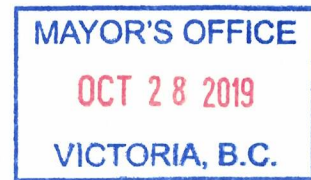




Mayor Lisa Helps  
City of Victoria  
c/o 1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6



October 24th, 2019

Dear Mayor Helps,

Greetings from Morioka to you and the citizens of Victoria. At the moment, I see salmon run in the river behind the city hall. Thinking that these salmon are traveling back to their home river from Canada reminds me of our special bond.

Today, I am writing to extend my appreciation for accepting eighteen of our delegates to your city. The full cooperation from Victoria International High School Program in Uplands has helped this program greatly as well.

This Junior High School program has been an important part of Twin City interaction since 1994 and once again, like the past 7 years, Gordon Head Middle School will be their host school. The delegates have been looking forward to sharing culture and lifestyles of Morioka while learning and experiencing culture and lifestyles of Victoria. I believe that experiencing and interacting with students from their own age group is valuable to acquire and broaden their international view. I am hopeful that they will someday play a role in our twin city relationship.

As you may be already aware, Rugby World Cup is currently held in Japan. Team Japan proceeded to their first ever quarter finals and showed us the strength to move forward no matter how strong what you are going up against may be.

Although their game was canceled due to typhoon Hagibis, Rugby Canada stepped up by volunteering to help out the destroyed community. All of Japan was touched by their kindness and bravery. Through hosting various Canadian sport teams, Morioka too has seen the generosity of Canadian athletes through their engagement with the citizens of Morioka. These interactions are the exact image of our city goal, "Morioka, a City Connecting to the World." Moreover, Victoria City has played an important role for these interactions and for us getting accepted as the hosting city for Canada. I hope that the upcoming 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our twinning will bring new interactions to both cities.

I would like to close this letter by wishing you and citizens of Victoria happiness and further development of our Twin City relationship.

Sincerely yours,

Hiroaki Tanifuji  
Mayor of Morioka