

From: Sawako Akai
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2018 5:51 PM
To: Saunders, Cathy <csaunder@london.ca>
Subject: Sister-city Request from Asahikawa, Japan

Dear Mayor Brown and Members of Council,

My name is Sawako Akai. I have been a faculty member of the Japanese program at Huron University College for the last 18 years.

Every year more than 350 students learn Japanese at the university. This is surprisingly a big number considering a size of the city, and the numbers are increasing every year. There is one heritage school for Japanese Canadian children and there's even a Japanese club at Mother Theresa Secondary School .

Japan, particularly Hokkaido (Northern island), is very interested in connecting with Canada. [Hokkaido Canada Society](#) is a very active organization and they promote many activities to understand Canada and build friendship. Now many cities and towns in Hokkaido have sister-cities with Canadian cities.
<http://www.canada-society.com/communication.php>

I counted 26 sister-cities between Canada and Hokkaido, and now the city called Asahikawa in Hokkaido is showing interest in setting up a sister-city connection with London. Asahikawa Canada Society (a branch of Hokkaido Canada Society) has already sent a letter to Mayor Brown back in November 2017; however they did not get a reply. They asked me for help since I am involved in Japanese education in London. A couple of my students from Western will visit Asahikawa in April, and the Forest City Kendo club will go in May. They are planning to have some exchanges and promote London/Canada through Asahikawa Canada Society's support.

The Asahikawa Canada Society will celebrate their 10th anniversary this June.

I believe that this will give a great opportunity for not only the students but also to Londoners to see the other side of the world, and also for the Japanese to see how wonderful London is.

If there is any other information that you need, please contact me.
Thank you very much for your attention.

Best regards,
Sawako

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