



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

MAYOR'S OFFICE

OCT 31 2016

VICTORIA, B.C.

October 27st, 2016

Dear Mayor Helps,

I hope you are doing well and I wish you continued success and prosperity.

The leaves in Victoria must be becoming colorful during this beautiful autumn season.

To start this letter, I would like to thank you for the autograph letter I received this past September regarding the invitation to Victoria in May to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada. Although I would have to confirm you later once the dates have been set, it would be my pleasure to celebrate the exciting anniversary with you and citizens of Victoria along with other Canadian citizens.

I would also like to extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone who has been supporting our Morioka Junior High School Delegation program that started in 1994. This program is not possible without the hard work of those involved, preparing and accepting to become our hosts. This year, 18 members will be visiting Gordon Head Middle School, which has graciously accepted our request yet again.

The students 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 fellow students from their own age group in a different country is valuable to acquire and broaden their international view. I am hopeful that they will someday play a role in our twin city relationship. I am also grateful for you for taking your time to give our students encouraging words during their visit.

The host promotion team members are also visiting during this trip. The Japanese government is promoting a "Host Town Plan" to vitalize each regions through opportunity of communication between the participating countries and municipals of Japan. These delegations will be promoting our facilities to National Teams of rugby, sports climbing, volleyball, curling, and skating for 2020 Tokyo Summer and 2018 Pyeongchang as well as 2022 Winter Beijing Olympics and Paralympics.

Finally I would like to close this note by wishing you and citizens of Victoria happiness and further development of our twin city relationship.

Sincerely yours,

石藤 裕明  
Mayor of Morioka