



Activity Report

THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO

April 2023–March 2024

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Since 1937, the *Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario* has occupied a suite of offices and staterooms located in the northwest corner of the Legislative Building at Queen's Park in Toronto.

Activity Report: The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
April 2023–March 2024

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OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO
BUREAU DE LA LIEUTENANTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

Land Acknowledgement

The scope of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario's work covers the lands and waters we know as Ontario. Since time immemorial, they have been stewarded by Indigenous peoples. We acknowledge the enduring presence of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples throughout the province.

The Office is based at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite at Queen's Park in Toronto, which is a traditional gathering place for many Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island, including the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat. Toronto is located in the territory of Treaty 13, signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, to whom we pay our respects.



The Souharissen Natural Area in Hamilton, Ontario.

Foreword – A Message from the Lieutenant Governor

I am profoundly moved by the warm welcome Ontarians have given me during my first few months in this role. Whether at Queen's Park or in other places around our vast province, our interactions have been full of joy. I have been inspired by the richness of your stories, the breadth of your talents and ambitions, and the power of our collective diversity.

As Ontarians, we should be proud of our innovative spirit and our shared dedication to the common good. I am filled with hope for a sustainable future, no matter what challenges we will face together.

Beyond the constitutional and ceremonial responsibilities I have been honoured to take on, I have been discovering how the lieutenant governor's role can be a pathway that opens up connections to, and among, Ontarians. Our interactions can foster the civic engagement that is needed to bring about positive change.

Ontarians have shown me that being Lieutenant Governor means approaching one's duties with the whole of one's heart. It means showing gratitude, on behalf of the whole province, for the efforts and achievements—both individual and collective—that are unifying our communities and making them more resilient. And it means encouraging those who are working hard every day to build a future where everyone will be able to feel a sense of belonging, and to flourish.

And so, it is with all of *my* heart that I invite you to the Lieutenant Governor's Suite at Queen's Park, and that I hope to meet you wherever you may be in Ontario.

À très bientôt !



The Honourable Edith Dumont.

A Note About This Report

This is a special report, because the period it covers (from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) includes the last months of one lieutenant governor's appointment and the first months of her successor's. I would like to acknowledge my predecessor in this role, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, and her generosity—both to the province, during her remarkable nine-year mandate, and to me, personally. During the months leading up to my installation, she invited me to shadow her and opened up a window for me into the many possibilities offered by this role.

I would also like to thank my team at the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, as well as the volunteers and aides-de-camp. Their dedicated service and indomitable good spirits are invaluable to me and to the Office's work.



The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell invests Mme Dumont into the Order of Ontario.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario



The music room



The foyer



The lounge



The drawing room

Canada is a constitutional monarchy whose sovereign and head of state is the reigning monarch (currently His Majesty King Charles III). In Ontario, the lieutenant governor (currently the Honourable Edith Dumont) is the monarch's representative. In Canada's system of parliamentary democracy, the head of state, commonly called the Crown, holds supreme power on behalf of the people and lends it to be exercised by the country's provincial and territorial governments.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (OLGO) provides the services required by lieutenant governors to fulfil their constitutional role and perform other important duties. This support includes administration, strategic planning, communications, and events management.

Lieutenant Governor's Duties

Each lieutenant governor has constitutional, ceremonial, and community duties.

CONSTITUTIONAL

In Ontario, the lieutenant governor exercises the powers of the Crown, which derive from the written constitution, the common law including the royal prerogative, and statute law. These powers are exercised according to constitutional convention (political rules of the constitution).

A lieutenant governor's constitutional duties include:

- Ensuring that Ontario always has a premier who commands the confidence of the Legislative Assembly
- Appointing members of the Executive Council (cabinet ministers) on the advice of the premier
- Summoning, proroguing, and dissolving the legislature on the advice of the premier
- Reading the Speech from the Throne at the beginning of a parliamentary session
- Granting Royal Assent, the final step of the legislative process, to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly
- Ordering elections to the Legislative Assembly on the advice of the cabinet, in accordance with the *Election Act*
- Approving government business such as regulations and public appointments by signing Orders-in-Council on the advice of the cabinet

CEREMONIAL

A lieutenant governor's ceremonial duties involve acting in an official capacity as head of state in the following ways:

- Presiding over awards ceremonies related to Ontario's honours system and presenting recipients with their awards
- Recognizing the service of members of the Canadian Armed Forces and fulfilling related duties (e.g., presenting colours to regiments)
- Meeting with members of the diplomatic and consular corps in Ontario, as well as visiting heads of government and state from other countries
- Representing the Crown at events related to the monarchy (e.g., accession ceremonies, celebrations of coronations and royal anniversaries) and greeting visiting members of the Royal Family

Occasionally, when the governor general is unavailable, the lieutenant governor is asked to fulfil their ceremonial role (e.g., investing Ontarians into the Order of Canada).



Ms. Dowdeswell and Greg Essensa, Chief Electoral Office of Ontario, sign by-election writs.



Mme Dumont presents the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship to Brandon Arkinson.

COMMUNITY

The lieutenant governor encourages civic engagement and pride among communities and community members throughout Ontario. Related duties include:

- Visiting Ontarians in their own communities by conducting engagements in, and making official visits to, municipalities throughout the province

- Presenting community awards for service and excellence
- In a non-partisan, non-policy prescriptive way, advocating for worthy causes, and convening Ontarians to support them
- Supporting and promoting diversity, inclusion, culture, and heritage
- Granting vice-regal patronage to recognize and support charitable and non-profit organizations and related initiatives that make contributions to civil society



During her official visit to Orillia, Mme Dumont participates in a round-table discussion with members of non-profit group Inclusive Orillia.



Ms. Dowdeswell with new Canadians and their family members after a citizenship ceremony held in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite.

Crown-Indigenous Relations

As the representative of the Crown in Ontario, the lieutenant governor plays an important role in furthering the enduring treaty relationship between Indigenous peoples and the Crown. To that end, the lieutenant governor engages regularly with

Indigenous communities and creates opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together in dialogue and to collaborate as equal partners.



On her installation day, Mme Dumont is greeted outside Queen's Park by then Ontario Regional Chief Glen Hare.

Serving the Lieutenant Governor

During the fiscal year 2023–24, the OLGO comprised a team of 12 full-time staff members and one part-time member. In addition, a corps of 52 aides-de-camp and 14 volunteers together contributed thousands of hours of service. Aides-de-camp are current or retired uniformed service members who accompany and assist lieutenant governors during events.

The position of aide-de-camp is honorary, and those appointed serve on a volunteer basis. In Ontario, aides-de-camp are selected from the three branches of the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, regional and municipal police services, local emergency services, and first responders, including St. John Ambulance.

By the Numbers

CONSTITUTIONAL



In 2023-24, the lieutenant governors together approved **1,984 Orders-in-Council**

48

proclamations

377

regulations



187

Great Seal letters patent under the *Public Lands Act*

89

Great Seal letters patent under the *Mining Act*



The lieutenant governors together granted Royal Assent **24 times** to a total of **45 bills**

29



Provincial Judge appointments
+ 2 Associate Judge & 3 Regional Senior Judge appointments

23



Deputy Minister appointments
+ 1 Secretary of the Cabinet appointment

3

By-election writs

50

Justice of the Peace appointments

Presided over **4** ceremonies marking changes to the Executive Council (cabinet shuffles)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS AND GEOGRAPHIC REACH

During the fiscal year 2023-24, Ms. Dowdeswell and Mme Dumont together participated in **579** public engagements. To support the municipal order of government and learn about local issues, the lieutenant governors attended events in **29** communities, including three official visits.

COMMUNICATIONS

Together, the lieutenant governors recorded **video messages** that were broadcast as part of **33 events and initiatives** across Ontario.

The OLGO's website includes information relating to the lieutenant governors' role and activities: www.lgontario.ca

Lieutenant governors provide event messages to non-profit organizations and congratulatory greetings to Ontarians celebrating birthdays (90 years and older) and anniversaries (50 years and longer). In 2023–24, the OLGO provided:

76

event messages

&

2,486

greetings

SOCIAL MEDIA

Each lieutenant governor maintains an active social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X, in order to share the many diverse stories and life events of Ontarians.



honlizdowdeswell

...



honlizdowdeswell On this **#NationalIndigenousPeoplesDay**, I am reminded of my visit to Gi-Chi-Twaa Gimaa Nini Mississauga Anishinaabek AName Amik in April with His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, where we participated in a Council with representatives of the **@mcfirstnation**. This moment was an important one, symbolizing how far we have come on the reconciliation journey, and our collective hopes for a brighter future.

June 21, 2023

In June 2023, Ms. Dowdeswell posts on Instagram about visiting The King's Anishinaabek Sacred Place at Massey College in Toronto with His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and representatives of the Mississaugas of the Credit.



Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario | Bureau de la Lieut...

...

As Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, I have the privilege of welcoming visitors from all corners of the globe on behalf of Ontarians. These encounters highlight the significance of diplomacy and cultural exchange in fostering enduring friendships and cooperation. Warm appreciation to Ms. Magdalena Pszczółkowska, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto, His Excellency **Sam Berridge**, High Commissioner of Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the university students from the Kakehashi Project.

En tant que lieutenant-gouverneure de l'Ontario, j'ai le privilège d'accueillir des visiteuses et des visiteurs des quatre coins du monde au nom des Ontariennes et des Ontariens. Ces rencontres mettent en valeur l'importance de la diplomatie et des échanges culturels qui favorisent des relations d'amitié et de coopération durables. Mes remerciements chaleureux à Mme Magdalena Pszczółkowska, la conseillère générale de la République de la Pologne, Son Excellence Sam Berridge, le haut-commissaire de Saint Kitts et Nevis, ainsi qu'aux étudiantes du Kakehashi Project.

Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Show translation



In March 2024, Mme Dumont posts on LinkedIn about meetings in the Suite involving diplomacy and cultural exchange.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell – End of Mandate

By the end of her mandate on November 14, 2023, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell had become the longest-serving lieutenant governor in Ontario's history.

Her appointment started on September 23, 2014, and spanned historical touchstones such as Canada's sesquicentennial, the publication of the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the transition of the Crown.

The OLGO supported Ms. Dowdeswell as she made official visits to 100 municipalities, travelled to each one of Ontario's 124 ridings, and represented Ontario in other countries. These included the United Kingdom, where she was granted an audience with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in London; France, where she visited Vimy Ridge with a group of Canadian high school students; Denmark, where she addressed the C40 World Mayors Summit; and the United States, where she addressed the United Nations (UN).



Ms. Dowdeswell offers remarks at a farewell event given in her honour by the Government of Ontario.

Reconciliation

Following the Ontario government's official apology to Indigenous communities for the residential school system in May 2016, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted residential-school survivors and Indigenous leaders in the Suite and made a pledge: "Within the bounds of my constitutional responsibilities, I intend to do all that I can to encourage a culture of reconciliation in Ontario." Throughout her mandate, the OLGO supported Ms. Dowdeswell's efforts to connect with Indigenous peoples by facilitating

opportunities for learning and dialogue. These included visits to remote fly-in First Nations communities, the dedication of the Gi-Chi-Twaa Gimaa Nini Mississauga Anishinaabek AName Amik (The King's Anishinaabek Sacred Place) at Massey College in Toronto, and the creation of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden, which features the first marker on the grounds of Queen's Park to recognize Treaty 13 and to include an Indigenous language (Anishinaabemowin).

Mandate Themes

Ms. Dowdeswell put forth five mandate themes that focused her work and that of the office:

Storytelling

Ms. Dowdeswell committed herself to learning and sharing Ontarians' stories of challenges, inspiration, and success. Major OLGO initiatives to support this theme included the book *150 Stories*, an anthology of specially commissioned texts about Ontario by Ontarians, as well as a related art exhibition; *Voices of Ontario*, a video series; and articles about Order of Ontario holders in community newspapers.

Sustainability

Ms. Dowdeswell encouraged Ontarians to consider how sustainable development could bring about a world that works for everyone. Major related OLGO initiatives included the book *Awakening*, featuring essays by 17 experts about the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and a related art exhibition; the series of online articles *Stories of Sustainability*, highlighting Ontarians' innovative approaches to sustainable development; and the virtual conference *Shaping Sustainability*, which brought together prominent researchers, activists, and civic and cultural leaders.

Ontario in the World

Whether representing Ontarians abroad or sharing their initiatives with international audiences, Ms. Dowdeswell celebrated their efforts to learn from, and contribute to, the rest of the world. The OLGO supported these endeavours by facilitating Ms. Dowdeswell's working visits to other countries and by arranging for *Awakening* to be distributed and displayed in locations in North America and Europe, including the UN Headquarters in both New York and Geneva.

Safeguarding Democracy

Ms. Dowdeswell engaged Ontarians in challenging, timely conversations about our cherished democracy and its future, focusing on the institutions that underpin it, such as the judiciary and the media, as well as on the significant but often under-recognized roles played by women and by local government. In partnership with the Samara Centre, the OLGO created the word art exhibition *Speaking of Democracy*, which featured historical and contemporary quotes about democracy. It was hosted in the suite for 40 months, travelled to Goderich, Midland, and Mississauga, and was displayed at three special events in Toronto.

Unfinished Business:

Recognizing the work that remains to be done to achieve gender equality, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted and participated in a series of events designed to spark conversation and inspire Ontarians to work toward the empowerment of women and girls. Events organized by the OLGO included a round-table discussion

with the Canada-U.S. Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders; a virtual forum on the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada Report; and Trailblazers and Pathmakers, a day of discussions about women's empowerment that brought together leaders in many fields.

To bring these themes to life, Ms. Dowdeswell used the unique platform provided by her role to convene diverse individuals and groups of people in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite, which is a safe space for conversation. Through events such as seminars and salons, she and the OLGO encouraged the sharing of stories and provided opportunities for learning and dialogue about new research and emerging societal issues.

For more information on Ms. Dowdeswell's work during her time in office, please see the End-of-Mandate Report, available on the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario's website at lgontario.ca.



Ms. Dowdeswell at her last public engagement as Lieutenant Governor, a Remembrance Day ceremony in Bowmanville on November 11, 2023.

Installation Ceremony

“I believe in the power of community. Community is the bedrock of our society, the place where we set up a home, where we experience life, create stories, make connections, and share traditions and values. And so, I invite you to create spaces for dialogue with me, where we can all look to the future with tremendous love and irresistible hope!” – The Honourable Edith Dumont, installation address



Members of the Legislative Assembly and the judiciary applaud as Mme Dumont is introduced as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

On November 14, 2023, Edith Dumont was installed as the 30th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

The installation ceremony took place in the Legislative Chamber in the Legislative Building at Queen's Park. Following tradition, Mme Dumont arrived in a carriage procession along Queen's Park Circle.

In the Chamber, Elder Sally Gaikezheyongai, Wolf Clan from Wikwemikong First Nation, offered a smudge and a blessing to start the ceremony in a good way.

Mme Dumont took the Oaths of Office and Allegiance in French and in English; both were administered by the Chief Justice of Ontario, the Honourable Michael Tulloch, and witnessed by Premier Doug Ford. With the Oath of Allegiance, Mme Dumont



Mme Dumont travels by landau to Queen's Park for her installation ceremony.

pledged to be faithful to His Majesty King Charles III. With the Oath of Office, she was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor and as Keeper of the Great Seal of Ontario, which is used on official documents such as proclamations and commissions appointing public officials.

By assuming office, Mme Dumont also became the Chancellor of the Order of Ontario, the province's highest civilian honour.

In her installation address, Mme Dumont pledged her loyalty to the people of Ontario and her devotion to the common good. She also presented an initial set of priorities for her mandate, including celebrating diversity, promoting gender equality, fostering connections between generations, and championing education.

Crown-Indigenous Relations

For her first official event as lieutenant governor, Mme Dumont participated in a ceremony at Gi-Chi-Twaa Gimaa Nini Mississauga Anishinaabek AName Amik (The King's Anishinaabek Sacred Place), the Chapel Royal at Massey College.

The event included a sacred fire ceremony and an honour song, and it was attended by representatives of the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg (Mississauga Nation), including Chief Laurie Carr, then-Chief Robert Chiblow, and then-Giimaa Stacey Laforme. Then-Giimaa Laforme presented Mme Dumont with a medallion struck by the nation to mark their diplomatic mission to the United Kingdom in July 2023, which included a meeting with His Majesty The King. Mme Dumont offered tobacco to Elder Garry Sault and respectfully requested the renewal of friendships between the Crown in Ontario and the Mississauga Nation.

Earlier, in April 2023, Ms. Dowdeswell accompanied His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh on the first-ever visit by a member of the Royal Family to the Chapel Royal, whose dedication had been approved by Queen Elizabeth II in 2017. There, he also met with representatives of the Mississauga Nation.

"Today, my commitment is clear: The path to reconciliation and the pursuit of truth shall inform every action I take."

— The Honourable Edith Dumont, installation address



Mme Dumont, His Honour Tony Viscardi, and members of their family attend a sacred fire ceremony with representatives of the Mississauga Nation.

In July 2023, Ms. Dowdeswell presided over the annual James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Awards ceremony, which, for the first time, was held outside Toronto—in Thunder Bay, near some of the recipients' communities. Award winners from on-reserve and off-reserve categories, and from primary and secondary schools, read their inspiring work.

Other important events included:

- **The 150th anniversary celebration of Treaty #3 in Kenora.** Ms. Dowdeswell spoke about the importance of non-Indigenous people's learning about Indigenous peoples' history and contemporary experience, and of sitting down in dialogue, "as our predecessors did so many years ago, around council fires."

- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford.** In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell stated: "Today, we come together to share stories of resilience and resurgence, to mourn the children who never came home, including those children known and unknown at this institution, and to support survivors in telling their truths."

- **Visits to Indigenous communities and meetings with Indigenous leaders.** These included a meeting on Mme Dumont's first official visit to a municipality, in Orillia, between Mme Dumont and the Orillia Native Women's Group. Together, they discussed plans for a new facility and programming.



Ms. Dowdeswell attends a sunrise ceremony on National Indigenous Peoples Day co-led by Anishinaabe grandmother Kim Wheatley.

Constitutional Role



Mme Dumont signs her first set of Orders-in-Council.

"I shall well and truly execute the office of Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario and duly and impartially administer justice therein."

— Oath of Office for the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

During 2023–24, the OLGO supported the transition between two lieutenant governors—a process that is integral to the workings of democracy in Ontario.

On August 3, 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the appointment of Mme Dumont as Ontario's lieutenant governor. From that time, the OLGO worked with Mme Dumont, Ms. Dowdeswell, and partners in the Ontario Public Service to ensure a smooth transition.

Lieutenant governors grant Royal Assent to bills. Most often, this is done in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite, where the lieutenant governor receives the Clerk (and/or the Speaker) of the Legislative Assembly and the bill's sponsor(s). Royal Assent may also be granted in the Legislative Chamber. Mme Dumont gave her first Royal Assent in the Suite on December 4, 2023, and her first Royal Assent in the Chamber on December 6. Both provincial elections and by-elections must be authorized by lieutenant governors, who sign writs of election prepared by the Chief Electoral Officer. Lieutenant governors are also responsible for swearing in ministers (otherwise known as members of the Executive Council), either when a new government is elected or when a premier advises a change in ministerial portfolios (i.e., a cabinet shuffle). Between them, during 2023–24, Ms. Dowdeswell and Mme Dumont signed three by-election writs and administered the Oath of Office ministers at four cabinet shuffle ceremonies.

As is customary for lieutenant governors, both Ms. Dowdeswell and Mme Dumont held regular meetings with the Premier during the fiscal year. As with all communications between the lieutenant governor and the Government of Ontario, these

meetings remained confidential to promote open and productive exchanges of views. These meetings reflect the United Kingdom's tradition of regular confidential meetings between the sovereign and the prime minister.



Mme Dumont presides over her first Royal Assent ceremony.



Ms. Dowdeswell presides over a change of the Executive Council.

Ceremonial Role

CORONATION



Ms. Dowdeswell speaks at the coronation flag-raising ceremony at Queen's Park.

On May 6, 2023, in London, England, King Charles III and Queen Camilla were crowned at Westminster Abbey. On the lawn outside the Legislative Building at Queen's Park, Ms. Dowdeswell addressed a crowd of over a thousand Ontarians who gathered for a ceremony during which His Majesty's coronation flag was raised. There were performances by the Red Bear Singers drum group and a military band, and after all joined in for the singing of "God Save the King," there was a 21-gun salute. Ms. Dowdeswell also presented Sovereign's Medals for Volunteers to five deserving Ontarians, on behalf of the Governor General.

Leading up to Coronation Day, on May 2, in the Suite, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted the panel discussion "For King and Canada," which was organized by the OLGO in partnership with the Empire Club of Canada. Moderated by CBC Morning Live host Heather Hiscox, the event offered insights about the ceremony itself and its symbolism, the continued relevance of the Crown, and the future of the Commonwealth. The panelists were Carolyn Harris, author, historian, and royal commentator; Akaash Maharaj, senior fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy; and Nathan Tidridge, vice-president of the Institute for the Study of the Crown in Canada.

Many communities and organizations around Ontario planted trees in honour of the coronation—a fitting tribute, given His Majesty's advocacy for responsible stewardship of the environment. Ms. Dowdeswell participated in tree plantings and addressed gatherings in Toronto (at both the British Consulate and Coronation Park), in Oakville (at Appleby College), and in Willow Beach (at Clearwater Farm, on the shore of Lake Simcoe).

"We come together to celebrate the beginning of a new reign, to celebrate the unifying power of the Crown, and to acknowledge a moment of both continuity and change."

— The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, at the coronation flag-raising ceremony at Queen's Park



Ms. Dowdeswell presents a crown to a child attending a coronation celebration at Clearwater Farm in Willow Beach.

RECOGNIZING SERVICE AND EXCELLENCE

Over the years, the Government of Ontario has established official honours and awards that are granted by the lieutenant governor on its formal advice. For all such awards, members of the public are invited to submit nominations to an honours advisory council, which then provides the government with recommendations. Between them, Ms. Dowdeswell and Mme Dumont presided over the presentation of the following awards in 2023–24:



Ontario Medal for Paramedic Bravery (May 2023)

Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery (June 2023)

Ontario Medal for Police Bravery (June 2023)

Order of Ontario (November 2023)

Ontario Senior Achievement Award (February 2024)

Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers (March 2024)

Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (March 2024)

Ms. Dowdeswell also presented the following awards, which honour the legacies of former lieutenant governors:



James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award (July 2023)

David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility (September 2023)

Hilary M. Weston Scholarship (September 2023)

Lincoln M. Alexander Award (September 2023)

In addition, Ms. Dowdeswell and Mme Dumont had the opportunity to recognize hundreds of Ontarians through the following awards programs:



Lieutenant Governor's Award for Design Excellence in Architecture (with the Ontario Association of Architects)

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Ontario Wines (with George Brown College)

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Marketing Excellence in Ontario (with the Economic Developers Council of Ontario)

Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award for Students

Lieutenant Governor's Distinguished Service Award (with the Royal Ontario Museum)

Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration (with the Institute of Public Administration of Canada)

Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award (with the Ontario Heritage Trust)



Ms. Dowdeswell presents an Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery to Robyn Judd of Kawartha Lakes Fire Rescue Services.

Commonwealth Honour Award
(with the Royal Life Saving Society)

Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Canada

John Charles Polanyi Prize
(with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities)

Order of St. John Investiture
(with the Ontario Council of St John Ambulance)

Ordre de la Pléiade (with the Ontario branch of l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (via the Legislative Assembly)

Sandford Fleming Medal for Excellence in Science Communication (with the Royal Canadian Institute for Science)



Mme Dumont at her first Order of Ontario investiture ceremony, with new investees.

MILITARY EVENTS

“My thanks to you for all you do daily to ensure our safety and safeguard our cherished democracy through times of uncertainty and challenge.” – The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, at the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Gala

Throughout their appointments, lieutenant governors recognize, and benefit from, the service of members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Ms. Dowdeswell’s last public engagement as lieutenant governor was the 2023 Remembrance Day commemoration in Bowmanville, where she laid a wreath at the Veterans’ Memorial Monument. When Mme Dumont travelled by landau to her installation, she was escorted by a mounted detachment of the Governor General’s Horse Guards; following the ceremony, she inspected a guard of honour composed of members of the 32 Canadian Brigade Group.

The first military event Mme Dumont attended as lieutenant governor was the Garrison Ball in February 2024—the 205th such annual gathering for officers in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) from across the Greater Toronto Area. Hosted by the 400 Tactical Helicopter Squadron, the event helped launch celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Mme Dumont thanked the assembled CAF members for answering the call of duty at home and abroad.

In the last months of her mandate, Ms. Dowdeswell participated in other important military events, including:

- A wreath-laying to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement, held at the Korean War Memorial in Brampton
- A ceremony in Toronto honouring the recipients of Canada Company scholarships, as well as the enduring legacy of their parents, who served in the CAF and gave their lives for the sake of their children, and for all Canadians



Mme Dumont test-pilots a flight simulator during a meeting with Toronto-area air and sea cadets.

- A presentation of new King's Colours and Regimental Colours in Georgetown to the Lorne Scots, one of the oldest regiments in Canada
- A Service of Remembrance in St. Catharines with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, in the presence of its Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh



Ms. Dowdeswell stands beside The Duchess of Edinburgh at a Remembrance Day event hosted by the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in St. Catharines.

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

In 2023–24, in order to cultivate and strengthen Ontario's ties with other nations, the OLGO welcomed dignitaries from 23 countries to the Suite to meet with Ms. Dowdeswell and Mme Dumont.



Between them, the lieutenant governors met with 25 diplomats and visiting dignitaries, including:

1 Prime Minister

2 High Commissioners

1 Secretary of State

6 Ambassadors

2 Members of the Royal Family

13 Consuls General

Community Role

DEMOCRACY

In addition to fulfilling their constitutional role in upholding democracy in Ontario, lieutenant governors are able to encourage education about, and engagement with, our democracy.

Among the highlights of related engagement in 2023-24:

- On September 11, 2023, Ms. Dowdeswell became the first ever lieutenant governor of Ontario to have made 100 official visits to Ontario municipalities. Official visits involve meeting with mayors and local representatives, as well as engaging with members of community groups and other residents about matters related to economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Ms. Dowdeswell's 100th such visit was to the Township of Muskoka Lakes, where she met with Mayor Peter Kelley, toured a new bridge project site with members of Council and municipal staff, and gave remarks at a special public Council meeting.
- Ms. Dowdeswell addressed mayors, councillors, and other municipal leaders at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in London, Ontario. She gave an overview of her observations regarding the importance of local governments, drawing on her official visits to 100 Ontario municipalities.
- The OLG0 hosted 12 provincial and territorial ombuds in the Suite during their annual conference, which was held in Ontario for the first time since 2014. Addressing the group, Ms. Dowdeswell encouraged them to continue championing fairness and accountability during a time of rampant disinformation.
- During Black History Month in 2024, Mme Dumont met with a group of Black and racialized Francophone high school students at an event at the Legislative Building. Together with provincial politicians, the students discussed challenges identified by racialized Francophones in Ontario and presented their proposals for solutions. Mme Dumont spoke about the importance of creating spaces where authentic dialogue can flourish and the exchange of ideas can foster more meaningful and representative political participation.

“Democracy thrives on engagement. It demands that we become involved in shaping it—and we can do this only by sharing our aims, our dreams, and our values.”

— The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, introductory remarks to the Glendon College debate “Is Democracy Broken?”



Ms. Dowdeswell delivers remarks at the 2023 annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in London, Ontario.

- Mme Dumont welcomed to the Suite Ontario students from grades 10 to 12 who were participating in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's 2024 model parliament program. She held a question-and-answer session about the lieutenant

governor's role in the legislature, helping the students understand how their own mock "bills" might proceed towards "Royal Assent."



Mme Dumont addresses students participating in the High School Model Parliament Program at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

EDUCATION

"In addition to being a pathway to careers and lifelong learning, education is also a space for transformative thoughts, research, and idea-driven debates. It symbolizes a society's commitment to equitable opportunities for personal development and collective growth." – The Honourable Edith Dumont, installation address



Ms. Dowdeswell speaks with Toronto-area high school students at the event Duke of Edinburgh Award in Action.

Both Ms. Dowdeswell and Mme Dumont engaged with students, parents, teachers, and trustees in a variety of settings and contexts, to shine a light on the value of education both in and beyond schools and post-secondary institutions.

Significant events included:

- A summit on non-formal education held in the Suite and organized by the OLGO in partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Canada. His Royal Highness Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, attended as a special guest; panelists were drawn from Ontario, Newfoundland, and Saskatchewan. On the same day, Ms. Dowdeswell presented Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Awards to young people from across Canada.
- A youth forum organized by Learning for a Sustainable Future, at which Ms. Dowdeswell offered

words of encouragement to students in grades 5 to 8 from the Greater Toronto Area. The students were participating in workshops designed to empower them to lead their classmates in climate action projects.

- The Canada East region finals of STEM Fellowship's National High School Big Data Challenge, at the MaRS Discovery District in Toronto. Mme Dumont addressed the finalists, who had devised projects that would harness big data to conserve and foster local biodiversity. She praised the way they

"demonstrated the value of seeking out other perspectives, exchanging ideas, and broadening our spaces for dialogue."

- The symposium of the Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO), which represents all French-language public school boards in Ontario. Mme Dumont gave a keynote address celebrating the gains ACÉPO has made over its 25-year history, as well as its role in safeguarding and enriching the French language in Ontario.



Mme Dumont speaks with contestants in the STEM Fellowship's National High School Big Data Challenge.

Mme Dumont's installation ceremony featured a performance by a group of students from the Centre d'excellence artistique de l'Ontario (CEAO), a group of young people from Ottawa, who sang songs in French, English, and Cree. Throughout 2023-24, the OLGO supported both Mme Dumont and Ms. Dowdeswell as they celebrated the vital role played by the arts in Ontario.

Significant events and initiatives included:

- The OLGO's partnership with Concerts in Care Ontario to bring the music of the coronation to long-term care homes across the province. Ms. Dowdeswell virtually hosted chamber music concerts by the Venuti String Quartet and organist Chris Dawes that featured music from the coronations in 1937 and 1953, as well as a selection of King Charles's favourite pieces. The concerts connected elders, caregivers, and loved ones, while evoking the sorts of powerful emotions that can activate memory and improve mood for seniors in care.
- The 31st annual Salon du Livre, the kickoff event for the mois de la Francophonie ("Francophonie Month") celebrations in Toronto. Mme Dumont spoke about the rich diversity of Franco-Ontarian literature, and the importance of the Salon's educational programming for students, readers, and listeners of all ages.
- The Library and Archives Canada (LAC) Scholar Awards in Ottawa. Mme Dumont congratulated the recipients for their many accomplishments in the arts and arts reporting, and honoured the LAC for playing a leading role in preserving and sharing the documentation of Canada's cultural heritage.
- The 100th anniversary celebration of the Toronto Symphony Volunteer Committee, during National Volunteer Week. Ms. Dowdeswell gave remarks honouring the generations of people who have selflessly contributed their time and resources to make the orchestra a pillar of its community.



Ms. Dowdeswell attends the 2023 ROM Celebration at the Royal Ontario Museum.

"The arts allow us to reflect on the challenges we face today, and they can inspire us to shape a better future. Simply put, we need them now, as much as we ever have." – Mme Dumont, at the Library and Archives Canada Scholars Awards ceremony



At the Art Gallery of Ontario, Mme Dumont visits the exhibition Life Between Islands: Caribbean-British Art 1950s–Now.

GENDER EQUALITY

Throughout 2023–24, both lieutenant governors championed gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, at events including:

- The first annual Emmy Noether National Forum, which Ms. Dowdeswell moderated at the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo. The forum's theme was "The Power of WHY?: Methods and Mindsets of Women in Science," and in front of both live and virtual audiences, she spoke with four trailblazing young women working in STEM fields about creativity, risk-taking, overcoming barriers, and the importance of courage in their professional work and their personal lives.



At the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Ms. Dowdeswell met with three of the participants in "The Power of WHY?" forum: Katie Mack, Estelle Inack, and Zainab Azim (L-R).

“Gender equality has inspired much of my work, and it will continue to be a priority for me.... Let’s not leave change up to chance.” – The Honourable Edith Dumont, installation address

- A women’s networking breakfast at the AMO conference in London, Ontario. Ms. Dowdeswell convened women mayors from across Ontario for a fireside chat with the First Lady of Iceland, Eliza Reid, about her advocacy for gender equality.
- A reception for the Office of the Legislative Assembly’s Remarkable Women Forum. Mme Dumont and the OLG hosted 58 young women from across the province who were participating in a day-long educational event at the Ontario Legislature. She spoke about Ontario’s first female lieutenant governor, Pauline McGibbon, who broke barriers and showed our province, and the Commonwealth, that it is vital for women to be represented in democratic institutions.
- The International Women’s Day Celebration hosted in Toronto by the Ontario Public Service employee network Women in Government. Mme Dumont spoke about the power of the collective presence of women in public service at all three levels of government.
- The Ottawa’s Distinguished Women celebration held at the Maison de la francophonie d’Ottawa. Mme Dumont noted the importance for women to get involved and inspire one another by sharing their stories.



In Toronto, Mme Dumont meets with participants in the International Women’s Day Celebration hosted by Women in Government.

CONNECTING WITH ONTARIANS AND CELEBRATING COMMUNITIES



Ms. Dowdeswell celebrates Canada Day in Chinguacousy Park in Brampton by handing out cupcakes with Mayor Patrick Brown.

Over the course of 2023–24, both Ms. Dowdeswell and Mme Dumont met with many Ontarians in places where they live, work, study, and play. In their range of ages, locations, backgrounds, and experiences, they reflected Ontario's impressive diversity.

Whether addressing large assemblies or small gatherings, whether participating in meetings or holding conversations, both Ms. Dowdeswell and Mme Dumont sought to connect with Ontarians and to strengthen the connections between them—and among groups and communities.

“Over the last 40 years, I have devoted myself to building inclusive communities in which people can achieve their full potential. That means celebrating diversity in all its forms, while respecting and appreciating our cultures, identities, languages, and rights. To this, I add the importance of upholding our vast linguistic and cultural diversity, Ontario’s francophonie, and our bilingualism. These are not just powerful economic assets, but also our signature identity in a world without borders.”

— The Honourable Edith Dumont, installation address



Mme Dumont greets visitors at the 2024 New Year's Levee in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite.



Ms. Dowdeswell visits the Family Services Centre of Parents Engaged in Education in Scarborough with the Honourable Raymond Cho (MPP for Scarborough North and Minister for Seniors and Accessibility).



In Toronto, Ms. Dowdeswell attends the 41st annual Black Business and Professional Association Harry Jerome Awards.



In Toronto, Ms. Dowdeswell attends the 10th anniversary reception for Connected North, a non-profit group that supports students and teachers in remote communities.



Mme Dumont meets with George Guinto, Ben Haslam, and Maverick Valle, youth ambassadors for the Lieutenant Governor's 2024 Variety Village Games.



Mme Dumont hosts a town hall event for Francophone Ontario Public Service employee networks in honour of the mois de la Francophonie.



Mme Dumont visits the Centre d'Accueil Heritage, which serves the aging French-speaking population in Toronto.

PATRONAGE

During her mandate, Ms. Dowdeswell granted patronage to 49 organizations:

- Aga Khan Museum
- Air Cadet League of Canada (Ontario Provincial Committee)
- Army Cadet League of Canada (Ontario)
- Artscape Foundation
- BIPOC Fellowship
- Canadian Centre for Ethics and Corporate Policy
- Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons
- Children's International Learning Centre
- CNIB (Ontario-Nunavut)
- Commissionaires Great Lakes
- Concerts in Care (Health Arts Society of Ontario)
- Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Ontario)
- Friends of HMCS Haida
- Haven Toronto
- Institute for Advancements in Mental Health
- International Institute for Sustainable Development – Experimental Lakes Area
- IODE (Ontario)
- Last Post Fund (Ontario)
- Learning for a Sustainable Future
- Let's Talk Science
- The Lifesaving Society
- Magna Carta Canada
- Massey College
- Monarchist League of Canada
- Mon Sheong Foundation
- Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations
- Ontario Historical Society
- Ontario Society of Artists
- Pathways to Education Canada
- Provincial Council of Women of Ontario
- Quarter Century Club
- Royal Canadian Humane Association
- Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Science
- Royal Canadian Legion (Ontario Command)

- Royal Canadian Military Institute
- Royal Canadian Sea Cadets/Navy League Cadets
- Royal Commonwealth Society
- Royal Niagara Military Institute
- Royal Ontario Museum
- Scouts Canada
- Textile Museum of Canada
- Thrive Youth Development Canada
- Toronto Children's Chorus
- Travellers' Aid Society
- Variety Village
- Warriors' Day Parade Council
- Waterlution: A Water Learning Experience
- Women's Musical Club of Toronto

In addition, Ms. Dowdeswell granted patronage to 10 special initiatives:

- Wounded Warriors Canada Highway of Heroes Bike Ride (August 2016)
- Greatness: The Great Lakes Project (launched in October 2016)
- The Toronto School: Then, Now, Next (October 2016)
- Pollution Probe Gala (November 2016)
- 104th Grey Cup Festival (November 2016)
- UNCEDED: *Voices of the Land*, an initiative of the Douglas Cardinal Foundation for Indigenous Waldorf Education (May–November 2018)
- Canadian Business Frontiers (November 2018)
- Ontario Science Centre 50th anniversary celebrations (2019)
- St. George Society of Toronto Spring Gala (May 2022)
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario Healthy Democracy Project (July 2023)

Vice-regal patronage granted by a lieutenant governor expires at the end of the lieutenant governor's mandate. Organizations and special initiatives are able to apply to the OLGO for renewed (or new) patronage by the next lieutenant governor.

All applications for Mme Dumont's patronage were under review by the OLGO at the end of the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Financial Information

PROVINCIAL FUNDS

The Government of Ontario provides the principal means of financial support for lieutenant governors' activity programs.

Operating Expenses	2023-24
Salaries and wages	\$1,622,188
Employee benefits	\$166,747
Transportation and communication	\$33,514
Services	\$227,181
Supplies and equipment	\$51,400
Discretionary allowance	\$155,800
	\$2,256,830

Year ended March 31.

All amounts rounded to the nearest \$1. Amounts may not add up precisely due to rounding.

Source: Public Accounts of Ontario Ministry Statements and Schedules 2023-24.

FEDERAL FUNDS

The Department of Canadian Heritage provides lieutenant governors with funds for the purpose of defraying operating expenses.

Lieutenant Governors' Annual Grant (Department of Canadian Heritage)	2023-24
Travel and accommodation	\$20,469
Hospitality	\$57,389
Operational and administrative expenses	\$20,333
	\$98,191

Year ended March 31.

All amounts rounded to the nearest \$1. Amounts may not add up precisely due to rounding.

Source: "Expenses incurred by the Lieutenant Governors in the exercise of their official duties." Department of Canadian Heritage.





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This is a special report, because the period it covers (from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) includes the last months of one lieutenant governor's appointment and the first months of her successor's.