

News Release

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OUELLET ANNOUNCES VISIT TO CANADA BY PRINCE AND PRINCESS TAKAMADO OF JAPAN

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Prince and Princess Takamado of Japan will make an official visit to Canada, September 20-22.

The Prince and Princess are in Canada to open the extraordinary 10-week Japanese cultural festival entitled *Today's Japan* at Toronto's Harbourfront Centre. The visit underlines the importance Canada attaches to the third pillar of its foreign policy - cultural relations. International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren will also attend the opening ceremonies on September 21.

"*Today's Japan* is a milestone in Canadian-Japanese cultural relations, which I hope will further broaden our already solid cultural and commercial ties," said Mr. Ouellet.

The cultural festival is in line with the Canada-Japan Forum 2000 follow-up report, which recommended a number of ways to increase bilateral and multilateral co-operation. *Today's Japan* is partly sponsored by the Canadian government.

Following their stay in Toronto, the Prince and Princess will travel to Ottawa to attend the opening of the new Japanese Garden at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan will also participate at this event.

While in Ottawa, the Prince and Princess will attend an official dinner in their honour hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps. The Prince will also be received by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

Funding for this initiative was provided for in the February 1995 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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