



# The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan

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## Outline of Four Pillars

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan, I am pleased to present the chamber's statement of principles, a comprehensive overview of the four CCCJ pillars based upon the Canada-Japan joint study that identified 15 priority areas for cooperation between our two countries.

Within the 15 priority areas, the CCCJ has identified the areas of particular relevance to members, these include: anti-competitive activities, food safety, customs, trade facilitation, transportation, science and technology, information, communications and technology, e-commerce, energy and natural resources, climate change, and tax convention. The CCCJ Board of Governors has prepared this paper with the purpose of presenting the CCCJ's position in regards to these primary areas of concern and to guide our thinking through 2008.

Under the four broad themes of "Market Access and Liberalization," "Innovation," "Sustainability and Responsibility" within a context of collaborative business partnership, and underpinned by a philosophy of "Intelligent Society," we have been developing a series of perspectives on the prioritized issues. This thinking will be reflected in our upcoming programs for the 2008 term, and we look forward to hearing feedback from our members and stakeholders as this framework progresses further.

Looking at these key areas will help the CCCJ better focus on priorities that reflect a wider understanding of the Canada-Japan relationship. As an organization, this study will help to broaden our focus and push us to be forward looking in terms of issues of the utmost importance. Encouraging collaboration and more open standards with Japan makes sense if we all agree that global value chains will become more complex as borders become increasingly blurred in a globalized world.

Patricia Bader-Johnston  
President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan

## ABOUT THE CCCJ

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) is a private sector, not-for-profit membership organization and is the longest serving Canadian Chamber in Asia.

The CCCJ was first established in 1975 as the Canadian Businessmen's Association and was officially registered with the Ministry of Industry Trade and Economy (now METI) in September 1981. Today the CCCJ has over 300 members representing 37 business sectors.

Our members represent a broad cross-section of businesspersons and entrepreneurs from Canada, Japan and other countries. They include Canadian companies operating in Japan, Japanese companies and individuals with ties to Canada, small business owners and Canadians working in Japan.

## THE FOUR PILLARS

### 1. Intelligent Society

Intelligent Society is characterized by collaborative and entrepreneurial leadership that gives back to society. It is inclusive and powered by diversity, based on innovation, interconnectedness and core values. Waterloo, Ontario was recently named Intelligent City of 2007 and highlights Canada's emerging role in technology.

### 2. Innovation

Ideas and inventions are not enough – it's what you do with them. Innovation happens when ideas result in positive change and impact on society. The CCCJ strives to promote communication and networking between members and across the Canada-Japan relationship that will act as a catalyst for collaboration and lead to true innovation.

### 3. Sustainability and Responsibility

CCCJ is a values based organization committed to fostering collaborative business partnership based on trust, mutual respect, integrity and good corporate citizenship. Through our commitment to sustainability, responsible corporate governance and best practice employment standards that embrace diversity and equality, and by promoting the well being of employees while giving back to the communities in which they live, the CCCJ strives to contribute to Canada and Japan's mutual prosperity.

#### IMPLEMENTATIONS OF CSR POLICY:

Each year the CCCJ accepts nominations from members for charitable causes. Based on Board of Governor approval, designated charities receive the proceeds of all fundraising activities for that period. In 2007, Seeing is Believing, the YMCA camps for Challenged Children Project (CCP), and Canada based HOPE International Development Agency, received donations.

### 4. Market Access and Liberalization

The CCCJ's fundamental purpose is to promote business between Canada and Japan. Accordingly, we strive to help Canadian enterprises gain better access to the Japanese market and Japanese enterprises to the Canadian market. The CCCJ is committed to the principles of free-trade and advocates a free-trade agreement between Canada and Japan.

We recognize the need to broaden knowledge of how each country's market works and techniques for practical success. Our goal is to create a level playing field in each country that embraces the principles of fair treatment, transparency of regulatory process and enhanced competition, with a view to enabling investment and business collaboration that will lead to mutual economic development.

## CCCJ PRIORITY ISSUES SUPPORT THE CANADA-JAPAN JOINT STUDY

### **1. Social Security**

The CCCJ applauds the inclusive approach and collaborative work of the Japanese and Canadian government that resulted in the signing and subsequent ratification of a Canada-Japan Social Security Agreement that came into effect March 1, 2008.

### **2. Anti-Competitive Activities**

A solid legal framework to prevent anti-competitive activity is highly important for the Japanese economy as a whole, especially for foreign companies trying to enter and expand in the Japanese market. The CCCJ is pleased that in 2005 Canada and Japan signed a cooperation agreement on anticompetitive activities. However, we continue to urge the Japanese Government to devote increased resources to the Japan Fair Trade Commission so it may more effectively enforce existing Japanese anti-competition law.

### **3. Food Safety**

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) recommends that the Japanese Government design and implement new policies on food safety in Japan in a manner that incorporates the following five principles:

Food safety policies, regulations and administrative guidance should be based on sound scientific analysis.

- Any policies, regulations and rules should be consistent with international standards such as those established by CODEX and other international organizations.
- The development of food safety policies and regulations should be fully transparent, and the full background and analysis supporting the proposed new rules should be made available to all interested parties.
- Representatives of parties that could be affected by the proposed policies or regulations, whether domestic or foreign, should have an opportunity to fully participate in the development of proposed rules and to share their expertise and experience.
- All food safety policies, regulations and guidance should give equal treatment to both imported and domestically produced foods.

### **4. Customs**

The CCCJ urges the Japanese Government to apply equivalent customs clearance procedures for items handled by the privatized Japan Post Service as appertain to private express carriers for similar actions, including application of the “duty declaration” system to Express Mail Service (EMS) items. As well, adequate disclosure of relationships to ensure no cross-subsidization occurs between Japan Post’s competitive services and non-competitive or exclusive postal services.

## **5. Trade Facilitation**

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The CCCJ supports a Canada-Japan Free-Trade Agreement. To facilitate it's signing the CCCJ promotes trade opportunities for its members, serves as a medium for contact between Canadian and Japanese businesses, and lobbies Japanese legislators on behalf of Canadian businesses.

## **6. Transportation**

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The CCCJ urges the Japanese Government to ensure full transparency in the implementation of Japan Post privatization through providing interested parties meaningful opportunities for input, exchanging views in process, and by conducting regular market impact reviews. The CCCJ also urges the Japanese Government to ensure all changes to airport operations be communicated with full transparency and be developed with appropriate opportunities for public input. The expansion of availability of temporary parking spaces in urban areas for distribution vehicles would be desirable.

## **7. Science & Technology**

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The CCCJ supports collaborative partnership between Canada and Japan in many sectors of the Science and Technology industry, based on Canada's high standards of education, strengths in R&D and its emerging role in technology globally.

## **8. E-Commerce**

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As E-Commerce becomes a standard platform for business the CCCJ encourages a focus on new products and technologies from Canada and Japan that will increase the standardization and efficiency of global trade

## **9. Tax Convention**

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A good tax system will promote healthy economic activity and, at the same time, treat taxpayers fairly. The CCCJ urges the Canadian and Japanese Governments to quickly amend the Canada-Japan Tax Treaty to reduce double taxation, in-line with the recent amendment of the U.S.-Japan Tax Treaty. This will promote both desirable trade and investment between the two countries and ensure that Japanese and Canadian businesses are treated equitably in relation to their foreign competitors.

For more information contact:

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ)

Tel: (03)5775-9500 Fax: (03)5775-9507

Email: [membership@cccj.or.jp](mailto:membership@cccj.or.jp)

Sai Aoyama Bldg. 3F.

Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062

[www.cccj.or.jp](http://www.cccj.or.jp)