

2016



JAPAN CANADA INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY





Vancouver Asahi Tigers

The Asahi Tigers were a well known Japanese–Canadian baseball team that played between 1914 and 1941. The pride of Vancouver’s Little Tokyo was made up of amateur Japanese baseball players who competed against the City’s white ball clubs. In 1919 they won the Vancouver International League title and over the next two decades won countless tournaments and five straight Pacific Northwest Championships.

During a time of segregation and widespread discrimination the popularity of the Asahi Tigers brought both white and Japanese spectators together to cheer for the same team.

Shortly after winning the Championship title 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and the team was disbanded as Japanese-Canadians were forced into internment camps across the country. The individual Asahi members continued to work their magic by bringing baseball into the camps.

Popularity grew and soon interned Japanese-Canadians were playing alongside their RCMP guards. In 2003 the Asahi Tigers were inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of fame, the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, and designated an Event of National Historic Significance in 2008.

In the tradition of the Asahi Tigers the JCIH program and the Asahi Blades hope to use ice hockey as a conduit to help establish bridges between Canadian and Japan communities.





JCIH Mission

Japan-Canada International Hockey (JCIH) is a volunteer program that uses ice hockey as a means for introducing young Japanese-Canadian youth to the country of their heritage.

This bi-yearly event represents an important educational and cultural opportunity for a group of exceptional young men (aged 16-18) who enjoy the game of hockey and through this sport have been given the chance of a lifetime to experience Japan during a two week visit. Committees based in Burnaby, BC and Kushiro, Hokkaido work together before and during each trip to ensure a schedule that offers a good mix of competitive hockey and community activities.

This year, the Asahi Blades hockey team will start the trip by travelling to the northern Island of Hokkaido where they will play against teams from the cities of Kushiro and Sapporo before departing for the island of Honshu where they will play their final game against Hachinohe. In addition to the hockey, the players will be involved in many activities such as: taking in the city sights of Tokyo, visiting a number of high schools, meeting with City officials and the media, participating in a summer festival, and spending time at home with local families.

It took a considerable amount of fundraising by the families and players to make this trip possible. If not for the generous contributions of our many supporters, this trip would not have been possible.

On behalf of the players, families and coaches of the 2016 JCIH Asahi Blades hockey team, I would like to thank all those that have supported the team.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Taki

Organizing Committee





CITY OF BURNABY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DEREK R. CORRIGAN
MAYOR

GREETINGS

On behalf of Burnaby City Council and the citizens of Burnaby, I would like to extend my best wishes to the Asahi Blades for a very successful and memorable trip to Japan in 2016. This program is an important tradition promoting the exchange of sport and culture between Canada and Japan and I know that all participants will find it to be a very valuable experience.

This exchange is made possible through the ongoing efforts of the Japan-Canada International Hockey organization and the generous support of the many volunteers and donors who give so much of their time and resources. Thank you to the committees in Burnaby and Kushiro and to all the families and coaches for your incredible work in ensuring that the Asahi Blades can participate in this very special exchange that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

The 2016 schedule looks like it will offer an amazing cultural experience along with some very competitive hockey so I want to wish all the players best of luck and remind you to treasure this special trip to Japan to build even closer friendship between our cities and countries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derek Corrigan".

Derek R. Corrigan
Mayor



CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN

900 - 1177 WEST HASTINGS STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA V6E 2K9
TEL: 604-684-5868 FAX: 604-684-6939

Congratulations to the Japan-Canada International Hockey Program and the Nikkei Hockey Team on the occasion of their 2016 tournament in Japan.

As a sports exchange that includes a strong cultural component, this tournament enriches the lives of the participants far beyond the hockey rink by introducing them to their Japanese heritage through first-hand experience in Japan. In addition, I want to commend the working committees, supporters, and sponsors here and in Japan for their individual roles and contributions to this program.

As a community based endeavour, the Japan-Canada International Hockey Program is building tangible and meaningful connections between Japan and Canada as well as between Burnaby and Kushiro as sister-cities. It underpins our friendly bilateral relationship and strengthens the ties between our countries, inspiring us to continue to look toward the future.

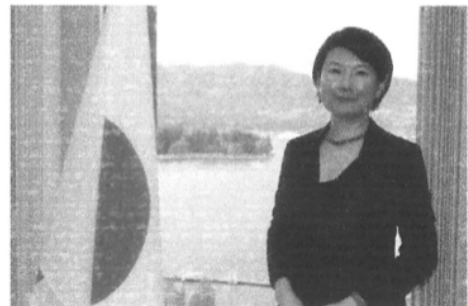
日本・カナダアイスホッケー国際交流会の開催を心よりお祝い申し上げます。今回の日本遠征では、スポーツをとおして同世代の日本人との交流を実現させることができ、日系人のルーツである日本文化を知るよい経験になることと思います。また、様々な形でこのプログラムを支えてくださっている、日本及び当地のプログラム実行委員会の皆様、支援者やスポンサーの方々に厚く感謝いたします。

プログラム参加者が今後日本とカナダ、そして姉妹都市であるバーナビー市と釧路市の架け橋となり、両国間のより強い絆を紡いでいくことに期待いたします。

Sincerely,



Asako Okai
Consul General





Greetings from Coach Hitomi Nakajima

I would like to begin by thanking the many people that have so graciously supported the JCIH "Asahi Blade 2016 Team". It is indeed my honour to serve as the head coach for this team.

This is truly an unbelievable opportunity for these young people to be able to participate in an exchange of Canadian and Japanese cultures through the sport of ice hockey. I hope that each player takes the time to truly appreciate this experience. Not just for the hockey that they are about to play, but for their own personal growth on this journey.

As the sister city to Burnaby, the host city of Kushiro has provided an unforgettable time for the players and families that have made the trip since 2006. This year will be no different.

It is my hope that the JCIH program will create a lasting memory and over time these players will have the opportunity to return to Japan, perhaps accompanying their own children's team.

Congratulations to all players who made the team. I hope you enjoy your time in Japan.

Once again, thank you to everyone for all you have done to make this trip possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Hitomi Nakajima

Head Coach
Asahi Blades 2016





2016 Trip Itinerary

Date		Location	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
7/15	Fri	YVR - NRT	Depart Vancouver	(Travel)	
7/16	Sat	Narita	(Travel)	Arrive in Narita	Meeting, Dinner
7/17	Sun	Homestay	Bus to Haneda	Fly to Kushiro	Game 1 vs Bushukan
7/18	Mon	Homestay	Sightseeing with Host Family, Akan Onsen		Game 2 vs Rengo
7/19	Tue	Kushiro	Visit Mayor of Kushiro	Hokuyo Highschool	Game 3 vs Konan
7/20	Wed	Kushiro	Visit Bushukan Highschool	Visit Hokuyo Highschool	Game 4 vs Kogyo
7/21	Thu	Kushiro	Visit Tomihara	Visit Meiki	Game 5 vs Tokachi Koryo
7/22	Fri	Kushiro	KIRI Festival		Farewell Party
7/23	Sat	Sapporo	Train to Sapporo		Game 6 vs Hokkai
7/24	Sun	Sapporo	Bus Tour in Sapporo, Otaru, Baseball Game		Dinner with Hokkai
7/25	Mon	Hachinohe	Train to Hachinohe		Game 7 vs Hachinohe
7/26	Tue	Hachinohe	Bus Tour in Hachinohe, Beach, Soba Tour, BBQ		Dinner with Hachinohe
7/27	Wed	Tokyo	Train To Tokyo	Asakusa, Harajuku, Shibuya	
7/28	Thu	Tokyo	Tokyo Bus Tour To Kamakura, Yokohama		Team Dinner
7/29	Fri	NRT - YVR	Bus to Narita	Home to Vancouver	





2016 Team Roster

#	Player	Position	Hometown
2	Kenzo Racanelli	Defense	Burnaby, BC
5	Matthew (Akio) Armstrong	Defense	Richmond, BC
6	Zachary Nasu	Defense	Burnaby, BC
7	Cody Takama	Defense	Surrey, BC
8	Michael Araki-Young (A)	Forward	Richmond, BC
9	Mitchell Schroter	Forward	Richmond, BC
10	Ben Ward	Forward	Kamloops, BC
13	Takumi Sakai	Forward	Burnaby, BC
14	Justin MacInnes	Forward	Kamloops, BC
15	Marcus Verhoeven	Forward	Richmond, BC
16	Nicholas Nimi (C)	Forward	Richmond, BC
17	Adam Gilker (A)	Forward	Richmond, BC
21	Marcus Tokuoka	Defense	Richmond, BC
22	Seiji Brown	Forward	Kamloops, BC
26	Ken Takahashi	Forward	Burnaby, BC
29	Carter Sasaki	Goalie	Surrey, BC
34	Taiga (Karl) Andersson	Goalie	Bellingham, WA
40	Tom (Shimosaka) Sweeney	Forward	Richmond, BC
88	Ryan Bayley	Defense	Richmond, BC
91	Kenta Muraki	Forward	Richmond, BC
Hitomi Nakajima		Head Coach	Kushiro, Japan
Richard Taki		Assistant Coach	Coquitlam, BC

2016 Player Profiles



Kenzo Racanelli

+Birthdate: August 10, 1998 +Height: 6'0" (183 cm)
+Hometown: Burnaby, BC +Weight: 205 lbs (93 kg)
+Shoots: Left

+Favorite Hockey Player: Dany Heatley
+Favorite Japanese Food: Ramen
+Favorite Song: Under the Bridge
+Family originally from: Wakayama

#2 - Defense

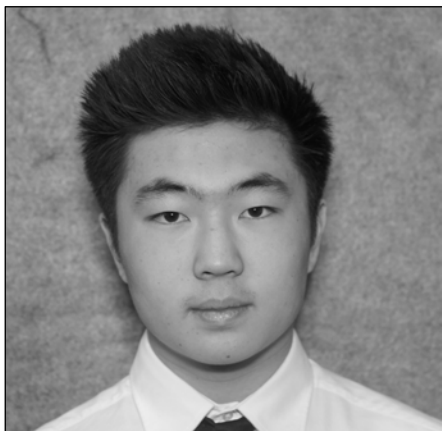
Matthew Akio Armstrong

+Birthdate: September 8, 1999 +Height: 6'0" (183 cm)
+Hometown: Richmond, BC +Weight: 219 lbs (99 kg)
+Shoots: Right

+Favorite Hockey Player: Joe Thornton
+Favorite Japanese Food: Katsudon
+Favorite Song: Hotel California
+Family originally from: Wakayama



#5 - Defense



Zachary Nasu

+Birthdate: February 28, 2000 +Height: 5'8" (173 cm)
+Hometown: Burnaby, BC +Weight: 165 lbs (75kg)
+Shoots: Right

+Favorite Hockey Player: Brent Seabrook
+Favorite Japanese Food: Chicken Karaage
+Favorite Song: Sweet Home Alabama
+Family originally from: Shizuoka / Shigaken

#6 - Defense

2016 Player Profiles



Cody Takama

+**Birthdate:** October 27, 2000 +**Height:** 5'11" (180 cm)
+**Hometown:** Surrey, BC +**Weight:** 143 lbs (65 kg)
+**Shoots:** Right

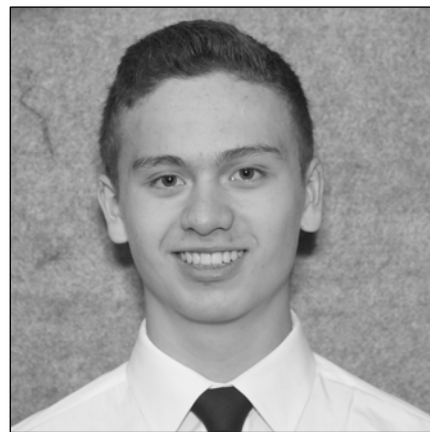
+**Favorite Hockey Player:** Sidney Crosby
+**Favorite Japanese Food:** Ramen noodle
+**Favorite Song:** TRNDSTTR
+**Family originally from:** Wakayama / Shizuoka

#7 - Defense

Michael Araki-Young

+**Birthdate:** January 24, 2000 +**Height:** 6'0" (183 cm)
+**Hometown:** Richmond, BC +**Weight:** 155 lbs (70 kg)
+**Shoots:** Left

+**Favorite Hockey Player:** Vladimir Taresenko
+**Favorite Japanese Food:** Chicken Teriyaki
+**Favorite Song:** Roses (feat. ROZES)
+**Family originally from:** Kumamoto Kyushu



#8 – Forward (A)



Mitchell Schroter

+**Birthdate:** September 26, 2000 +**Height:** 5'7" (170 cm)
+**Hometown:** Richmond, BC +**Weight:** 163 lbs (74 kg)
+**Shoots:** Left

+**Favorite Hockey Player:** Tyler Johnson
+**Favorite Japanese Food:** Beef Teriyaki
+**Favorite Song:** One Dance
+**Family originally from:** Wakayama

#9 - Forward

2016 Player Profiles



Ben Ward

+Birthdate: August 30, 2001 +Height: 5'3" (160 cm)
+Hometown: Kamloops, BC +Weight: 125 lbs (57 kg)
+Shoots: Left

+Favorite Hockey Player: Sidney Crosby
+Favorite Japanese Food: Salmon Maki
+Family originally from: Shizuoka Kai

#10 - Forward

Takumi Sakai

+Birthdate: February 15, 1999 +Height: 5'7" (170 cm)
+Hometown: Burnaby, BC +Weight: 161 lbs (73 Kg)
+Shoots: Right

+Favorite Hockey Player: Tyler Seguin
+Favorite Japanese Food: Sushi
+Family originally from: Tokyo / Wakayama



#13 - Forward



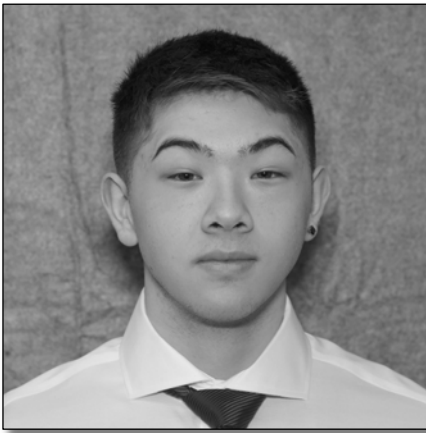
Justin MacInnes

+Birthdate: February 9, 2000 +Height: 5'6" (168 cm)
+Hometown: Kamloops. BC +Weight: 135 lbs (61 kg)
+Shoots: Right

+Favorite Hockey Player: Matt Niskanen
+Favorite Japanese Food: Tempura Shrimp
+Favorite Song: Panda
+Family originally from: Wakayama

#14 - Forward

2016 Player Profiles



#15 - Forward

Marcus Verhoeven

+Birthdate: June 29, 1997 **+Height:** 5'8" (173 cm)
+Hometown: Richmond, BC **+Weight:** 173 lbs (78 kg)
+Shoots: Right

+Favorite Hockey Player: Pavel Datsyuk
+Favorite Japanese Food: Okonomiyaki
+Favorite Song: Pound Cake
+Family originally from: Hiroshima

Nicholas Nimi

+Birthdate: March 16, 1997 **+Height:** 5'7" (170 cm)
+Hometown: Richmond, BC **+Weight:** 155 lbs (71 kg)
+Shoots: Right

+Favorite Hockey Player: Pavel Datsyuk
+Favorite Japanese Food: Unagi Sushi
+Family originally from: Tokushima / Fukui



#16 – Forward (C)



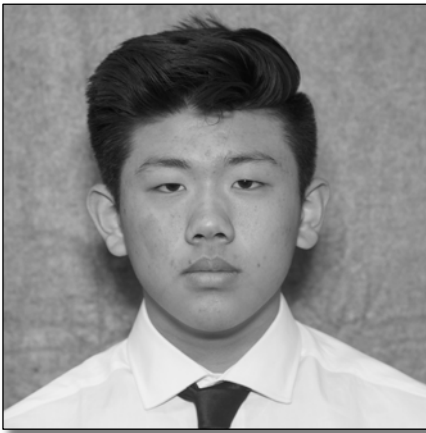
#17 – Forward (A)

Adam Gilker

+Birthdate: August 14, 1997 **+Height:** 6'0" (183 cm)
+Hometown: Richmond, BC **+Weight:** 175 lbs (79 kg)
+Shoots: Left

+Favorite Hockey Player: Jonathan Toews
+Favorite Japanese Food: Tonkatsu
+Favorite Song: Waves
+Family originally from: Wakayama

2016 Player Profiles



#21 - Defense

Marcus Tokuola

+Birthdate: July 31, 2000 +Height: 5'9" (175 cm)
+Hometown: Richmond, BC +Weight: 185 lbs (84 kg)
+Shoots: Right

+Favorite Hockey Player: Jonathan Toews
+Favorite Japanese Food: Okonomiyaki
+Favorite Song: M.A.A.D City
+Family originally from: Tottori

Seiji Brown

+Birthdate: February 2, 2000 +Height: 5'10" (178 cm)
+Hometown: Kamloops, BC +Weight: 162 lbs (74 kg)
+Shoots: Left

+Favorite Hockey Player: Sidney Crosby
+Favorite Japanese Food: Salmon & Tuna Nigiri
+Favorite Song: Grammys
+Family originally from: Chiba Prefecture

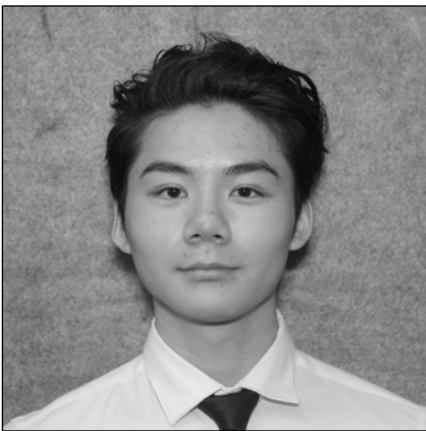


#22 - Forward

Ken Takahashi

+Birthdate: August 16, 1997 +Height: 5'7" (170 cm)
+Hometown: Burnaby, BC +Weight: 150 lbs (68 kg)
+Shoots: Right

+Favorite Hockey Player: Tyler Seguin
+Favorite Japanese Food: Yakimiku
+Family originally from: Tokyo



#26 - Forward

2016 Player Profiles



Carter Sasaki

+**Birthdate:** February 9, 2000 +**Height:** 6'0" (183 cm)
+**Hometown:** Surrey, BC +**Weight:** 156 lbs (71 kg)
+**Shoots:** Right

+**Favorite Hockey Player:** Roberto Luongo
+**Favorite Japanese Food:** Chicken Teriyaki
+**Favorite Song:** Bounce
+**Family originally from:** Sakaiminato, Tottori

#29 - Goalie

Taiga (Karl) Andersson

+**Birthdate:** April 5, 1998 +**Height:** 5'11" (180 cm)
+**Hometown:** Bellingham, WA +**Weight:** 165 lbs (75 kg)
+**Shoots:** Left

+**Favorite Hockey Player:** Henrik Lundqvist
+**Favorite Japanese Food:** Kaisen Donburi
+**Favorite Song:** Say My Name
+**Family originally from:** Miyazaki



#34 - Goalie



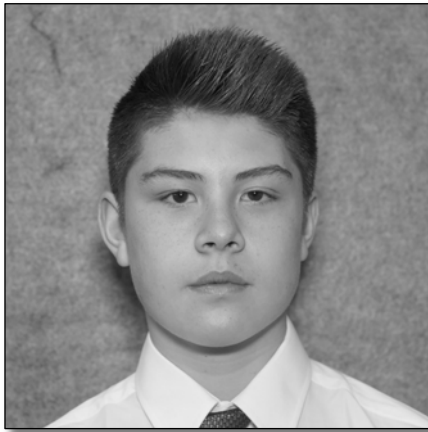
Tom (Shimosaka) Sweeney

+**Birthdate:** March 7, 2000 +**Height:** 5'11" (180 cm)
+**Hometown:** Richmond, BC +**Weight:** 180 lbs (82kg)
+**Shoots:** Right

+**Favorite Hockey Player:** Phil Kessel
+**Favorite Japanese Food:** Rice
+**Favorite Song:** Chill Bill by Rob Stone
+**Family originally from:** Nagano

#40 - Forward

2016 Player Profiles



Ryan Bayley

+Birthdate: July 27, 2001 +Height: 5'7" (170 cm)
+Hometown: Richmond, BC +Weight: 150 lbs (68 kg)
+Shoots: Right

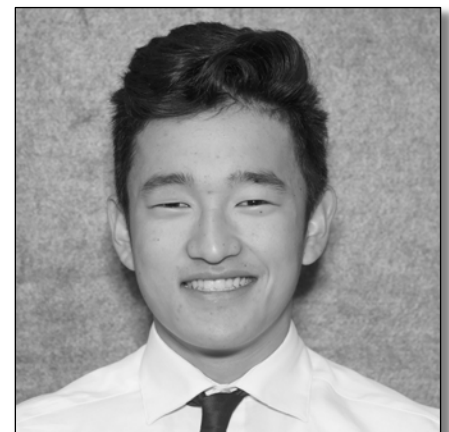
+Favorite Hockey Player: Pavel Datsyuk
+Favorite Japanese Food: Chicken & Beef Teriyaki
+Favorite Song: Weight in Gold
+Family originally from: Nagoya / Hiroshima

#88 - Defense

Kenta Muraki

+Birthdate: October 19, 1999 +Height: 5'6" (168 cm)
+Hometown: Richmond, BC +Weight: 141 lbs (64 kg)
+Shoots: Left

+Favorite Hockey Player: Brendan Gallagher
+Favorite Japanese Food: Yaki Soba
+Favorite Song: Maybe IDK / Views
+Family originally from: Nagoya / Ibaraki



#91 - Forward



Hitomi Nakajima

Head Coach - Kushiro, Japan



Richard Taki

Assistant Coach - Coquitlam, BC





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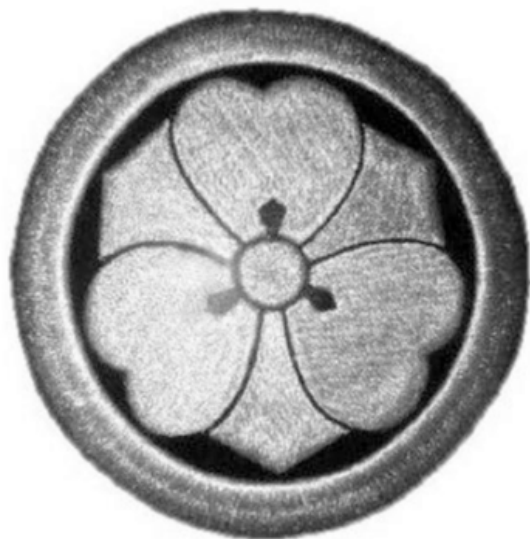
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THANK YOU



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Tournament*



*May you experience Japan
in ways that will enhance
and inspire your future.*

The Nimi Family

Peter, Aster, Paul, Donna, Nicholas, Alex, David, Lily, Markus, Ryan



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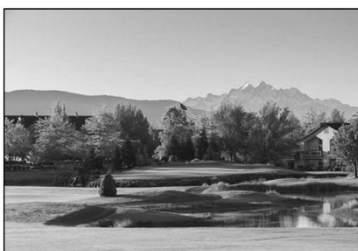
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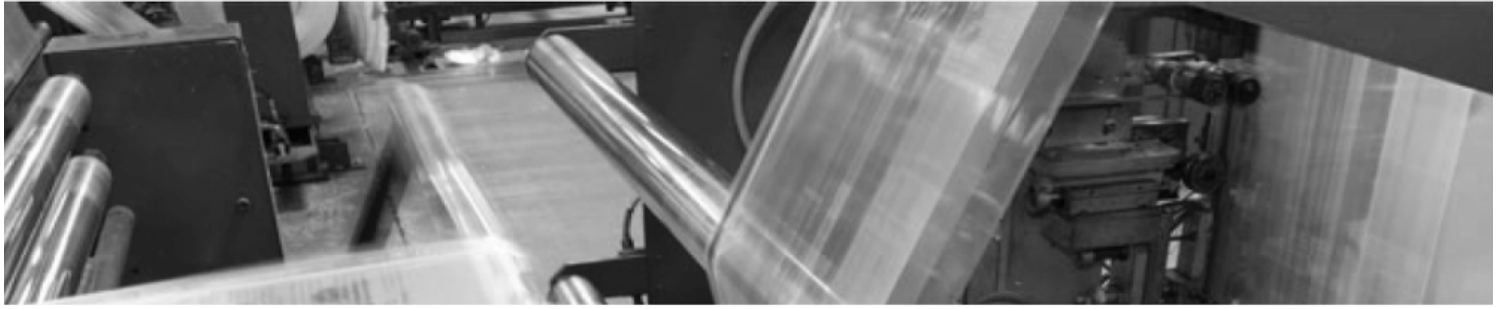
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Congratulations to all members of the 2016 Asahi Blades hockey team. We know it takes hard work and perseverance to reach your goals. Your achievements on and off the ice are an inspiration to your family, friends and the community around you. Our lawyers and staff and the Schroter family wish you great success in the Land of the Rising Sun.



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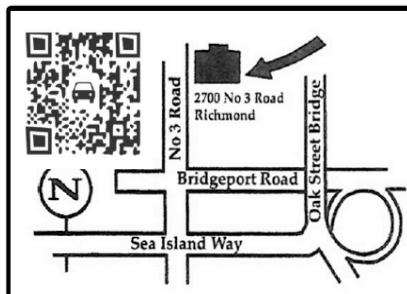
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GO BLADES!

Wishing the Asahi Blades "Good Luck" from the City of Kamloops knowing that they will represent Canada's Tournament Capital with pride, as fine young ambassadors of our City.

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Good Luck Asahi Blades

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We would also like to thank all the parents and family members of the 2016 Asahi Blades, JCIH, our coaches and alumni for all their time spent to help make this trip a success

Thank you from the





Much has been written about what sports does for youth. We doubt any would argue the many benefits it provides in the growth of character and lifelong skills.

A lot of support comes from families that have been giving repeatedly for many years, whether it be coaching, paying for registration, endless fundraising, or simply offering a ride to a teammate. It's what allows families and players to participate who might not otherwise have the opportunity to do so. Every small gesture makes it work and is a part of the culture of sport.

We have also had a great number of people step up with support, not only in donations or sponsorship, but with their time working on one of the various committees, reserving ice times, organizing car washes, printing raffle tickets, etc... Everyone truly understands what a positive cultural experience this will be for those involved, both here as well as in Japan. Without that dedication and support this kind of initiative doesn't get off the ground and frankly without everyone's contributions it wouldn't be possible for everyone to enjoy a once (or twice for some) in a lifetime opportunity.

The 2016 Asahi Blades would like to thank every supporter with heartfelt appreciation for their meaningful contributions, no matter how big or small for helping make this experience possible for these young men. It's truly appreciated and will long be remembered.

Thank you from the





2016 Asahi Blades



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The “Awajimusubi” knot originates from traditional Japanese culture and tradition..

It is considered as a symbol of strong bond.

The knot is loosely wound into loops. If you pull at the ends of the cord, the loops will be smaller and closer together. This type of knot is used to symbolize "growing together"

The JCIH logo symbolizes the growing relationship between the youth of Japan and Canada.

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