



## PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, May 8, 2008

**OTTAWA** - The Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group will host a symposium on the relations between Canada and Japan on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Designed to recognize and celebrate 2008 as the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Canada the theme of symposium is “Japan on the Hill: Celebrating the Japanese Experience in Canada”. People from various walks of life will be invited, with parliamentarians, to explore the economic, cultural, artistic and bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Starting at 3:30 P.M. in room 237-C, Centre Block, the symposium will feature a panel of experts who, after making brief presentations, will take questions from the audience. The following people will compose the panel for the symposium:

- Ms. Patricia Bader-Johnston, President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Japan
- Mr. Don Campbell, Senior Strategy Advisor for Davis LLP and former Canadian Ambassador to Japan,
- Professor Jacob Kovalio, Department of History, Carleton University
- The Honourable Bryon Wilfert, P.C., M.P., Co-Chair of the Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group,

Following the panel discussion, participants will proceed to room 238-S, Centre Block, (Commonwealth Room) for a reception during which Mr. Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and to the Minister of International Cooperation, will speak.

After the reception, the Honourable Bev Oda, Minister for International Development, will speak to the symposium during dinner. Finally, His Excellency Tsuneo Nishida, Ambassador for Japan, will deliver a keynote address on the Canada-Japan bilateral relationship.

The Canada-Japan Inter-Parliamentary Group has been pro-active in addressing the opportunities and challenges that exist in Canada-Japan bilateral relations through annual parliamentary exchanges between Canadian and Japanese parliamentarians.

**For information, please call (613) 996-1448**