

## CANADA JAPAN FORUM 2000

### Background

The Canada-Japan Forum 2000 report was the result of an official bilateral review of Canada-Japan relations (conducted by a group of private individuals) and was submitted to former Prime Ministers Mulroney and Miyazawa in December 1992. The report's nineteen recommendations identify areas where potential exists for our two countries to collaborate more closely, including peacekeeping, G-7 cooperation on political issues, and enhanced cooperation on Asia Pacific security issues. The Forum 2000 recommendations also lay out ways in which our cultural and economic ties can be strengthened. These recommendations can be used as guideposts in developing the bilateral relationship.

Relatively few of the Forum 2000 recommendations have been pursued to date. This is in large part because the Japanese, and in particular their bureaucracy, have reservations about a number of the Forum 2000 recommendations, and have indicated that they do not wish to launch new initiatives in response to the report. They are, however, interested in pursuing activities "in the spirit" of the Forum 2000 report.

Each country has established a non-governmental advisory group to provide input on how best to implement the Report's recommendations. The Canadian advisory group is currently led by the Honourable Peter Lougheed, former Premier of Alberta and co-Chairman of the Forum 2000 exercise.