

Canada-Japan Relations

- This visit of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to Japan coincides with the 70th anniversary of Canada-Japan diplomatic relations.
- Canada and Japan have strengthened their relations through membership in the United Nations, the G-8 group of countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' Group (Canada, the European Union, Japan and the United States). They also share a common interest in the Pacific community and participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) and the Association of South East Asian Nations regional forum.
- The relationship has been built over many years through private and public contacts in the framework of consultative institutions such as the Joint Economic Committee; the Canada-Japan Business Conference; Canada-Japan Parliamentarians' Consultations; Canada-Japan Cultural Consultations; and Canada-Japan Annual Consultations on Official Development Assistance Cooperation.
- During Prime Minister Chrétien's 1996 visit to Japan, there were several key advances. These include agreeing on a comprehensive agenda for co-operation; initiating exchanges of foreign affairs, international trade and industry staff; signing the Third Country Co-operation Agreement; and launching the Canada-Japan Forum. The non-governmental forum, which held its first meeting in Victoria in 1997, is a means for expanding ties between both countries. The second meeting of the forum was held in Sapporo, Japan, in October 1998 and the third meeting is scheduled for Ottawa in October 1999.
- Japan's Prime Minister visited Ottawa in November 1997. During his visit, he announced that Japan would sign the treaty banning anti-personnel mines.
- Japan signed the treaty banning anti-personnel mines at the Ottawa Conference, in December 1997, and is committed to improving and promoting international human security. Both Canada and Japan demonstrated this commitment by contributing \$100 million each to fund global action on anti-personnel mines. In September 1998, Japan was the 45th country to ratify the Convention.
- Canada's foreign minister visited Japan in April 1997. This was followed by a reciprocal visit by the Japanese foreign minister in December 1997. Canada's foreign minister met again with his counterpart during the Nagano Olympic Games and most recently in June this year during the