opportunities for growth and understanding.

**For more information**, contact Shinichi Tsujio, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Consulate and Trade Office in Sapporo, tel.: (011-81-11) 708-8702, fax: (011-81-11) 708-8702, email: [jpn.commerce@international.gc.ca](mailto:jpn.commerce@international.gc.ca), website: [www.infoexport.gc.ca/jp](http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/jp).