

## JSAC President (2004-07)

### Professor Fumiko Ikawa-Smith\*\*\*



"Welcome to the home page of the Japan Studies Association of Canada. JSAC began as JSSAC (Japan Social Sciences Association of Canada), which was formed after a very successful "Conference on Modern Japan" held at the University of Alberta in October 1987. About 40 specialists in Anthropology, Business Administration, Economics, Geography, Modern History, Political Science, and Sociology assembled to discuss post-war Japan, the new economic giant. Many of us met for the first time, and were amazed to discover how our research themes converged and our approaches were complementary. JSSAC, as a forum for inter-disciplinary dialogue, was born. It soon became obvious of course, that, in order to understand modern Japan fully, we needed to be more inclusive in terms of the time range and disciplinary approaches. By the 1990 Annual Conference, JSSAC became JSAC , and it

welcomes everyone interested in studies about Japan.

I am an anthropologist, born and educated in Japan, with post-graduate work in the United States. I came to Canada in 1960, and taught at the University of Toronto (1964-66) and McGill University (1968-2003). I was elected President of JSAC in 2004, and have the honour of serving in the position until 2007, when JSAC will celebrate its 20th anniversary."

\*\*\*Professor Fumiko Ikawa-Smith is a recipient of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette (瑞宝小授章) for promoting Japan-Canada academic exchanges and increasing knowledge about Japan abroad.