



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

MAYOR'S OFFICE

NOV 20 2017

VICTORIA, B.C.

November 10, 2017

Dear Mayor Lisa Helps,

I would like to express my deep appreciation towards your visit to Morioka from October 21st to 24th. Not only was it delightful to have you, Ms. Jocelyn Jenkyns, and Ms. Kerri Moore from the city, it was also significant for us to interact with Mr. Graham Knipfel from Camosun College as one of the delegation members to discuss education. Due to the unpleasant weather, there were some unplanned changes in the itinerary, but I hope your stay was still a memorable one for you.

I am pleased that you were able to visit Morioka University, various facilities, popular sightseeing spots, and some of the testaments to the friendship between Victoria and Morioka, such as the totem pole in Iwate Park.

The dinner party hosted by Morioka Victoria Friendship Society and the welcome reception were great fun and I myself had a great time.

I realized again how strong our friendship was through your visit. While treasuring the warm friendship the two cities have created, I would like to continue deepening our relationship.

This has been mentioned several times before and during your visit, but we appreciate the long-term sister city interactions with Victoria that got us approved as the hosting town for Canada during the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. The MOU with Water Polo Canada has been signed, but we hope to further welcome more Canadian National Teams. Your mention of support means a great deal to us and is greatly appreciated by all our citizens.

It was regretful that you were only able to see the beautiful Mt. Iwate on your last day and that your schedule was hurried. We all await for your next return.

I would also like to thank you for your warm welcome during our Junior High School Delegation's visit. All of them are now back and couldn't hide their excitement from their visit.

Lastly, I wish you happiness and good health; and Victoria continued success and prosperity.



Hiroaki Tanifuji
Mayor of Morioka City