

## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan and the Canada - Japan Society of British Columbia strengthen ties, with an Memorandum of Understanding**

#### ***BC Premier Christy Clark presides over the signing, during Asia trade mission***

*Tokyo (14 May 2012)* – The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) and the Canada-Japan Society of British Columbia (CJSBC) today announced the establishment of an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between their two organizations, aimed at bolstering Canada-Japan connections to promote mutual prosperity.

CCCJ President Wilf Wakely and CJSBC President Steven J. Archer signed the MoU at a ceremony presided over by BC Premier Christy Clark on 14 May, at Tokyo's Hotel Okura.

The agreement celebrates and commemorates the life work and commitment of the late John Mark Powles to the commercial relationships between Canada and Japan. John was one of the most significant figures in Canada-Japan relations for more than a quarter of a century. He acted as both CCCJ President and CJSBC President, as well as Head of the Canada-Japan Society in Tokyo, and was recognized in 2008 with the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun awarded by the Emperor of Japan.

The MoU is primarily aimed at further promoting ties and expanding trade between Canada and Japan. To this end, through the tie up, the organizations will work to facilitate consultation and cooperation, and support each other in their activities – including assistance for relevant parties on the ground in the respective countries. They will also promote cooperation among government officials and the business community, and together consult other chambers of commerce, Japan-related societies, and international institutions to advance their goals.

The CCCJ and the CJSBC recognize that mutually beneficial economic cooperation amongst countries, backed by close and meaningful person to person ties, is crucial to prosperity. The MoU follows on the announcement by Prime Ministers Stephen Harper and Yoshihiko Noda that the governments of Canada and Japan agree to launch formal negotiations towards a bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), and the CCCJ and the CJSBC fully support both governments.

Wilf Wakely, President of the CCCJ, said, “John Mark Powles is an icon in the Canada-Japan relationship, and a role model under whom many of us grew and developed. His legacy is well-known, and it is very appropriate to commemorate him with this MoU, in an environment of increasing momentum behind the Canada-Japan bilateral relationship.”

Steven J. Archer, President of the CJSBC, said, “The CJSBC, formed in 1928, is the oldest Asian bi-lateral association in Canada, and we aim to encourage and increase the opportunities in British Columbia for friendship and understanding between Canada and Japan. We welcome the advancement of these goals, through our MoU with the CCCJ.”



The Canada-Japan Society of British Columbia

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### **About the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ)**

Promoting the development of commerce between Canada and Japan since 1975, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ) is a private sector, not-for-profit business organization serving its members through communications, networking and advocacy. Representing some 33 business sectors, the CCCJ is a member-driven, member-focused organization and is the longest serving Canadian Chamber in Asia with over 275 members.

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 Chamber carries out its mandate in a variety of ways, including:

- Holding speaker luncheons, seminars and networking events.
- Providing relevant and timely information through our website, daily bi-lateral business news, quarterly magazine The Canadian, and annual membership directory Connections.
- Offering business promotion opportunities and information on how to set up an office in Japan.
- Meeting with key Japanese policymakers on issues of importance to the Canadian business community in Japan.
- Maintaining close ties with other foreign and domestic chambers of commerce in Japan and other Canadian chambers/business associations in Asia to broaden and deepen our information network.

Contact us to find out more about how the Chamber can help you. [www.cccj.or.jp](http://www.cccj.or.jp)

### **About the Canada-Japan Society of British Columbia**

The membership of the Society is, for the most part, comprised of senior executives of the Japanese and Canadian companies in Vancouver which account for the majority of trade and commerce between our two countries. Also, all of the legal and accounting firms in the city which have "Japan teams" in-house are represented, as are most of the major universities and colleges in the Lower Mainland. There are approximately twice as many Canadian members of the Society as there are Japanese, and total membership currently stands at approximately two hundred. The Society exchanges reciprocal membership benefits with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan (CCCJ), the Japanese Business Association of Vancouver (Konwakai) and the Vancouver Mokuyokai Society. As well, the Society retains close relationships with other like-minded groups in Canada and Japan.

For more information, please visit <http://canadajapansociety.bc.ca/>