

2014 Election Candidate Profiles

The following nine candidates have been nominated for election as Governors to fill the 7 openings:

Katsura Sunshine



Neil van Wouw



Naohiro (Bob) Iwami



Oliver Ormrod



Robert Fuller



Sam Gildart



Tad Furuta



Warren Arbuckle



Yuko Sudoh



Candidates listed in first-name alphabetical order

Connecting Canada and Japan

Katsura Sunshine

Nominated for Governor



It has been an honour and pleasure serving the Chamber of Commerce as Cultural Ambassador and as Chair of the events committee.

As a professional entertainer I am, like most of you, a business person. For me, getting up on stage is the easy part. To be successful, I need managers, promoters, presenters, venues and most importantly, the audience to want my skills; my product. My business depends upon successful communication.

I was attracted to the CCCJ because I believed that it could provide me with the network to sustain this effort in ways I could not have achieved alone. I need the connectivity and the context that a chamber environment can bring to me. My purpose as a Governor, if you will elect me, will be to enhance the ability of the CCCJ to deliver this to all of us.

As a special focus in which I am particularly interested, I want to make sure that every CCCJ event is well-attended, special, memorable, useful to members in terms of meeting new people, and attractive and impressive to potential members who attend.

In the short time that I have been a member, the Chamber has already done so much for me. Let me know what I can do for you.

Neil van Wouw

Nominated for Governor



I've been a resident of Japan since 1986 and have been running my own IT focused business since 1998. It's been an honour and a privilege to be actively involved in the chamber these last few years, and serving as governor since 2012.

I've especially enjoyed my involvement in the CSR Committee and spearheading some of the projects there such as the Tohoku Intern project which we have now successfully run the last two years.

These past two years I've come to see firsthand how the chamber is truly a result of what we as members put into it. We've made a number of changes in the past couple of years that have made the chamber more democratic, transparent, open and inclusive. I believe we have also increased the impact and relevance of the chamber in the Canada-Japan community. Much as we have achieved, there is so much more that we can still do. I would like to support our chamber to keep up its fantastic growth, and to become and even stronger, more vibrant chamber.

To this end, I would like to ask your support for election to a second term in the position of Governor.

Naohiro (Bob) Iwami

Nominated for Governor



Born in Osaka Japan and having lived in Canada for more than 34 years, I have always considered both Canada and Japan as my home base working to bridge the two since the early years.

I left Japan at age of eleven in 1980 to attend a boarding school in Winnipeg, Manitoba, graduated from McMaster University (Hamilton) with B. Science degree in Biochemistry and Carleton University (Ottawa) with Business degree in Ontario. I became a Canadian citizen in 2003.

I held a various sales and marketing positions for Canadian forest products manufacturers, including: Noranda Forest (Norbord Industries) based in Toronto, Ontario; Norbord Industries export sales office in Vancouver, BC; Sales manager for Interfor in Vancouver, BC; and more recently since 2008, as General Manager of Japan Sales and Marketing based in Vancouver, BC. Since 2012, I moved to Tokyo, Japan as an expatriate to oversee a subsidiary company, Interfor Japan Ltd.

Interfor is a growth-oriented lumber company, head office in Vancouver, BC, with operations in Canada and the United States. The Company has annual production capacity of 2.6 billion board feet of lumber and sales over one billion US dollars. It has one of the most diverse lines of lumber products to customers around the world.

Oliver Ormrod

Nominated for Governor



Oliver Ormrod is running for re-election to the CCCJ Board of Governors, and is focused on building our membership base and strengthening our ties across the international business community.

Towards this, he provides particular guidance for our Chamber's communications and publications, among other activities producing content for The Canadian and helping to manage the CCCJ website. Previous to his election to the Board, Oliver was Chair for our Communications & Publications Committee, managing communications for all significant CCCJ initiatives. This included engagement of members, media, and the wider business community in Japan and Canada surrounding the launch of the Honorary Board of Advisors, the Maple Leaf Gala, the CCCJ-Keidanren joint statement of support for EPA talks, etc.

Professionally, Oliver supports worldwide Corporate PR at UNIQLO holding company Fast Retailing. Prior to this, he was Associate Director with global communications consultancy Kreab Gavin Anderson K.K., and has advised a wide range of organizations on communications, including All Nippon Airways, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, and the Prime Minister's Office of Japan.

Born and raised in Toronto, Oliver graduated with first class Honours from the University of British Columbia, with a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies. He also completed a Master of Arts in Intercultural Communications in the Department of Korean Language and Literature at Seoul National University, under the auspices of the Government of the Republic of South Korea. Oliver previously lived in Japan as an exchange student at Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School.

Robert Fuller

Nominated for Governor



As a Canadian and a permanent resident of Japan since 1990, and an active member of the Chamber since 2008 I am please to have the opportunity to be nominated for Governor of the CCCJ. In the years that I have been a member I have participated in the CCCJ Tohoku event the last 2 years by hosting 2 students and providing 2 more students with work experience in my office. This has been a very rewarding experience for me and my family.

One of the bigger challenges Japan face is the energy issue. As a person experienced in the Oil and Gas field in Alberta for 6 years and working for Chiyoda Engineering in Yokohama for 10 I realize the potential partnership with Canada and Japan in this business sector.

My professional background includes environmental science, procurement in the Oil and Gas markets and management construction of projects in Japan. In my current position as representative director of the Asian Pacific market this has given me the opportunity deal with many large Japanese companies, many who are Corporate members of the CCCJ and who have interests in Canada.

If given the opportunity to be a Governor of the CCCJ I would work hard for Canadians living and working in Japan as well as assisting Canadian companies based here and in Canada with their business in the challenging Japanese market which we call home.

Sam Gildart

Nominated for Governor



I am sincerely honored to be nominated for the upcoming election of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan.

Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, I came to Japan on the JET program in July 1993 based in Ninohe City, Iwate Prefecture for three years until July 1996. I then worked from August 1996 to July 1997 in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture. After my time on the JET program I studied finance from April 1998 to March 2001 graduating from the Faculty of Economics at Tohoku University in Sendai. In addition, I completed my MA in Advanced Japanese Studies from the University of Sheffield in Britain in June 2003. In March 2004 I graduated with my PhD in International Development Studies from Yokohama National University.

Since April 2001, I have been an active member in the CCCJ and have always supported its mission of promoting commercial and cultural relations between Canada and Japan. I have been working in Japanese academia since April 2005 and truly believe that my academic career and background can contribute to the position of governor in the CCCJ from a unique and different perspective.

If elected to the board of governors, I will do my utmost to promote the goals and visions of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan throughout academic circles both in Canada and Japan by making presentations and publishing on issues of interest to people in both countries and work hard to expand our membership.

Tad Furuta

Nominated for Governor



I have been a CCCJ member since 2007 and then have been chaired Membership Committee since June 2012 till today.

Total member of CCCJ once dropped to below 270 in the middle of 2009 which now has reached over 400 in the end of April 2014 thanks to overall quality improvement of organization and consistent effort and help made by other members, governors, HBMs, the executive director and the secretary to recruit new members in addition to work done by the committee members.

My business today is ultimately help to grow value of Canadians' pension assets through working with our counter party Canadian asset management firms those who invest in Japanese assets.

Now I want to contribute in increasing value of CCCJ as well by being a governor.

I and my family lived in Toronto (Yonge and Sheppard area) for 6 1/2 years which is our longest record living outside Japan so Canada has become our second home. Apart from business and CCCJ activities, I play rugby football from time to time as I am a member of Hibiya Club which all members are from same high school. Most of us may be a little old to do this on regular bases, however it is always a fun to run game field with team mates then having beer afterwards.

Warren Arbuckle

Nominated for Governor



Born and raised in Victoria, BC, my first taste of Japan was in high school when I began to study judo. Six years later, in 1983, I arrived to continue my studies in judo and then Japanese. In my time here, I have worked in the medical consulting field performing Japan market research, and assisting companies to establish their businesses here. I have also developed of a number of continuing medical education programs which led me to establish my own corporate consulting and training firm focusing on communication, negotiation and innovation.

I have spent over 25 years doing business in Japan and throughout Asia, working with Fortune 500 companies both domestic and foreign. I am very comfortable in both English and Japanese. I joined the CCCJ last year and have been active in the Events committee. I enjoy working with the CCCJ to further promote trade between Canada and Japan. Foremost though, I think we need to work even harder at promoting Canadians and Canadian companies here in Japan. I believe the CCCJ can develop into a tighter organization that differentiates its members through it's activities. Activities that create collaborative platforms for expanding business opportunities for members.

If I am elected as Governor, my key focus will be to develop the platforms necessary to bring more opportunities for CCCJ members. I look forward to working together, leveraging our networks, resources and know-how to reach for larger, more exciting opportunities to further strengthen the relationship between Japan and Canada.

Yuko Sudoh

Nominated for Governor



I have been working for Canadian company from Ottawa in Tokyo for 8 years and have been a member of the CCCJ for 4 years. I am a member of the CCCJ event committee. I studied English in Toronto, and worked at Campbell River, BC for 6 months. I have a long-term love of Canada and visit Ottawa every year for our international sales conference.

My work involves daily interactions between our Canada HQ and the Japan office – coordinating with our marketing team, organizing local events and conferences, arranging staff and client visits, supporting our sales team and helping our Canadian staff understand the nuances of the Japanese marketplace. The CCCJ helps to learn about understanding and communicating with Canadian people. It is extremely helpful for my job.

I remember my first CCCJ event well - I was apprehensive but the friendly welcome I received quickly put me at ease. Being a thoughtful and welcoming host is something I take very seriously. I have subsequently been assisting the event committee and continuing the welcoming spirit I encountered on my first event.

As governor, as well as continuing my work with the CCCJ Event Committee, I would make membership growth and awareness of CCCJ amongst the Japanese business community and creating more opportunities for CCCJ members my primary goals.

I would like to thank you all for giving me the honor of this great opportunity!

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan
La Chambre de commerce du Canada au Japon

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