

April 11, 2012

Mr. Harold Pereverseff
President
Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities
Association / The Lethbridge Twinning
Society.

Haruo SHIRAYAMA
President
Towada Association of International
Relations (T-AIR)

Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Makoto SAKURADA
and
His Live Concert Tour in Alberta, "Pray for Japan"

Dear Mr. Harold Pereverseff and all the members of Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Association (A/JTMA) and the Lethbridge Twinning Society (LTS),

I would like to extend the deepest heartfelt thanks to the president and the members for your warmest support and donations for the recovery from the damages inflicted by the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11th in 2011. And I also thank you for your warm message that you sent us on the first annual memorial day of the disaster.

On the other day I was informed from the president, Mr. Harold Pereverseff, of an invitation of Mr. Makoto SAKURADA who is living in Towada city and a very active singer and song writer, to a live concert tour in Alberta. I feel very honorable and glad of the invitation and your generous cooperation and support.

As you know, Mr. SAKURADA began his career as a singer and song writer twenty years ago. During this twenty years, he released seventeen CD albums and two single CDs in collaboration with singers and musicians living in AOMORI Prefecture and produced CD albums for two other singers.

When he was a student of a Japanese university, he has stayed at a home and studied in a college in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, endowed with the rich natural environment, for a year, and this experience influenced very much on his life as a musician.

After the earthquake last year, he began to visit devastated areas many times to support the sufferers through his music and gave them energy, power and courage for the recovery. Songs sung in these supporting tours were "Pray for Japan" and others. As these songs were already uploaded to Youtube, you can listen them there. And the profits from his distribution activities through the Internet finance his activities this time.

He decided to make this live concert tour in Alberta to extend to you all his heartfelt gratitude for your warmest support.

Canada and Japan have 84-year-old friendship and exchange history, and this year Lethbridge and Towada have the ten-year anniversary of the friendship and goodwill exchanges. In 2002 Mr. Bob Tarleck, Mayor of Lethbridge and Mr. Harold Pereverseff, present president of A/JTMA and LTS, visited Towada and handed us the Certification of Friendship.

Since then, many citizens of Lethbridge visited Towada, president of the T-AIR, mayor of Towada, the president of the municipal assembly and citizens of Towada visited Lethbridge reciprocally

and made heartfelt exchange with the Lethbridge citizens. Furthermore, Bryan Pereverseff, the eldest son of Harold, married a woman born and grown in Towada!! Some Canadian assistant language teachers (ALT) have stayed in Towada. These precious events, opportunities and reciprocal exchanges continuing between the two societies every year for these years anyhow helped very much to build up wonderful friendship between the two cities, Canada and Japan.

I cannot find any other words but to say that Mr. Makoto SAKURADA's live concert in Alberta performed in this memorial ten-year anniversary would make an epoch between the two cities, Alberta, Canada and Japan. I am impressed very much with the generous minds of the citizens of the A/JTMA municipalities to hear that they accepted him willingly.

His live concert tour in Alberta, Canada has rooted from his gratitude for your help and support for the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and his songs would be able to deliver you the Japanese Heart and build up another unprecedented bridge between Canada and Japan over the Pacific Ocean.

I, Haruo SHIRAYAMA, president of the Towada Association for International Relations, hereto sincerely would like to recommend Mr. Makoto SAKURADA as a person and a singer to connect Canada and Japan in strong and continuous friendship and goodwill exchange.