

The Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research**Annual Report to Dean of Arts
April 2025– March 2026**

Affiliated Faculty:	Faculty of Arts
Interim Director:	Walter Davis, Associate Professor, Dept. of Art & Design
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1. Objectives

The Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research (PTJC) was established in commemoration of His Imperial Highness Prince Takamado in 2004 and is the managing body of the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund.

The Centre's mandate is

- to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary study and research which promotes Japan Studies, including language, business, culture, politics, history, technology and science;
- to strengthen research which situates Japan in a global, transnational and/or comparative context; and
- to become the focus of a network of expertise in these areas in Canada.

2. Highlights

The PTJC fostered Japan-related research by

- continuing support for 5 research teams funded by the PTJC Seed Grant Program in 2024. One team has held an online conference after the reporting period (April 20, 2026), and another will mount an exhibition and symposium in September 2026. Three PIs required grant extensions due to medical and personal leaves.
- hosting 2 scholarly lectures: Dr. Mikael Adolphson (University of Cambridge), "Japan's First Economic Miracle" (September 11), and Dr. Maxime Polleri (Université Laval), "Radioactive Governance: The Politics of Revitalization in Post-Fukushima Japan" (March 11).
- co-hosting (with the Centre for Constitutional Studies) a book launch by Prof. Eric Adams (U of A Faculty of Law), "Challenging Exile" (October 21).
- awarding 2 Princess Takamado Essay Contest prizes for outstanding research presented by graduate students at a professional conference.

The Centre provided opportunities for student learning and mobility by

- supporting the U of A Japanese Drama Society's performance of *The Lion King* (April 2).
- co-organizing a Kendo Equipment Workshop by Mr. Akinori Ichihashi (Nishimura Equipment Store) and Mr. Shion Miyashita (Canadian National Kendo Team) (August 9).
- organizing a graduate student Master Class / Skills Seminar on conducting social sciences research in Japan, taught by Dr. Maxime Polleri (Université Laval) (March 11).
- providing 7 JAPEX/JACOS Scholarships in Engineering to U of A and Keyano College students.
- helping interview and select applicants for the Government of Japan's Japan Exchange Teaching Programme (for AB, SK, MB, and NT) (January 29).
- revising administration of the Ritsumeikan Summer Japanese Program. Delegation of many duties to University of Alberta International in 2024 had contributed to a decline in student participation. Renewed PTJC administrative support revived participation from 0 in 2025 to 2 of 4 slots filled for summer 2026 and 2 PTJC bursaries distributed.
- supporting public screenings of 3 Japanese films at Metro Cinema in conjunction with two Faculty of Arts courses (April 1 and 4; March 26)

The PTJC supported Japanese language learning and increased the Centre's prominence by

- administering the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) at the U of A on behalf of the Japan Foundation (July 6 and December 7). Registrations continued their year-on-year growth, rising to 649 learners from across North America.
- organizing and hosting the Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest at the U of A (March 7). We expanded participation to include two more Saskatchewan universities.
- co-organizing (with the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education) and hosting the 37th Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest at the U of A (March 28-29).

The PTJC advanced social transformation and advocated for social justice and reconciliation by engaging with Japanese Canadian and Indigenous communities. The Centre

- co-organized (with the Edmonton Japanese Community Association, the National Association of Japanese Canadians, and U of A partners) the 2025 Gordon Hirabayashi Annual Lecture. Dr. Karen Korematsu (Fred T. Korematsu Institute) delivered "*Coram Nobis: The Warning We Need Now?*" at the University of Lethbridge on September 26, in conjunction with the National Association of Japanese Canadians Annual Conference.
- supported (with the Dept. of East Asian Studies) organization of a screening of the film *Songs of Kamui* and Q&A session with producer Sakuma Kiyoko at the 2026 Dreamspeakers International Indigenous Film Festival (the event itself took place after the reporting period, April 17, 2026).
- served as a member of the Committee Advocating for Racial Equality (CARE), a campus-community partnership of the Edmonton Japanese Community Association and U of A community.

The PTJC developed its ability to serve as the centre of an international network by

- completing and distributing a commemorative booklet celebrating the Centre's 20th Anniversary (May).

- welcoming visiting delegations from Japanese universities and stakeholders, including St. Marianna's Medical University (Nov 12), the Japan Foundation, Toronto (Dec 9), and the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary (Jan 16).
- representing the PTJC and U of A at the Lt. Governor's luncheon for the Government of Hokkaido (May 23), the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary's New Year's Reception and Celebration of Japanese Canadian Community Leaders (Jan 16), and the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary's Emperor's Birthday Celebration (Feb 20).

The PTJC prepared for transition of leadership and more efficient administration of the Centre by

- supporting the on-campus interview of Dr. Annika Culver (May 6).
- searching for and hiring a full-time PTJC Program Coordinator (October).
- working with Information Services & Technology to develop a new payment and registration system for administration of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.
- organizing and archiving the better part of twenty years' worth of the PTJC's hardcopy and electronic materials and records.

3. People

PTJC	Admin Board
• Interim Director ○ Dr. Walter Davis • Program Coordinator ○ Dr. Kerry Sluchinski • Admin Assistants ○ Rei Kondo ○ Aya Kymson	<u>Voting Members</u> • Chair of East Asian Studies ○ Dr. Daniel Fried • One Director of another Faculty of Arts Institute or Centre* ○ Dr. Sara Dorow, Director, International Institute for Qualitative Methodology • Director, PTJC ○ Dr. Walter Davis • One academic faculty member or academic teaching staff member with expertise and interest in Japanese Studies* ○ Dr. Shintaro Kono • Up to one student, undergraduate or graduate, with expertise and interest in Japanese Studies ○ Vacant <u>Non-Voting Members</u> • Dean, Faculty of Arts or designate (Chair) ○ Dr. Marie Carrière • PTJC Program Coordinator (Scribe) ○ Dr. Kerry Sluchinski • Manager, Arts Collaboration Enterprise ○ Andrea Hayes
Advisory Council	Research Committee
• Dr. Robert Wood, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta (Chair)	• Dr. Eric Adams, Professor, Faculty of Law • Mr. L. Philippe Rheault, Director, China Institute • Dr. Carla Peck, Professor, Faculty of Education

- Ms. Christine Nakamura, Vice-President, Central Canada Office, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada - Mr. L. Philippe Rheault, Director, China Institute, University of Alberta - Dr. David Welch, University Research Chair and Professor of Political Science, University of Waterloo - Les Kojima, President, National Association of Japanese Canadians	Dr. Merek Michalak, Professor, Department of Biochemistry
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4. Financial Report

Financial report for the past Fiscal Year (April 2025 - March 2026) [[Click Here](#) for Full Report]

	Available	Expenditure	Balance
Operating	58,922.94	59,085.00	
Endowment	290,082.70	111,872.00	
Research Fund	65,000.00	32,071.00	
Total	414,005.64	203,028.27	210,977.37

Fiscal Year's budget (April 2026 - March 2027) [[Click Here](#) for Full Report]

	Available	Expenditure	Balance
Operating	59,600.00	50,642.00	
Endowment	275,291.17	163,050.00	
Research Fund	97,928.85	57,000.00	
Total	432,820.02	270,692.42	162,127.60

Walter Davis, Interim Director
June 30, 2026

