

**Ambassador Kawamura's Speech:**  
**Conferment Ceremony for H.E. Mr. James. H. Taylor,**  
**(September 8th, 2021**  
**at Ambassador's Residence)**

Ambassador James Hutchings Taylor,

Excellencies, Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour and pleasure to congratulate Ambassador James Hutchings Taylor on the conferment of the decoration "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" by his Majesty the Emperor of Japan. I would like to thank all of you, family, friends and former colleagues of Ambassador Taylor, for gathering here today to recognize Ambassador Taylor's remarkable contribution to promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Canada, and to celebrate this memorable occasion.

Ambassador Taylor joined the Department of External Affairs in 1953. After having assumed various posts in Canada, Asia and Europe, he served as Ambassador of Canada to Japan from 1989 to 1993. Ambassador Taylor worked extensively in the areas of politics, economy and culture, in order to further strengthen the Japan-Canada relationship. One of the highlights of his tenure was the successful visit by Prime Minister Mulroney in May 1991, which was the first visit to Japan by a Canadian Prime Minister in five years.

Ambassador Taylor's dedicated efforts to realize the summit meeting between Prime Minister Kaifu and Prime Minister Mulroney greatly contributed to the further development of our bilateral relations. In addition, Ambassador Taylor also devoted himself to establishing the new building of the embassy in Tokyo, as well as opening the offices of Consul of Canada in Sapporo and Nagoya. I vividly remember the full-of-hope opening of the new chancery building in Aoyama, which employed cutting edge art and earth-friendly technologies. Everybody in Japan including me believed that the building symbolized the arrival of a new era

of Japan-Canada relations. This solidified the further progress of bilateral relationship as well as vigorous exchange of people.

During his tenure as under-secretary of state for external affairs from 1985 to 1989, under the Right Honorable Mr. Joe Clark, Foreign Minister, Ambassador Taylor played a pivotal role in advancing our bilateral relationship in the multilateral arena. One of his remarkable achievements is the magnificent role that he played in devising Canada's "Pacific 2000" strategy, which laid the foundation of Canada's foreign policy toward the Asia-Pacific, including Japan. Under this guideline, the bilateral ties between Japan and Canada were significantly strengthened in a multi-dimensional manner, including dynamic exchanges of diverse people.

It never fails to impress me how devoted Mr. Taylor has been to this day, even after he left the public service, to promoting the Japan-Canada relationship. As Mr. Taylor has been living very close to this residence of the Japanese ambassador, he has contributed to helping my precedent ambassadors to build the friendly relationship in this Rockcliffe community and beyond. It is our great

pleasure that he has cordially connected my predecessors with Canadian society and literally played a bridging role as our close neighbor.

Today, Japan and Canada, and the people in both our countries enjoy excellent relations in various areas. In particular, in May, this year, our two foreign ministers agreed that our two nations will further cooperate to realize a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” in the 6 priority areas underling the rule of law and the rule-based international order. It is no exaggeration to say that Ambassador Taylor paved the way for this current relationship with his outstanding leadership. Our superb bilateral relationship has been maintained and strengthened by devoted individuals such as Ambassador Taylor, who has thought over of how to promote Japan-Canada relations and put his visions into action.

I would like to thank Ambassador Taylor for the relentless efforts over his long career to upgrade our bilateral relations. You truly deserve this decoration. **I**  
thank you and congratulations once again.