

# CANADA

## A snapshot of 95 years with Japan: From natural resources to blockchain

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### Japan and Canada: Founded on rich tradition, poised for a fruitful future

Official bilateral relations between Canada and Japan date to 1928, when Japan established a diplomatic mission in Ottawa. Over the course of 95 years, these solid ties have flourished, founded on mutual respect, as well as shared political, economic and cultural perspectives.

“Our two countries have developed our relationship with shared fundamental values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We are important economic partners to each other and are both members of the G7 (Group of Seven), G20, Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. Japan-Canada relations have developed favorably,” H.E. Kanji Yamanouchi, Japanese ambassador to Canada, said.

This economic partnership has resulted in the vibrant presence of iconic Japanese companies across Canada, as well as Canadian companies — notably in such fields as blockchain and clean energy technology — looking to establish fruitful ventures with Japan.

Mississauga, the sister city of Kariya, Aichi Prefecture, for instance, is home to over 100 Japanese companies that contribute greatly to the local economy. “Our relationship with the community of Kariya has fostered strong connections and contributed significantly to the growth



**Kanji Yamanouchi, Japanese Ambassador to Canada**

and development of both cities. This relationship has facilitated cultural exchanges, educational collaborations and economic partnerships,” Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie shared.

In the meantime, JETRO Toronto’s Executive Director Takeshi Saito emphasized that the Canadian government is “eager to attract Japanese companies in the clean technology market.” He added, “Electric vehicle manufacturing, battery manufacturing and hydrogen production are areas of interest to many Japanese companies looking to expand their production in Canada — which is rich in critical minerals and natural resources.”

Apart from strategic initiatives, ties between the two nations are marked by a rich shared history and a



**Takeshi Saito, Executive Director of JETRO Toronto**

forward-looking partnership. Yamanouchi went on to point out numerous areas in which the two nations continue to work together as strategic partners, including the international situation brought on by the Ukraine crisis, vital strategies to mitigate climate change, global economics, the Japan-Canada Action Plan toward a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and more.

As the ambassador emphasized: “The year 2023 is a significant year for Japan-Canada relations. Amid the demands of the times and in light of the geopolitical reality of the 21st century, I am confident that we can further strengthen our cooperation and coordination and evolve our bilateral relationship into a new chapter.” ♦

[www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp)

### Mitsubishi Canada: Driving innovation and creating shared value



With its diversified portfolio, global network and commitment to sustainability, Mitsubishi Corp. develops and operates businesses across an array of industries. The company officially began doing business in Canada in 1956 and established Mitsubishi Canada Ltd. in Vancouver in 1965.

“Over the years, MCL has been involved in a wide variety of trade and businesses. Recently, we’ve been supporting Mitsubishi Corporation in its focus on business in Canada in two areas: natural resources and innovation. With

abundant natural resources and a strong and skilled workforce, Canada has great potential, and is uniquely positioned for significant growth and long-term success in both sectors,” Kaori Namiki, president and CEO of MCL, shared.

The company’s vibrant commitment to the Canadian market — propelled by its tenets of corporate responsibility to society, integrity and fairness, and global understanding through business — has resulted in large investments, especially in the areas of alternative energy and energy transition.

“Mitsubishi Corporation has made significant commitments to create a viable liquefied natural gas supply chain here in Canada;



**Kaori Namiki, President and CEO of Mitsubishi Canada Ltd.**

firstly, through our upstream investment in shale gas development via the Cutbank Ridge Partnership, followed by our investment in LNG Canada.”

“We’ve also invested in the Turnagain nickel project in northern BC (British Columbia), nickel being one of the critical minerals in electric vehicle batteries. Furthermore, we’re currently considering new projects that not only tap into Canada’s blue and green ammonia production potential, but also hydrogen and carbon capture and storage, in line with Canada’s carbon reduction commitments.”

Aside from resource-based ventures, MCL has likewise invested in a number of innovative, tech-driven

and sustainability-minded Canadian companies and startups.

“Corporate responsibility to society is one of Mitsubishi Corporation’s core philosophies, since the company’s inception,” Namiki added. “At the same time, as a member of the Canadian community for almost 70 years, we also understand the importance of collaboration and active engagement with all of our unique stakeholders — First Nation, local businesses and communities — alike.” ♦

[www.mitsubishicorp.com](http://www.mitsubishicorp.com)



### DLT Labs: Empowering data visibility and cost savings with ‘single source of truth’ solutions



In an increasingly data-driven world, it’s a challenge for businesses to share and analyze the sheer volume of information they generate daily, both internally and externally. Improper handling of this information can lead to data loss, inefficient operations and impacted cash flow.

Enter blockchain technology companies like DLT Labs. Founded by industry pioneers, the company has developed over 3 million lines of code to develop the world’s first and most stable distributed platform for enterprises. DLT Labs continues to develop and deploy innovative enterprise solutions using distributed ledger technology to share and



**DLT Labs has created seamless data-sharing platforms for the ethical and sustainable sourcing of cacao beans from West Africa.**

analyze mission-critical data — and ultimately, move the needle for business success.

With the world’s biggest private enterprise blockchain network, DLT Labs is the leading provider of blockchain solutions for global businesses, such as Walmart Canada, Teck Resources and Mastercard. In

Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Lotte are two innovative organizations for which DLT Labs has created seamless data-sharing platforms for the ethical and sustainable sourcing of cacao beans from West Africa.

“You’ve got all this data, everywhere, and you don’t know what to

do with it. What you need is an engine in the middle to organize the data and help build brand integrity. That’s where blockchain comes in,” Francis Lalonde, chief commercial officer for DLT Labs, pointed out.

“Blockchain data cannot be tampered with. It’s what we call a ‘single source of truth.’ A clear record is made on the platform, and all the business parties can see that,” explained Andrew Neuman, the business development manager at DLT Labs K.K. in Tokyo. “It’s very trustworthy and reliable because everything is on record.”

Moreover, DLT Labs offers highly configurable solutions, built configurable solutions, to suit every client’s unique requirements, from supply chain management and automated invoice generation to freight payments and data analysis.

“Every solution is tailored to the customer’s needs,” Neuman noted. “We have a platform that’s very configurable and we can get a solution

up and ready for a customer within a couple of weeks or a couple of months.”

Lalonde said this works well with clients in Japan.

“In Japan, we’re very much focused on landing clients in supply chain management because that’s an area where we can replicate the use case with Walmart Canada very easily.”

Neuman concurred, highlighting the potential its technology poses to the Japanese market, saying: “The technology is still in its early days here in Japan, but Japanese businesses are looking for ways to make their employees more effective, more productive, because of the shrinking population. There’s also typically a lot of paper documentation. Blockchain can help all that.” ♦

[www.dltlabs.com](http://www.dltlabs.com)

