

2016 Spring Conferment of Decoration

On April 29th, 2016, the Government of Japan announced the recipients of the 2016 Spring Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals. These decorations are conferred to Foreign Nationals who made significant contributions to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding with Japan. Among the 90 recipients this spring, the four Canadians below will receive decorations.

- Decoration: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

- Name (age): Leonard John Edwards (69)

- Major Titles: Former Ambassador of Canada to Japan

Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Former Deputy Minister of International Trade

- Address: Nepean, Ontario

- Summary of Contributions: Assuming titles such as Ambassador of Canada to Japan and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Edwards greatly contributed to strengthening relations between Japan and Canada in the areas of politics, the economy and culture. After his retirement from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Mr. Edwards has been playing active roles in various organizations to disseminate information on Japan, contributing to further friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.

- Decoration: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon

- Name (age): Victor Leyland Young (70)

- Major title: Honorary Consul-General of Japan at St. John's

- Address: St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

- Summary of Contributions: From 2001 to now Mr. Young has been Honorary Consul-General of Japan at St. John's, contributing to cultural exchanges and friendly relations between Japan and Canada through his consul services and activities in the areas of public relations, culture and academic exchange.

- Decoration: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

- Name (age): Yang X. Jie (56)

- Major titles: Professor of the Department of Linguistics, Language and Culture, University of Calgary

Former Head of the Department of Germanic, Slavic and East Asian Studies,
University of Calgary

- Address: Calgary, Alberta

- Summary of Contributions: Dr. Yang established the Japanese Language Program at the University of Calgary and has made serious efforts to promote the education of the Japanese

language, which has resulted in an increase in Japanese learners and further development of Japanese studies. Dr. Yang also actively supported student and teacher exchanges between the two countries to promote mutual understanding.

- Decoration: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

- Name (age): Robert Tadashi Banno (73)

- Major titles: Former President, National Nikkei Heritage Centre Society

President, Nikkei Place Foundation

Director, The Canada-Japan Society of British Columbia

- Address: Vancouver, British Columbia

- Summary of Contributions: Mr. Banno has been engaged in activities of Japanese-Canadian organizations, rendering great service to the welfare of Japanese-Canadians and Japanese people in Canada. Through his activities, including establishment of the multi-purpose facility “Nikkei Place” and support for the Japanese community as lawyer, Mr. Banno contributed to promoting the development and friendly relations of the community of Japanese-Canadians in Canada.

Links:

[Decorations and Medals in Japan](#) (Cabinet Office)

[Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals](#) (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)