



JAPAN CANADA INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY

JULY 7 - 18, 2025
SAPPORO, KUSHIRO, TOKYO





Japan Canada International Hockey Mission

Japan-Canada International Hockey (JCIH) is a volunteer program that uses ice hockey as conduit for introducing young Japanese-Canadian youth to the country of their heritage. The bi-annual program was established in the City of Richmond as Nikkei Hockey in 2000 when a team was asked to participate in an international tournament in the city of Tomakomai, Japan. In 2010, the program was relocated to the City of Burnaby and in 2014 renamed Japan-Canada International Hockey. The focus of the newly structured program placed greater emphasis on the educational and cultural opportunities afforded to the players during their two weeks stay in Kushiro City. The program also benefitted from the sister city-relationship between Kushiro and Burnaby. Each trip has provided the opportunity for a Canadian-born player to compete at an international level, to be introduced to the Japanese side of his/her identity, and to play a role in strengthening bonds within the Japanese-Canadian community. The bi-annual trips have grown in popularity and what originally started as a Lower Mainland venture has blossomed into a national program attracting quality players from across Canada. The program has also grown by leaps and bounds. By working with the two local governments and school districts, games are now against Hokkaido's top high school teams, players participate in joint activities with Japanese students, and the team is able to enjoy the hospitality of the community. Committees based in Burnaby and Kushiro work hard together before and during each trip to ensure a schedule that offers a good mix of competitive hockey and community activities.

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.

Richard Taki
Director, Canada

David Kumamoto
Director, Canada

Hitomi Nakajima
Director, Japan

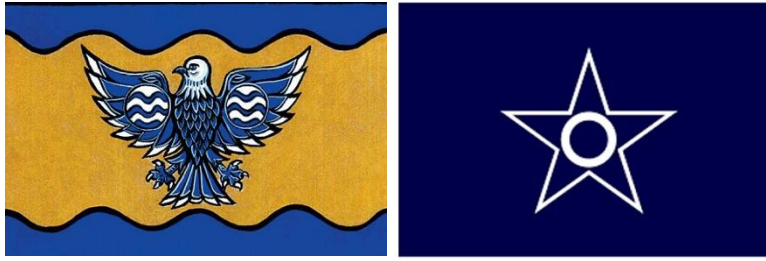


The Legacy of the Vancouver Asahi Tigers

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 in 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 Burnaby Asahi Blades hope to use ice hockey as a conduit to help establish/maintain the bridges between the communities of Burnaby and Kushiro.



60th Sister City Anniversary

Kushiro, Japan is Burnaby's first sister city. The formal agreement for the establishment of a sister city relationship between the two communities was signed on September 9, 1965 and has endured over three decades. Following this twinning, the two cities have enjoyed numerous exchanges and visits.

The sister city relationship between Burnaby, BC and Kushiro, Japan, is significant because it fosters meaningful exchanges and collaborations in various areas, including political, business, cultural, and educational. These relationships help build strong, long-term ties between communities, promoting economic and cultural awareness.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Exchange Affiliation Agreement with Kushiro. The Mayor of Kushiro will be visiting Burnaby in July and in September a contingency from Burnaby will travel to Kushiro to celebrate the occasion.



Playground of the Gods (Atop Burnaby Mountain)



Greetings from the Mayor of Burnaby

On behalf of the City of Burnaby, it is my great honor to extend warm greetings to all the families, athletes, and organizers participating in the Burnaby Asahi Blades tour. The trip marks a special occasion as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Burnaby and Kushiro – a bond that has fostered decades of friendship, collaboration and cultural exchange.

Thank you to the families of Kushiro for graciously opening your homes to our local athletes and their families. Your hospitality will undoubtedly create cherished memories for these young athletes and strengthen the ties between our communities. I would also like to thank the Japan-Canada International Hockey organization for orchestrating this incredible tour, which not only celebrates the sport of hockey but also bridges two vibrant cultures in a meaningful way.

To the athletes, compete hard and take the time to appreciate the unique opportunity that this trip has afforded you. This is a moment to not only test your skills but to deepen your understanding of the world through friendship and shared passion of sport. Best of luck in your games!

Sincerely,

Mike Hurley
Mayor of Burnaby





Greetings from the Mayor of Kushiro

On behalf of Kushiro City and its citizens, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Japan-Canada International Ice Hockey team and their families, and to express our great pleasure in welcoming you to Kushiro City.

This is the seventh time this program has been held since it started in 2008 under the initiative of the private sector, and we feel that the circle of exchange between Kushiro citizens and the many supporters and volunteers in both cities is expanding with each passing year.

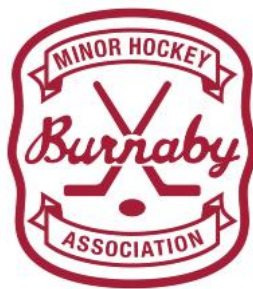
During their stay, we are told that friendly matches, school visits and homestays are planned, and we are confident that all the activities will provide the players and their families from both countries with memories that will last a lifetime, and will be shared across generations, further deepening the friendship between the two countries and cities.

This year, Kushiro and Burnaby will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their sister city relationship. We sincerely hope that this private-sector exchange program, which has been nurtured in the excellent sister city relationship with Burnaby, will continue to flourish in the future, just like the sister city relationship.

Regards

Hidenori Tsuruma
Mayor, City of Kushiro





A Message from Burnaby Minor Hockey Association

Burnaby Minor Hockey Association is a community based non-profit minor hockey association, guided by a volunteer executive board and run primarily by volunteers from the membership. BMHA is home to over 800 hockey players from U5 to U21 Bulldogs.

It is the philosophy of Burnaby Minor Hockey Association that all youth who wish to learn the skills of hockey should have the opportunity to do so, within the limitations of available facilities, financial restrictions and available volunteer coaches.

It is also the philosophy of BMHA to provide an environment in which our athletes can learn hockey skills, play hockey at a level consistent with their aspirations, learn good sportsmanship and develop into young men and women that their parents and community can be proud of.

Burnaby Minor is so grateful to Richard Taki and his team for organizing this event. This tournament allows our players the opportunity of a lifetime to play hockey with their peers from across the globe. Burnaby Minor is so proud of the team and wishes them best of luck in the tournament!

Keith Renfrey
President, Burnaby Minor Hockey Association





Raymond Sawada (February 19, 1985 – April 10, 2023)

Raymond Masao Sawada was a Canadian professional hockey player. He played 11 games with the Dallas Stars of the National Hockey League (NHL) after being selected in the second round of the 2004 NHL Entry Draft. Raymond spent most of his career, which lasted from 2008 to 2016, in the American Hockey League with subsequent stints in the ECHL, SM-Liiga, Elite Ice Hockey League, and Asia League Ice Hockey. After he retired from the sport, he proudly served the community of Burnaby as a firefighter. Raymond passed away in 2023 after suffering a heart attack during a recreational hockey game.

Raymond was a member of one of the original Nikkei teams (2002) that travelled to Japan to take part in an international hockey tournament in Tomakkomai, Japan. He was named as an alternate captain due to his leadership abilities which he again showed in 2018 when he helped the 2018 Asahi Blades team prepare for their upcoming trip to Kushiro.

This year the Burnaby Asahi Blades will be wearing a special badge on their uniforms commemorating the memory and legacy of Raymond Sawada a Nikkei/JCIH alumni.



Itinerary

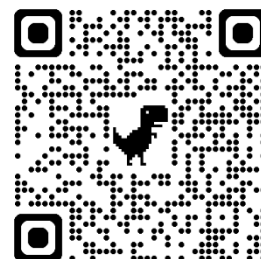
Date	Activity
Mon July 7	Depart Vancouver to travel to Japan
Tue July 8	Arrive at Tokyo & fly to Sapporo in Hokkaido
Wed July 9	Visit Okurayama Olympic Village, Hokkaido Jingu Shrine, Oddori Park. GAME 1 vs Hokkai
Thu July 10	Visit ESCON Field Nippon Ham Baseball Stadium. Travel to Kushiro GAME 2 vs Bushukan High School
Fri July 11	Visit Itsukushima Shrine, Kushiro Temple, Kushiro City Hall, Nusamai Jr High School. Kushiro History Museum. GAME 3 vs Kushiro A Jr High School
Sat July 12	Visit Meiki High School Festival. Itukushima Shrine Festival. GAME 4 vs Tottori Jr High School
Sun July 13	Sport Day at Windhill Kushiro Super Arena GAME 5 vs Shimizu High School
Mon July 14	Visit Aikoku Elementary School. Konan High School. GAME 6 vs RENGO High School
Tue July 15	Sightsee Kushiro Farewell Party
Wed July 16	Travel to Tokyo & Sightsee (Shibuya, Harajuku)
Thu July 17	Sightseeing (Asakusa, Akihabara, Ueno) Team Last Dinner
Fri July 18	Depart Tokyo to return to Vancouver





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Team Roster



Number	Player Name	Role	Position
12	CAPOLONGO, Luigi		Defense
77	CUNNINGHAM, Aiden		Defense
19	CUNNINGHAM, Mitchell		Forward
13	DON, Kasey		Forward
17	HURLEY, Ciaran		Forward
09	HURLEY, Jarlath		Defense
07	IORIO, Mason	A	Defense
91	KAZUTA, Carter	A	Forward
16	LAGACÉ, Tayvin		Forward
15	LEUNG, Nathan		Defense
05	PEHL, Liam	C	Forward
86	SAKAMOTO, Koichi		Forward
22	STINSON, Henry		Defense
33	TATEYAMA, Tyson		Goaltender
03	WANG, Liam	A	Defense
88	WONG, Brandon		Forward
24	ZIPURSKY, Rowan		Forward

NAKAJIMA, Hitomi	Manager & Coach
TAKI, Richard	Head Coach
ERICKSON, Darryl	Coach

Player Profiles



#12 – CAPOLONGO, Luigi

Birthdate:	Feb 20 2010	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Hockey, gaming & socializing
Height & Weight:	180cm (5'11") 64kg (140lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Sushi
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Burnaby, BC



#77 – CUNNINGHAM, Aiden

Birthdate:	May 16 2011	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Hockey & bike riding
Height & Weight:	180cm (5'11") 61kg (135lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Sushi
Position & Shoots:	Defense Left	Family Originally From:	Holland



#19 – CUNNINGHAM, Mitchell

Birthdate:	Aug 14 2009	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U18C5
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Hockey & floor hockey
Height & Weight:	170cm (5'7") 73kg (160lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Sushi
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Holland



#13 – DON, Kasey Susumu

Birthdate:	Feb 11 2009	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U18
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Golf & fishing
Height & Weight:	170cm (5'7") 55kg (120lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Ramen
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Shiga, Japan

Player Profiles



#17 – HURLEY, Ciarán

Birthdate:	Sep 17 2011	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A2
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Hockey, soccer, bike riding, hanging out with my friends
Height & Weight:	180cm (5'11") 64kg (140lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Sushi & sashimi
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Canada, Ireland, England & Sweden



#09 – HURLEY, Jarlath

Birthdate:	Sep 17 2011	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Hockey, soccer, watching F1 racing
Height & Weight:	180cm (5'11") 64kg (140lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Sushi
Position & Shoots:	Defense Left	Family Originally From:	Canada, Ireland, England & Sweden



#07 – IORIO, Mason (A)

Birthdate:	Jun 8 2010	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Hockey, soccer, Lego, cooking
Height & Weight:	178cm (5'10") 68kg (150lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Sushi, gyoza & sashimi
Position & Shoots:	Defense Right	Family Originally From:	Italy



#91 – KAZUTA, Carter (A)

Birthdate:	Aug 14 2009	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U18A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Golf, ice hockey, skiing & video games
Height & Weight:	178cm (5'10") 73kg (160lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Udon noodles
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Hiroshima, Japan

Player Profiles



#16 – LAGACÉ, Tayvin

Birthdate:	Dec 7 2010	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Reading manga, hockey, competitive swimming & soccer
Height & Weight:	173cm (5'8") 61kg (130lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Chicken karage, chicken katsu, prawn tempura
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Thailand & Canada



#15 – LEUNG, Nathan Takuya

Birthdate:	May 30 2011	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Volleyball, biking with friends & gaming
Height & Weight:	165cm (5'5") 55kg (120lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Udon & ramen
Position & Shoots:	Defense Right	Family Originally From:	Hong Kong & Osaka, Japan



#05 – PEHL, Liam (C)

Birthdate:	Jan 14 2010	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Baseball, golf, lacrosse & gaming
Height & Weight:	163cm (5'4") 57kg (125lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Sushi
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Voronizh, Ukraine & Guangdong, China



#86 – SAKAMOTO, Koichi

Birthdate:	Feb 4 2009	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U18A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Golf and ball hockey
Height & Weight:	168cm (5'6") 61kg (135lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Ramen
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Yamanashi & Tokyo, Japan

Player Profiles



#22 – STINSON, Henry

Birthdate:	Jun 22 2010	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Hockey all the time
Height & Weight:	178cm (5'10") 72kg (158lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	All of it!
Position & Shoots:	Defense Left	Family Originally From:	Portugal & Ireland



#33 – TATEYAMA, Tyson

Birthdate:	Oct 4 2011	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A2
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Video games, biking, fishing, ice hockey & ball hockey
Height & Weight:	158cm (5'2") 50kg (110lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Sushi
Position & Shoots:	Goaltender Right	Family Originally From:	Japan



#03 – WANG, Liam (A)

Birthdate:	Jun 18 2011	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Soccer, volleyball, reading, chess
Height & Weight:	163cm (5'4") 50kg (110lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	California Roll
Position & Shoots:	Defense Left	Family Originally From:	Singapore



#88 – WONG, Brandon

Birthdate:	Dec 10 2009	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U18
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Jujitsu, kickboxing
Height & Weight:	175cm (5'9") 75kg (165lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Oyakodon & miso soup
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Japan & China

Player & Coaching Staff Profiles



#24 – ZIPURSKY, Rowan			
Birthdate:	Nov 2 2010	Last Team:	Burnaby Minor U15A1
Hometown:	Burnaby BC	Hobbies & Sports:	Golf & hockey
Height & Weight:	173cm (5'8") 60kg (132lb)	Favourite Japanese Food:	Blue fin tuna sashimi
Position & Shoots:	Forward Left	Family Originally From:	Great Britain & Ukraine



NAKAJIMA, Hitomi
Manager & Coach
Kushiro, Japan



TAKI, Richard
Head Coach
(Kumagaya/Nagano)
Coquitlam, BC



ERICKSON, Darryl
Coach
Langley, BC

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**Good luck
Burnaby Asahi
Blades**



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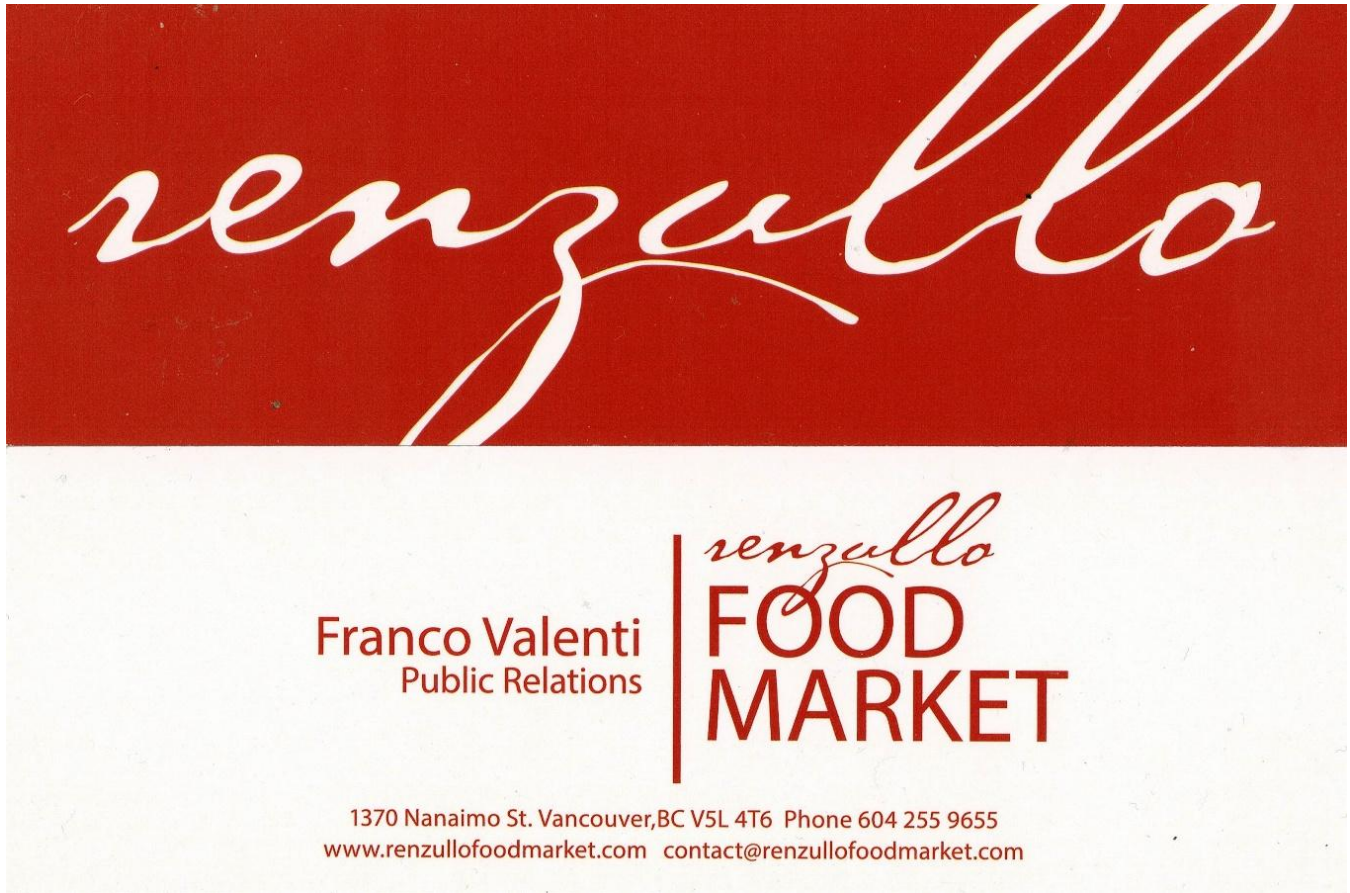
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A close-up photograph of a sushi platter serves as the background for the central text. The platter includes various types of sushi: nigiri with salmon and tuna, maki rolls with salmon and cucumber, and a large pile of bright orange salmon roe (ikura) in the foreground. The sushi is arranged on a dark, possibly black, tray.

**Have an
amazing time
in Japan!**

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