

## 2021 JSBTC Day Message from the Office of the Bishop



On October 10, 1904, fourteen local Buddhist leaders met and came away with two resolutions: one, to build a local temple and two, to request a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist minister for the community. They sent the requests to our mother temple, Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan. In the following year, Rev. Senju Sasaki was appointed to be a *kaikyoshi* (overseas minister) who arrived in Vancouver with his wife, Tomie on October 12th, 1905. He delivered the first Dharma Talk in Canada on the steps of the Vancouver City Hall just two weeks after his arrival. Soon after, the local Buddhist families formed the Vancouver Nihon Bukkyo-kai (Japanese Buddhist Association), and thus, began our history. We are observing the founding of our national organization in the month of October.

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation to all the Jodo Shinshu Temples of Canada (JSBTC), ministers, ministers' assistants, national board of directors, and all temple members and non-members for keeping our organization active and accessible, especially during this difficult time with the COVID-19 pandemic. Through observations at the local temples and the national organization, it is very clear that all the ministers and national board of directors across Canada are working tirelessly for the sake of our temples, for all the members, and for the community at large.

Nishi Hongwanji is observing two major celebrations in 2023. They are the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. With the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention scheduled for May 11 and 12, 2023 in Kyoto, Japan, many seats have been secured for the overseas delegation. during the following dates: May 10, 2023 10AM Morning Observance OR 2PM Afternoon Observance

Please notify your resident minister of your plans by Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

May I ask for your continued support to our ministers and directors, and may we rediscover our joy by listening to the Dharma and walking the path of the Nembutsu together!

In gassho,  
Tatsuya Aoki, Bishop  
Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

Life of Nembutsu enables us to appreciate every encounter

Shinran Shonin's Birth  
850  
Jodo Shinshu Teaching  
800

Joint Celebration  
850th Anniversary of  
Shinran Shonin's Birth  
&  
800th Anniversary of  
Establishment of Jodo Shinshu Teaching

2023

Session 1 March 29 - April 3  
Session 2 April 10 - 15  
Session 3 April 24 - 29  
Session 4 May 6 - 11  
Session 5 May 16 - 21