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EXPO 2005 AICHI

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CANADA PAVILION'S GIANT MAPLE LEAF TO FIND A NEW HOME IN KARIYA CITY, JAPAN

September 17, 2005, Aichi, Japan - The Canada Pavilion at Expo 2005 is very proud to announce that the beautiful maple leaf that towers in front of the Canada Pavilion will be permanently installed in Mississauga Park in the City of Kariya as a legacy of the Pavilion's partnership with the City during Expo 2005. The huge, stylized maple leaf, which represents the national symbol of Canada, is a central element of the Canada Pavilion.

"The relocation of our Maple Leaf to Mississauga park in Kariya City, which is a sister city to Mississauga, Ontario, will be a new sort of homecoming for the impressive structure," said the Commissioner General for Canada, Mr. Norman Moyer. *"We are delighted that Canada's participation at Aichi Expo 2005 will live on in Kariya City as a reminder of the wonderful relationship between our two countries".*

During the six months of Expo, the maple leaf has played a truly important role at the Canada Pavilion. From its prominent position it can be seen from many points on the Global Loop, making it a powerful beacon for Expo visitors. Everyday, it serves as a background for millions of photographs taken by Expo visitors, many of which feature the Teku-jin who greet guests, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers on ceremonial duty in front of the pavilion. It has also been the perfect backdrop for official photos of the countless dignitaries and VIPs from across the world who have visited the Canada Pavilion including the Emperor and Empress of Japan, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, former US Secretary of State General Colin Powell, and many others. All six of the Canadian storytellers featured in the Canada Pavilion's public presentation also made a stop in front of the maple leaf for a photo during their visits to Expo, as did many of the Canadian artists featured in Canada's successful Cultural Program.

The Mayors of Kariya and Mississauga, Ontario joined the Commissioner General for Canada at Aichi Expo 2005 for this special announcement as part of Mississauga Day at the Canada Pavilion.

"It is a great honour for the City of Kariya to have the Maple Leaf from the Canada Pavilion in our Mississauga Park," said Mr. Kunio Enami, the Mayor of Kariya. *"I am very proud to have such a great Canadian symbol grace our city."*

Mayor Hazel McCallion, who is leading a delegation of 38 Mississauga residents this week to celebrate Mississauga's participation at the World Expo 2005, was equally delighted with the relocation plans:

"I am very pleased that this giant Canadian maple leaf, which has been admired by so many Expo visitors, will make its home in Mississauga Park in our sister city of Kariya," said Mayor McCallion. "This is only going to strengthen the 24-year relationship we have had with Kariya and carry it well into the future," said Mississauga Mayor McCallion.

Designed and fabricated in Canada, the great steel structure is comprised of 158 parts and measures 15.24 metres in height, 11.34 metres in width and 5.37 metres in depth. Its total assembled weight is 4,073 kilograms. The maple leaf was fabricated in one piece and, after final assembly, the leaf was broken down into six main sections for shipping to Aichi Japan.

The structure is expected to be disassembled and relocated to Kariya City over the course of the next few weeks following the completion of Aichi Expo 2005. This initiative is in keeping with Canada's commitment to sustainability and collaboration.

About the Canada Pavilion

The Canada Pavilion presentation explores the theme of diversity through a multi-sensory experience of Canadian culture, environment and identity. The pavilion, a 1,000-plus square metre structure, was designed and built by a Canada-wide consortium to be reused and to minimize site impact. Canada was the first country to confirm participation at this world exposition.

During the six-month duration of Expo 2005, the Canada Pavilion has attracted significant attention from media and the public averaging more than 17,000 visitors a day, keeping the 39 trilingual hosting staff extremely busy. By closing day, on September 25, the Canada Pavilion will have welcomed close to 3.25 million visitors, more than doubling the initial attendance estimates.