

**Toronto Japanese Association
of Commerce & Industry**

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The Honourable Pierre S. Pettigrew
Minister for International Trade
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

May 21st, 2003

Minister Pettigrew:

On behalf of the Toronto Japanese Association of Commerce and Industry, I would like to express my deepest respect and gratitude for the persistent efforts by you and the government of Canada to enhance Japan-Canada economic relations.

I herein have the honour to present its paper entitled "Actions to Enhance the Business and Personal Environment Confronting Japanese Business in Canada."

The association (Shokokai) is an Ontario-based organization of Japanese businesses, consisting over 160 members. Since its establishment in 1982, the Shokokai has grown into Japan's largest such organization in Canada. We contribute to promoting commerce between Japan and Canada, supporting measures to protect and enhance the interests of Japanese companies as well as educational and cultural activities that help bring the Japanese and Canadian communities close together.

Japan is Canada's second-largest trading partner with total two-way trade of \$24-billion last year, and, I am convinced that the economic relation with Japan constitutes a vital component of Canada's economy. Under such circumstances, the Shokokai implemented a comprehensive survey for the first time last year to seek further opportunities to develop the bilateral economic relations and compiled its results in the paper.

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There are a variety of challenges confronting member companies throughout their business in Canada. Also each member company has a responsibility to assure a pleasant living and working environment for its employees and their families. It is clear that further development of the relations between the two countries can be assured once the barriers or uncertainties described in this paper are removed or clarified.

It is sincerely desired that the relevant authorities of the federal and provincial governments would fully understand this contribution of the association and its member companies to the development of economic relations with Canada, which has a great potential for foreign capitals including Japan's, and promptly consider taking necessary measures to improve the business and private environment mentioned in this paper.

Yours sincerely,



WATANABE Kiyotaka

President,

Toronto Japanese Association of Commerce and Industry

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ピエール・S・ペティグラー

外務貿易省 貿易大臣殿

2003年5月21日

会員を代表して、ここに謹んで「在加日系企業の事業環境及び生活環境を向上させるためのアクションについて」と題するカナダ連邦政府及びオンタリオ州政府への意見書を提出します。

トロント日本商工会は、カナダ・オンタリオ州をベースとし、会員数160超を数える日系企業団体です。1982年の創立以来、カナダで活動する日系企業の団体の中で最大の規模を誇る団体に発展を遂げています。私共は、日加関係の一層の緊密化に貢献するよう教育面や文化面に対する支援の他、日系企業の利益の増進及び保護に努め、日加間の交易促進を図っています。

昨年貿易額として240億ドルが計上される等、日本はカナダにとって2番目の貿易相手国であり、カナダ経済にとって日本は極めて重要な役割を担っているものと確信しています。このような状況を踏まえ、二国間の一層の経済的発展のために、このたび商工会は初めて総合的な調査を昨年実施し、その結果を意見書としてまとめました。会員各社はカナダで事業を行うに当たって様々な問題に直面しています。また、各社の代表は駐在員やその家族が当地で快適な生活が過ごせることに対しても責任を負っています。今回の意見書に記載された障害が除去され、また不透明な点が明確化されれば、益々日加関係が発展することは明らかです。

連邦及び州政府関係当局におかれては、当会及び会員企業による日加経済関係に対する貢献を十分御理解願いたく存じます。カナダは日本を含む外国資本にとって非常に可能性に満ちた国であり、この意見書で言及している事業及び生活上の環境改善に向けて適切な措置を講ずるよう検討して頂けることを心から願っております。

トロント日本商工会会長

渡邊 清孝