

The Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Teaching and Research

Annual Report to Dean of Arts April 2024 – March 2025

Affiliated Faculty:	Faculty of Arts
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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.

The PTJC's core objectives for 2024-2025 were to

- begin implementing elements of the Centre's new strategic plan, including
 - a PTJC Seed Grant Program,
 - a PTJC 20th Anniversary Celebration, and
 - smooth transition of leadership to a new Director,
- complete the Gordon Hirabayashi Legacy Video project,
- co-host the National Association of Japanese Canadians' 2024 Annual Conference,
- mount a PTJC 20th Anniversary Online Exhibition of Japanese Calligraphy,
- continue offering current programs effectively,
- continue developing connections and collaborations with diverse members of the U of A community and external partners and patrons, and
- hire a PTJC program coordinator who can support new PTJC initiatives.

2. Highlights

The PTJC successfully undertook key initiatives of its strategic plan developed in 2023-2024 (“Milestones and Momentum: A Blueprint for Advancing the Prince Takamado Japan Centre”).

- PTJC Seed Grant Program
Applications were adjudicated in May-June and publicly presented at the PTJC’s 20th Anniversary Celebration on September 25, 2024. Grants of up to \$50,000 are now supporting five international teams of researchers led by U of A experts.
- PTJC 20th Anniversary Celebration
The PTJC marked its first two decades and highlighted its dynamism through a high-profile event on September 24 & 25, 2024. The significance of the occasion is indexed by its key supporters: Faculty of Arts, Office of the President, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Kule Institute for Advanced Studies, and such stakeholders as Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Japan Foundation, Toronto.

A private reception at the U of A Botanic Garden’s Kurimoto Japanese Garden preceded a day of public presentations at the Timms Centre for the Arts. Princess Takamado addressed the audience via a pre-recorded video message, and the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Ambassador of Japan to Canada, and Ambassador of Canada to Japan spoke in person. Attendees included representatives from national and international stakeholder and partner organizations; U of A faculty, staff, students, and community members; and corporate sector supporters.

Marubeni, the Driving Force, and Mitsubishi Corporation, Canada made financial contributions to the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund in anticipation of the celebration. Relationships that developed through the celebration contributed to efforts by the Office of the President to develop new university-private sector partnerships, such as President Flanagan’s visit to Marubeni headquarters in Tokyo in December.

The PTJC demonstrated its elevated commitment to research by presenting the PTJC Seed Grant Program and hosting distinguished lectures by two of Canada’s most eminent researchers in their fields: Dr. Joshua Mostow (Professor of Pre-Modern Japanese Literature and Art at the University of British Columbia) and Dr. Richard Sutton (Professor of Computing Science at the University of Alberta). The celebration also included a presentation about the Gordon Hirabayashi Anti-Racism Project, a demonstration of a new PTJC online exhibition of Japanese calligraphy, and a public consultation session about the future of the PTJC.

To document the celebration and provide a resource with which to reach out to partners and donors, the PTJC wrote, edited, and designed a 28-page booklet for circulation in hardcopy and PDF formats. *Celebrating Twenty Years of Bringing People and Knowledge Together* includes English text and Japanese translation. It was printed in May 2025.

- Preparation for Transition of Leadership

The PTJC aided the Faculty of Arts' search for a new Director by attending vision talks, meeting with candidates, and introducing the successful candidate to the Mactaggart Art Collection, UAM Print Study Centre, and U of A Botanic Garden.

The Centre hired a much needed Program Coordinator in September and, with assistance from ACE, KIAS, our Finance Partner, and others, helped her learn about the PTJC and university processes so that she can support the new Director and ensure continuity.

The PTJC developed connections with community and national partners, most notably by deepening our partnership with the Japanese Canadian community and helping bring several collaborative projects to fruition.

- Completion of the Gordon Hirabayashi Legacy Video Project

The PTJC, Edmonton Japanese Community Association (EJCA), and U of A members of the Committee Advocating for Racial Equality (CARE) produced *Principles of Resistance: The Gordon Hirabayashi Story* (Guerilla Motion Pictures, 2024), a 20-minute documentary film about former U of A Professor and champion of human rights Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi.

The PTJC secured \$10,000 from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Community Fund for the project (applied Feb. 2024; funded April 4), premiered the film at the National Association of Japanese Canadians' annual conference on October 4, 2024, and released it on the Centre's new YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-1JcKDRGbQ>).

The PTJC screened the documentary at the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association Biennial Conference in Edmonton on November 15, 2024 and at the John Humphrey Centre Justice4Reel Film Festival in Edmonton on December 14, 2024.

- Successful Hosting and Co-hosting of national gatherings of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC).

The PTJC hosted meetings of the NAJC Human Rights Committee at the U of A on April 27, 2024 and co-hosted (with the EJCA) the NAJC 2024 "Northern Lights" Annual Conference at the U of A on October 4-6, 2024. NAJC President Les Kojima and Executive Director Kevin Okabe expressed their hope that this partnership will be a model for future NAJC collaboration with Canadian universities. A Highlight of the conference was the proclamation of September as Japanese Heritage Month in Alberta by Mr. Muhammad Yaseen, Alberta Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism.

- Creation of the Gordon Hirabayashi Annual Lecture in Sociology

The PTJC co-organized and partly funded this new series and its inaugural lecture with the EJCA, Department of Sociology, CSSH Office of Research, and Office of the Vice-Provost, Accessibility, Community, and Belonging. The PTJC secured a KIAS Dialogue grant (\$750) to cover some of the lecture costs.

Dr. Pamela Sugiman, Professor of Sociology at Toronto Metropolitan University, delivered the lecture, “Deep and Profound Memories: Japanese Canadians, Race and the Second World War Internment,” on October 3, 2024. Holding the lecture on the eve of the NAJC annual conference enabled many NAJC delegates to attend in person. The lecture can be viewed on the PTJC YouTube channel ([2024 Gordon Hirabayashi Annual Lecture](#)).

- Grant application for a large Japanese Canadian legacy project
The PTJC applied for \$313,584 from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Community Fund (submitted Oct. 31, 2024) to scale up the Directory of Japanese Canadian Resources (previously supported by the PTJC) for use across Canada, create new documentary videos and a series of podcasts, and organize workshops at Japanese Canadian community centres. The application was not successful.

The PTJC completed research that supported the PTJC 20th Anniversary Celebration, engaged student researchers, and generated a resource for study and appreciation of Japanese culture.

- PTJC 20th Anniversary Online Exhibition of Japanese Calligraphy
The PTJC Interim Director and three U of A student researchers curated, designed, and mounted an online exhibition of Japanese calligraphy in the U of A Art Collection. It consists of a 360-degree interactive YouTube video with narrative voiceover (16:52 minutes) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJpClBxUkBk>).

A \$9,904 grant from the President’s Grants for the Performing and Creative Arts (funded April 4, 2024) enabled the hiring of the student researchers. Research took place June-August 2024. The student researchers unveiled and demonstrated the video at the PTJC 20th Anniversary Celebration in September 2024.

The PTJC supported two other conferences in Japanese Studies.

- Replaying Japan: The 13th International Japan Game Studies Conference, at the University at Buffalo (State University of New York) and the Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, New York, August 19-21, 2024
The Interim Director served on the organizing committee and refereed submissions.
- Past Wrongs, Future Choices, at the Banff Centre, November 15-17, 2024
The PTJC supported this symposium co-organized by Dr. Aya Fujiwara, facilitating payments of her research funding to the Banff Centre and other vendors.

The PTJC supported other student learning and research, funded student mobility, and recognized student excellence.

- Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
Commissioned by the Japan Foundation, the PTJC administered this international exam to Japanese language learners from across North America (466 total registrations) on July 7 and December 1, 2024.

- Princess Takamado Essay Contest
The Centre recognized outstanding student research presented at the Replaying Japan 2024 conference with awards for Alexandra Maiuga (Ritsumeikan University) and Logan Thienes (University of Alberta).
- 34th Alberta District Japanese Speech Contest, on March 8, 2025
With support from the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, the PTJC organized this contest in a hybrid format. Seventeen students delivered speeches in Japanese.
- 36th Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest, on March 30, 2025
The PTJC supported this event organized by the by the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education at York University. The PTJC funded arrangement of the contestants' travel, provided a trophy and medals, and funded the Grand Prize (for travel to Japan). The Interim Director attended the event and delivered remarks on behalf of the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund.
- Bursaries for the 2024 Ritsumeikan Summer Japanese Program
The Centre provided travel awards to U of A students Cody Banh, Jacob Oleksiw, and Ya Wen Ma for study of Japanese language and culture at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto.
- Travel grants for graduate students to present research at an international conference
The PTJC funded two graduate student members of the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education—Yuta Dobashi (University of Saskatchewan) and Motoki Long-Nozawa (University of British Columbia)—to present their research at the International Conference on Japanese Language Education (ICJLE) in Madison, Wisconsin, United States, on August 1-3, 2024.
- Film Screenings
The PTJC sponsored public screenings of Japanese films at Metro Cinema organized by Dr. William Carroll (Department of East Asian Studies):
 - Kiyoshi Kurosawa, *Pulse* (2001), January 1, 2025
 - Takashi Shimizu, *Ju-On: The Grudge* (2002), January 22, 2025
- JACOS/JAPEX Scholarships in Engineering for 2024-2025
Scholarships were awarded to three Keyano College students and four U of A students.
- Support for U of A student groups
The Centre provided funding for the Lunar New Year's Festival and Cheri-Con organized by the East Asian Studies Student Association (KGK).

The PTJC provided funding for the Japanese Drama Society, which performed its Japanese-language version of *Aladdin* on April 4, 2024 at Campus Saint-Jean and a scene from the musical at the NAJC Annual Conference on October 6, 2024.

In addition to the outreach mentioned above, the PTJC engaged with various stakeholders, university, community, and potential partners,

- welcoming representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan Foundation, Toronto (May 28-29, 2024),
- welcoming four past, current, and future presidents of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan at the Innovations in Drug Discovery and Development symposium organized by the Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences (June 12, 2024), and
- welcoming representatives of the Government of Aichi Prefecture, Ritsumeikan University, Chiba University, and Osaka University.

The PTJC improved its staffing, social media outreach, and internal management processes.

- The PTJC hired Dr. Kerry Sluchinski as a part-time Program Coordinator in September 2024 and Ms. Aya Kymson, initially as a Communications Coordinator and then, from February 18, 2025, as a part-time Office Clerk.
- The Centre created its own YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@ptjcua>) and LinkedIn page (<https://ca.linkedin.com/company/prince-takamado-japan-centre>).
- The PTJC established a new Budget Tracking Mechanism and new Fund Management Practices, developed a working Data Management and Retention Plan, and began rationalizing and securing its storage of digital data.

In 2025-2026, the PTJC aims to

- ensure a smooth transition of leadership for new Director, who begins on July 2, 2026,
- collaborate with the Japanese Canadian community, especially through co-organization of the second Annual Gordon Hirabayashi Annual Lecture in Sociology at the NAJC Annual Conference in Lethbridge,
- continue to implement the PTJC's strategic plan, developing new programs, offerings, and resources,
- continue offering established programs and initiatives successfully,
- host the 2026 National Japanese Speech Contest at the University of Alberta in March 2026,
- revitalize the PTJC's governance,
- re-establish the expired JAPEX / JACOS scholarship agreement with the University of Calgary,
- revise the administration of the Princess Takamado Essay Contest and bursaries for the Ritsumeikan University Summer Japanese Program,
- prepare for the 100th anniversary of Japan-Canada relations in 2028, and
- develop a communications strategy and continue improving PTJC infrastructure and practices, such as the Centre's website, social media, and data storage and email practices.

3. Financial Report

During the 24-25 Fiscal Year, the PTJC generated **\$42,525.40 CAD** in operating revenue, **\$39,225.40 CAD** of which came from the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (after U of A service fee deductions). The Centre spent **\$42,493.60 CAD** of that operating revenue, leaving a plus amount of \$31.80 CAD.

In terms of the Endowment, PTJC had a 23-24 carryover amount of **\$294,379.00 CAD** and was given a spending allocation of **\$94,359.24 CAD**. In total, the 24-25 Endowment funds were \$388,738.24 CAD. Of these funds, PTJC spent **\$193,322.14 CAD**, leaving a carryover of **\$195,416.10 CAD**. Although the carryover amount is still in excess, the spending trajectory is in accordance with the Finance Department's parameters.

Combined, the PTJC spent a total of **\$235,815.74 CAD** towards fulfilling its mandate during the 24-25 Fiscal Year. Key expenditures included:

- Seed Grant Start-Up Contribution, \$70,000 CAD (Endowment)
- Regular Staffing, \$45,029.14 CAD (Endowment, one part-time Program Coordinator and two part-time Office Clerks)
- PTJC 20th Anniversary Celebration, \$27,545.82 CAD (\$26,546.09 from Endowment, \$999.73 from Operating)
- Interim Director Course Release, \$22,000 CAD (Operating)
- JLPT Examinations in July and December, \$16,524.67 CAD (Operating and Endowment)

	24-25 Fiscal Year		24-25 Fiscal Year	24-25 Fiscal Year
	Parent Generated/Opening Balance		Parent Expenditures	Close (Remaining)
Operating	\$	42,525.40	-\$ 42,493.60	\$ 31.80
Endowment (WHOLE)	\$	388,738.24	-\$ 193,322.14	\$ 195,416.10
Endowment Allocation (FY24-25)	\$	94,359.24		
Carry over (from 23-24)	\$	294,379.00		
Total	\$	431,263.64	-\$ 235,815.74	

Figure 1 Funding Source & Closing Account Overview 24-25FY

4. 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) - 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	- Dr. Eric Adams, Professor, Faculty of Law - Mr. L. Philippe Rheault, Director, China Institute - Dr. Carla Peck, Professor, Faculty of Education - Dr. Merek Michalak, Professor, Department of Biochemistry

Walter Davis, Interim Director
July 31, 2025

