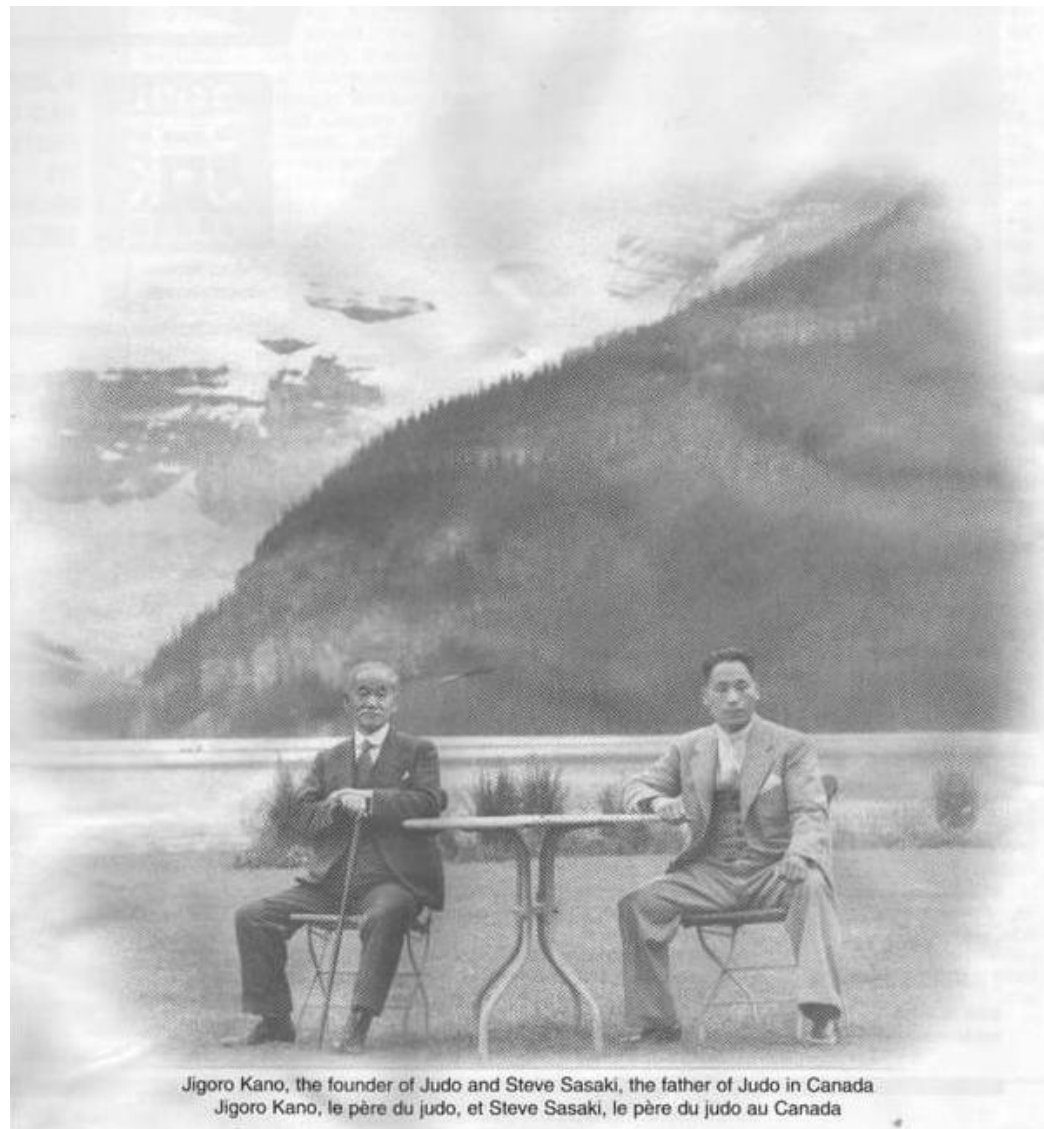


History of Judo in Canada

It was around 1924 that Judo was introduced on the Canadian West Coast under the impetus of and through the enthusiasm of a young Japanese Judoka, Takagaki, who was at the time a fourth Dan. He and a few fellow immigrant Japanese founded the first Canadian Dojo, for both socio-cultural and sport purposes. After a few years, Mr. Takagaki returned to Japan where he later obtained his 9th Dan.



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Among the pioneers of that era was Mr. Steve Sasaki, who became the director of the Dojo. Later, during a visit to Vancouver, Master Kano gave the name Kidikan to this first Canadian Dojo.



Japanese and Canadians of Japanese origin were relocated to the east of the Rockies. At the end of the War, many of them preferred to remain in their new communities, and developed the sport of Judo. This period saw the beginning of the Raymond and Lethbridge Dojos in Alberta as well as the Hatashita Judo Club in Toronto and the Montreal Shidokan.

In the early 1950's, many European Judoka with black belts settled in the East, especially in Quebec. Not all of them were teaching Kodokan Judo but they contributed largely to its practice on a wider scale. They established the first Canadian Judo Federation (C.J.F.) which became affiliated with the International Judo Federation, also a newly established organization.

At the time of the first World Championships of 1956, in Tokyo, there were two representatives from the Canadian Judo Federation. During that same year, the Canadian Kodokan Black Belt Association (CKBBA) was formed, regrouping members from several different Provinces , with Mr. Sasaki as its first president. (October 25, 1956).

In 1958, at the second World Championships, Canada was represented by Mr. Umetsu, the second president of the CKBBA, who was both a delegate to the Congress of the IJF, and a competitor. That same year, recognition was granted to Judo Canada by the International Judo Federation. To this present day, Judo Canada is the only official organization governing Judo in Canada. Mr. Hatashita was elected third President of the Association in 1961, and held this office until 1978. There is presently a Judo Association in each province and territory.

As Judo Canada began developing a relationship with the IJF, Canadian athletes began achieving results on the international scene. In 1964, Doug Rogers won the silver medal at the World Championships followed by a bronze medal a year later. Almost twenty years later, Phil Takahashi and Kevin Doherty of Ontario both won bronze medals at the 1981 World Championships. Then in 1984 Berger of Manitoba won a bronze medal in the Los Angeles Olympic Games and in 1992 Nicolas Gill won Canada's third Olympic medal when he placed third in Barcelona. He repeated this success in the World Championships in Hamilton Canada with a second place performance.

Judo Canada Presidents

Mr. Steve Sasaki	1950-1958
Mr. Masatoshi Umetsu	1958-1961
Mr. Frank Hatashita	1961-1978
Mr. Leo Hansberge	1978-1986
Mr. John Wright	1987-1988

Mr. Jim Kojima	1988-1994
Mr. Luc Larocque	1994-1998
Mr. Allan Hadvik	1998-2000
Mr. Allan Sattin	2000-2002
Mr. Serge Piquette	2002-2008
Mr. Vincent Griffo	2008-2012-
Mr, Mike Tamura	2012-

Judo Canada Hall Of Fame

Name:	Category	Year Inducted
Doug Rodgers	Athlete	1996
Kevin Doherty	Athlete	1996
Phil Takahashi	Athlete	1996
Brad Farrow	Athlete	1997
Fred Blaney	Athlete	1998
Joe Meli	Athlete	1998
Lorraine Methot	Athlete	1998
Tina Takahashi	Athlete	1998
Wayne Erdman	Athlete	1999
Sandra Greaves	Athlete	2000
Rainer Fischer	Athlete	2000
Louis Jani	Athlete	2001
Nicholas Gill	Athlete	2008
Pier Morten	Athlete	2012
Ewan Beaton	Athlete	2013
Keith Morgan	Athlete	2013
Shigetaka Sasaki	Builder	1996
Yoshio Senda	Builder	1996
Yoshio Katsuta	Builder	1996
Mamoru Oye	Builder	1996

Frank Hatashita	Builder	1996
Masatoshi Umetsu	Builder	1996
Mark Burger	Builder	1996
Raymond Damblant	Builder	1996
Kenneth Whitney	Builder	1996
Leo Haunsberger	Builder	1997
Steve Kamino	Builder	1997
Tamotsu Mitani	Builder	1998
Hiroshi Nakamura	Builder	1998
Masao Takahashi	Builder	1998
Satoru Tamoto	Builder	1998
William Doherty	Builder	1999
Yoshitaka Mori	Builder	1999
Frank Saki	Builder	2000
Daniel Tabouret	Builder	2000
Yeiji Inouye	Builder	2001
Dr. Yves LeGal	Builder	2003
Gerard Blanchet	Builder	2003
Carl Schell	Builder	2003
Jim Kojima	Builder	2004
Perry Teale	Builder	2004
Vincent Griffo	Builder	2005
Jacques Lamade	Builder	2007
Giselle Gravel	Builder	2007
Celine Darveau	Builder	2007
Serge Piquetee	Builder	2012

Mr. Sasaki
Founder of Canadian Judo

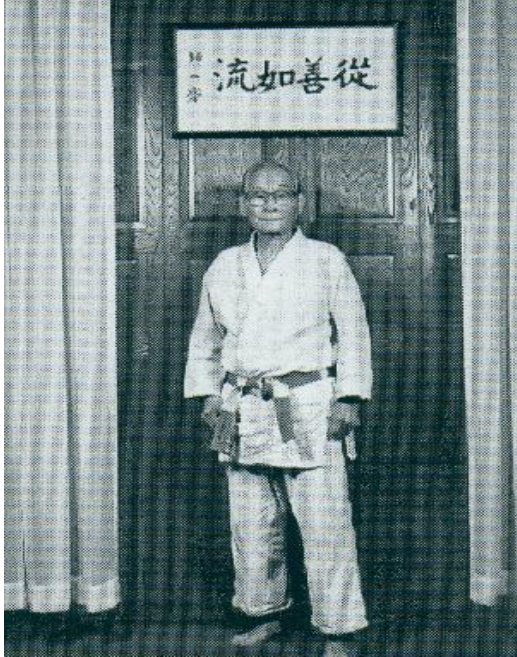


**Steven Shigetaka
Sasaki**

Steven Shigetaka Sasaki started his Judo studies at the age of 12 in Japan. Five years later he attained the rank of shodan. In 1922, Mr. Sasaki immigrated to Canada and two years later started the Vancouver Judo Club. During those first few years, Mr. Sasaki paid all dojo operating expenses and did not charge his students for lessons. In 1932 Mr. Sasaki became the first official judo instructor for the RCMP.

During 1936, Professor Jigaro Kano came to Vancouver and visited Mr. Sasaki's Vancouver Judo Club. "Products" of the dojo include instructors such as M. Umetsu, Kawano, Omori, T. Doi, T. Tamoto, F. Hatashita and many more. During his stay, Professor Kano asked Mr. Sasaki to accompany him on a tour of North America and Europe. Countries covered on the tour included Canada, United States, England, France and Germany. During the tour, Prof. Kano promoted Mr. Sasaki to yodan (4th Dan).

In 1953, 1954 and 1955 Mr. Sasaki traveled to Toronto on many occasions, at his own expense to try and form a National Canadian Judo Organization. After three years of hard work, the Canadian Kodokan Black Belt (CKBBA) was formed. Today, it is known as Judo Canada.



In 1958, Mr. Sasaki flew to Tokyo to confer with the International Judo Federation (IJF) and was successful in receiving approval for the CKBBA to join. Mr. Sasaki was President of the CKBBA for three years, retiring from the position in 1959.

In 1971 Mr. Sasaki and Mr. Doi took over the Marpole Community Centre Judo Club. Kodokan promoted Mr. Sasaki to Shichidan (7th Dan) in 1975. Mr. Sasaki died in 1992. His support of Canadian Judo will be greatly missed.

Excerpts from Level I Technical Manual, The National Coaching Certification Program, compiled by Blair Bradbury