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# Activity report

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

*April 2019–March 2020*

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# A note about the content of this report

This report presents the highlights of the Lieutenant Governor's public engagements from April 2019 to March 2020.

*Activity report: The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell,  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (April 2019–March 2020)*

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

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



# Foreword

As I write this, the people of Ontario, in common with global citizens everywhere, are facing a crisis virtually unknown to living generations. We are just beginning to understand the lasting impact of COVID-19 on our daily lives, and my thoughts are with everyone who has been affected. Amid the devastating yet necessary slow-down of our lives and livelihoods, the work of the Crown continues, as it must. As I considered how best to support Ontario's response to the novel coronavirus, I was compelled to look back over the last year. For me, the picture that emerges is one of overwhelming humility, but also optimism that we will get through this together.

Having now been to all 124 of Ontario's provincial ridings, having had the fortune of being able to meet Ontarians in 115 municipalities (and through 85 official civic visits), and having celebrated with many more communities large and small, I have witnessed uncommon generosity of spirit and exceptional drive for resilience, characteristics which feature prominently in this report.

In addition to serving as an opportunity to recognize and thank the many people and organizations who have welcomed me most warmly over the past year, this report is an exercise in accountability: you deserve to know how I spend my time. This report is illustrative of more than 689 public engagements in 2019-20, and indeed 4,020 engagements since I took office in September 2014. Details of many can be accessed on our website and social media platforms. It has been moving to witness so many Ontarians embrace the sustainability agenda and our province's eagerness to engage with people and places beyond our borders. So too has it been inspiring to observe a near-universal commitment to strengthening our cherished democratic inheritance.

As we all do our part to envision what a "better normal" will be, I encourage all Ontarians to make their voices heard and to dare to dream of a world that works for everyone. As we make the most of this once-in-a-generation opportunity, I will be sure to share your stories.

*Elizabeth Dowdeswell*



*The Lieutenant Governor celebrates the Royal Ontario Museum, May 2019.*

*Above: Ms. Dowdeswell's coat of arms. (Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada, Volume VI, page 621)*



# Her Honour



The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell is the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. As the representative of Her Majesty The Queen, Ms. Dowdeswell carries out constitutional and ceremonial duties and facilitates healthy citizen and community engagement.

*Her Honour greets officials during a visit to Meridian Hall in Toronto, December 2019.*

Ms. Dowdeswell has served the public interest at all orders of government and in the private sector. She contributed globally as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. In Canada her diverse portfolios ranged from education and culture to environment and the management of complex public enquiries. She was the founding president and CEO of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, and later the president and CEO of the Council of Canadian Academies. She has served on the boards of Canadian and international corporate and non-profit organizations.

Since taking office in late 2014, Ms. Dowdeswell has challenged Ontarians to think deeply about their role not just as residents of a province, but as global citizens. Building resilience and sustainability through inclusive economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, and social cohesion, as well as safeguarding democracy, has been the focus of her mandate.

Ms. Dowdeswell has a bachelor of science in home economics and teaching certificate from the University of Saskatchewan and a master of science in behavioural sciences from Utah State University. She is an officer of the Order of Canada, a member of the Order of Ontario, and the recipient of numerous distinctions and fellowships. She holds 11 honorary doctorates.

# Areas of focus



*Her Honour joins Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbanovic at United Nations Headquarters in New York City during Climate Week, September 2019.*

Successive Lieutenant Governors have chosen personal themes or priorities while in office, focusing time and attention on relevant, cross-cutting issues rising above politics. Upon taking office, Ms. Dowdeswell decided that, instead of immediately declaring a theme or area of focus, she would begin her tenure in office by engaging with Ontarians and seeking to listen and learn what resonated with them.

Throughout she has emphasized the imperative of fostering resilience in a time of rapid and often disorienting change. While many Ontarians may not necessarily use the word “sustainability”, Ms. Dowdeswell has noted that the concept nonetheless aims to achieve the desire many Ontarians have for a world in which prosperity is fairly shared, people feel included and live with dignity, and the environment thrives under our mutual care.

There are many made-in-Ontario success stories of sustainability to be shared. They are often informed by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Lieutenant Governor has challenged Ontarians to think deeply about their role not merely as residents of a province within Canada, but also as global citizens with as much to learn from people and places beyond our borders as they have to contribute.

Noting the ability of rapid societal change to reveal both strengths and weaknesses of our cherished democratic inheritance, Ms. Dowdeswell continues to encourage Ontarians to consider the role of citizens, acting both individually and collectively, in supporting our democratic institutions and in ensuring the long-term health of democracy itself.

# Sustainability

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is a framework for encouraging people to think globally while acting locally. In making progress toward achieving these goals Ms. Dowdeswell often highlighted the many connections that Ontarians have with the UN and other important international non-governmental organizations.

After its international debut at UN Headquarters in New York in March 2019, the art exhibition *Awakening* continued to tour. Curated by Canadian-born, Chicago-based designer Bruce Mau, and launched in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in May 2018, the exhibition was displayed at UN Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland (May 2019), and at the World Conference Centre, part of the UN Campus in Bonn, Germany (June 2019). Featuring contemporary Canadian works belonging to the Canada Council Art Bank, *Awakening* confronts the urgency of sustaining life on Earth for current and future generations. A companion publication presents essays from esteemed international thought leaders touching upon each of the Sustainable Development Goals. *Awakening* is currently on display from March 2020 at the Canada Council for the Arts exhibition space *Àjagémô* in Ottawa.

In May 2019, the Lieutenant Governor hosted the launch of the *SDGs Emerging Practices Guide*, published by Global Compact Canada in partnership with Global Affairs Canada. The publication highlights Canadian companies that, as part of their ongoing work, are prioritizing, embedding, and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals. In September, she addressed *Making Global Goals Local Business*, a conference jointly organized by the Global Compact Network Canada and United Nations Global Compact. In her remarks, she encouraged businesses to seek to provide certainty amid disorienting change.

In June, Her Honour hosted a reception marking the Great Lakes Circular Economy Forum, co-convened by UN Environment North America, the City of Toronto, and the Council of the Great Lakes Region. In her remarks, she emphasized the importance of involving members of civil society in decision-making processes while also noting the potential of the forum's deliberations to inform the World Circular Economy Forum, to be hosted in Toronto in the fall of 2020.

In September 2019, Her Honour accepted an invitation from the Christie Gardens Seniors Residence in Toronto to deliver a keynote address on *Awakening* and the role of art in fostering resilience.

In Ottawa in November, Her Honour emphasized the sustainability agenda during an address to the Canada 2020 National Forum on Agri-Food, particularly drawing attention to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). She noted the role of the agri-food industry in fostering inclusive prosperity, environmental stewardship, and social cohesion.

In Toronto in February 2020, the Lieutenant Governor addressed *How to Change the World Canada 2020*, a two-day hands-on conference organized by the Canadian and Ontario Societies of Professional Engineers seeking to equip early-career engineering, business, and policy professionals with the skills to create sustainable change. She was particularly encouraged by the inclusion of the human element in their problem-solving approaches.

## ***Inclusive prosperity***

Ontarians are fortunate to live in a comparatively prosperous country in which a vast majority of the population has seen rising standards of living over the past century. Yet not all have fairly benefitted from access to prosperity, notably Indigenous and racialized people, women, and people employed in some traditional economic sectors. During visits to communities throughout the province over the year, the Lieutenant Governor held roundtables focusing on social and economic concerns. In



*Her Honour joins Canada Council president and CEO Simon Brault and artist Joanne Tod at the launch of Awakening in Ottawa, March 2020.*

reflecting on these discussions, Her Honour has noted two recurring questions: "Are we keeping pace with the world?" and "What is the future of dignified work in this province?"

Important to answering such questions is the concept of inclusive prosperity, which recognizes that resources are not fairly distributed, that economic uncertainty has a social cost, and that the road to prosperity depends on one's lived experience, community, and region. Her Honour has encouraged Ontarians to consider the sources of future prosperity that build on emerging technologies and advanced knowledge as well as a rethinking of the ways in which more traditional activities can be adapted so that as many people as possible might have a chance to meaningfully participate in economic and social spheres.

Ms. Dowdeswell regularly spoke of the importance of inclusivity in considering the functioning of our economic system. For example, she took part in the Public Policy Forum Growth Summit in Toronto in April 2019. In addition, and building on connections made during last year's working visit to Germany, in May the Lieutenant Governor took part in a panel discussion on sustainable finance jointly hosted by the German and French consulates general in Toronto.

In August 2019, Her Honour hosted a working luncheon to mark the fifth anniversary of SheEO, a Toronto-based, women-driven initiative that aims to disrupt traditional economic models of innovation and funding. Present at the luncheon were members of the initiative's funding community. Her Honour positively noted the organization's commitment to approaching the Sustainable Development Goals as "the world's to-do list". In Toronto in March 2020, Ms. Dowdeswell addressed the SheEO Global Summit, an opportunity for entrepreneurs from across the country to come together to celebrate businesses founded and led by women.

One particular economic sector became an area of focus: recognizing the broad, cross-cultural appeal of art and clothing, the Lieutenant Governor continued to engage with established and emerging figures within the fashion and textiles industries in dialogue about ways for the sector to advance the sustainability agenda.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the efforts of people and organizations working to divert textiles from landfills. In April 2019, she visited the Salvation Army Thrift Store at the Brampton Community Recycling Centre, where she met staff members, volunteers, and participants in the Textile Diversion and Recycling Symposium organized by the Ontario Textile Diversion Collaborative.



*Her Honour meets students involved in a clothing swap at Swansea Public School in Toronto, April 2019.*

Also in April, Her Honour addressed the Buy Good Feel Good Expo in Toronto, where she noted the rise of eco-consumerism while encouraging social enterprises from around the world that are seeking to transform traditional business models.

Later in April, she attended a clothing swap held at Swansea Public School in Toronto in partnership with Fashion Takes Action, a non-profit organization that seeks to advance sustainability in the fashion industry through education, awareness, and collaboration.

In October, Her Honour hosted a reception to mark the launch of a textile recycling awareness campaign sponsored by the Ontario Textile Diversion Collaborative, a multi-stakeholder group under the umbrella of Fashion Takes Action.

In January 2020, Her Honour visited FGF Foods in Toronto, where she learned about efforts by company officials and workers to put a focus on sustainability and innovation in all their forms at the heart of their operations. Also in January, Her Honour met with philanthropist and Paramount Fine Foods CEO Mohamad Fakih to discuss the role of businesses in responding to social challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic.

## **Environmental stewardship**

Many Ontarians have demonstrated concern for Ontario's natural landscape, expressing a desire to do what they can in their own communities and beyond to act as stewards of the environment. Her Honour emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary and systemic approaches to addressing environmental pressures and challenges, noting the many dimensions of environmental stewardship: responding to climate change; conserving and protecting air, water, land, and biodiversity. She challenged Ontarians to consider the link between a thriving economy and a healthy environment upon which it depends. She encouraged active engagement with Indigenous people and underrepresented communities when taking environmentally related decisions.

In April 2019, the Lieutenant Governor addressed celebrations in Vaughan marking the 20th anniversary of the Humber River's designation as a part of the Canadian Heritage River System. Together with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Her Honour noted the river's enduring cultural significance while praising those who work to steward the river for generations to come.

At the Toronto Zoo in May, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the media launch of *Washed Ashore: Art To Save The Sea*, an installation by American artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi featuring large-scale animal sculptures built from discarded plastic collected from the world's oceans and waterways.

In Prince Edward County in June, Her Honour participated in a beach cleanup on the shores of Lake Ontario organized by A Greener Future, a Canadian non-profit that works with local communities to promote environmental preservation through litter cleanups, educational programs, and events.

In September, the Lieutenant Governor partnered with the Chicago-based Environmental Law and Policy Centre to host a symposium marking the release of the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Authored by 145 leading international experts from 50 countries, and with nearly 15,000 references, the report presents a "definitive new global synthesis of the state of nature, ecosystems and nature's contributions to people". The symposium was an opportunity for members of the Canadian and American diplomatic community, as well as representatives of educational and civil society institutions to consider how the report's findings relate to the Great Lakes region. In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell emphasized the importance of viewing issues and potential solutions through a multidisciplinary lens and of effectively communicating scientific findings with the public, stakeholders, and policy makers alike.

In November, Her Honour hosted a reception to mark the 80th anniversary of Nature Canada and the fifth anniversary of Women for Nature. In her remarks, she noted the importance of strong role models in achieving environmental progress. Also in November, Her Honour addressed 50th anniversary celebrations for Pollution Probe, where she also presented the organization's inaugural Peter Middleton Legacy Award.

In November, Ms. Dowdeswell participated in the Generation Green Youth Un-Conference in Oakville. The event, organized by the youth wing of the Halton Climate Collective, was an opportunity for young leaders to come together to share ideas about addressing the climate crisis. In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell noted the increasing role of young people in raising awareness and driving action on an international scale.

Throughout the year, the Lieutenant Governor continued to highlight *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch*, a multidisciplinary body of work from world-renowned artistic collaborators Nicholas de Pencier, Edward Burtynsky, and Jennifer Baichwal. The project viscerally depicts humanity's significant impact on the Earth's geology and ecosystems and is a call for all to embrace the sustainability agenda.



*Her Honour visits Washed Ashore: Art To Save The Sea at the Toronto Zoo, May 2019.*

## *Social cohesion*

Truly successful communities are greater than the sum of their parts. In short, this is what is meant by social cohesion. How are we to be secure in our identities and at home in our communities? How do we articulate and work to achieve collective aspirations? To what extent are we able to embrace diversity as a strength and work to ensure that everyone has a meaningful opportunity to contribute? Throughout many engagements, the Lieutenant Governor has encouraged Ontarians to reflect on these questions.

In Newmarket in October 2019, Her Honour addressed 35th anniversary celebrations for the Literacy Council of York-Simcoe, during which Ms. Dowdeswell commended the organization's network of staff, supporters, and volunteers for their efforts to foster inclusion among both longstanding community members and newcomers. Also in October, Her Honour addressed the annual awards dinner of Yorktown Family Services, congratulating the organization's community of staff, supporters, and volunteers for their commitment to social cohesion.

In April 2019, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a documentary screening and panel discussion about the Canada C3 expedition, during which a diverse group of 300 Canadians travelled from coast to coast to coast by icebreaker as part of Canada 150 celebrations in 2017. Voyagers met scientists, artists, Indigenous Elders, immigrants, historians, young people, community leaders, and journalists while conducting scientific research, creating music and art, and developing a deeper understanding of Canada's geography and culture. The panel discussion was an opportunity for Ms. Dowdeswell to reconnect with many voyagers, whom she had met during a send-off event at Toronto Harbour in June two years earlier, and to hear lessons learned.



*Her Honour takes part in a citizenship ceremony on Canada Day in Toronto, July 2019.*

In Toronto in April 2019, Her Honour received Catalina Devandas Aguilar, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, during her official visit to Canada. The two discussed Ontario's approach to serving people with disabilities and, in particular, efforts to empower women with disabilities and women's access to education.

In May, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the 15th annual Canadian Helen Keller Centre Award Luncheon, held in Toronto by the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons, of which Her Honour is honorary patron. In February 2020, she addressed the Great Valentine Gala, held annually in Toronto in support of the foundation.

Citizenship ceremonies are always meaningful events. The Lieutenant Governor hosted a citizenship ceremony in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in June 2019. On Canada Day, she welcomed new citizens during a ceremony in Toronto. She also addressed a citizenship ceremony in Scarborough in March 2020.

In September 2019, Her Honour hosted a reception paying tribute to private refugee sponsors and people and organizations supporting Canada's private sponsorship of refugees program. The event was held in partnership with the Hon. Ratna Omidvar, an internationally recognized voice on migration, diversity, and inclusion, and an independent senator for Ontario.

In October, Her Honour addressed the CNIB Foundation's Connecting the Dots Conference, the country's largest educational and professional development conference focused on technology, employment and literacy for people with sight loss.

In December, Her Honour hosted a holiday reception to honour the work of the Mosaic Institute, a non-profit organization that fosters dialogue advancing justice, promoting peace, and reducing conflict. Earlier in the year in May in Toronto, she had presented the organization's Peace Patron Award to Gen. John de Chastelain in recognition of his work in support of the Northern Ireland peace process.

In Mississauga in February 2020, Her Honour joined community and faith leaders for an information session addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, hosted by the Association of Progressive Muslims of Canada in collaboration with the Mississauga Board of Chinese Business Professionals.

## Ontario in the world

The Lieutenant Governor has noted that many Ontarians view engagement with people and places beyond our borders as both an opportunity and an obligation, and therefore regularly undertook engagements shining light on Ontarians working, studying, and living abroad.

In June 2019, Her Honour received participants of the Global Urban Citizen Program, an exchange program between sister cities Toronto and Frankfurt, Germany, hosted by Maximum City, a sustainability education firm based in Toronto. This meeting with students from Carl-Schurz-Schule was an opportunity for Ms. Dowdeswell to welcome to Ontario staff and students whom she had met during a working visit to Germany earlier in the year. In September, she hosted participants of the Young Transatlantic Leadership Program, a Canadian-German student exchange. In Toronto in November, she attended the annual Canadian German Gala Ball of the Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

In June the Lieutenant Governor hosted delegates to the annual conference of the International Association of Language Commissioners. In her remarks, she noted that 2019 was the International Year of Indigenous Languages and spoke to the important role of language commissioners in supporting flourishing cultures.

In Toronto in November, the Lieutenant Governor considered Canada's role in fostering productive international relations and governance while addressing *The Rise and Fall of the Liberal International Order*, a workshop co-hosted by NATO Association of Canada and the Defence and Security Foresight Group.

In October, Her Honour addressed *Canadians Changing the World: Mobilizing for Global Leadership*, a conference in Toronto marking the 100th anniversary of Canada's participation as an independent delegation in the Paris Peace Talks and the subsequent century of Canadian diplomacy. Hosted by Global Canada and the Canadian International Council, the conference was an opportunity to envision the country's future role in international affairs.

### ***Working visit to Milwaukee and Chicago***

In May 2019, the Lieutenant Governor travelled to Wisconsin and Illinois, conducting 12 engagements over three days. The working visit was an opportunity to highlight the role of subnational jurisdictions in addressing the management of a shared water ecosystem, the climate crisis, and other environmental challenges, as well as the importance of international collaboration.

In Milwaukee, Her Honour met with Canadian consular officials and local representatives, and attended a roundtable on Great Lakes issues organized at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences. The highlight was addressing the opening performance of the Canadian musical *Come from Away*.

In Chicago, Her Honour took part in a roundtable on Great Lakes issues organized by the Environmental Law and Policy Centre, during which she emphasized the enduring cross-border cultural significance of the Great Lakes. While in the city, she met consular officials and toured the Chicago Architecture Centre and the Wabash Arts Corridor at Columbia College Chicago.



*Her Honour visits the Wabash Arts Corridor in Chicago, May 2019.*

### **Working visits to New York City**

In May 2019, the Lieutenant Governor travelled to New York City to attend the annual gala of the Council for Canadian American Relations, an opportunity to highlight the deep cultural ties between our two nations while reinforcing the connection between the arts and social cohesion. Ms. Dowdeswell also discussed technology and innovation with Sidewalk Labs CEO Dan Doctoroff at his office at Hudson Yards. While in New York she conducted four engagements over two days.

In September 2019, the Lieutenant Governor travelled to New York City for Climate Week, taking part in 22 engagements over three days. While in New York, Her Honour met with diplomatic representatives and staff attached to the United Nations, took part in a working breakfast hosted by the Nature Conservancy, attended several panel discussions and conference sessions, and addressed a dinner honouring the late former Executive Director of UN Environment the Hon. Maurice Strong. Ms. Dowdeswell spoke of Climate Week experience during a Facebook Live conversation hosted by the youth division of SDSN Canada, a network of universities, colleges, research centers, and knowledge institutions that promote practical solutions for sustainable development.

### **Working visit to Switzerland and Germany**

In June 2019, the Lieutenant Governor travelled to Switzerland and German as part of the *Awakening* art exhibition tour, conducting 16 engagements over five days. The working visit was an opportunity to reinforce existing cultural, commercial, and governmental ties while highlighting people and institutions working to advance the sustainability agenda.

In Geneva, Her Honour met with diplomatic representatives and, in partnership with the Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, hosted a roundtable with mission staff. Ms. Dowdeswell also visited SDG Lab and met with the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The highlight of the visit to Geneva was a reception held at UN Office to celebrate the *Awakening* exhibition.

In Germany, Her Honour travelled to Heidelberg, Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, and Frankfurt. Throughout, Ms. Dowdeswell met with local officials and students, and toured cultural institutions. She also visited the offices of chemical company BASF, where she spoke with company officers about sustainability.

### **Working visit to the United Kingdom**

In July 2019, the Lieutenant Governor returned to London to attend the Global Conference for Media Freedom jointly convened by the British and Canadian governments, conducting five engagements over two days. As part of the conference, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted a roundtable focusing on media persecution, during which she emphasized a strong journalistic sector as an essential part of a healthy democracy.

### **Working visit to Denmark**

In October 2019, the Lieutenant Governor travelled to Copenhagen to take part in the C40 World Mayors Summit, attending 17 engagements over three days. Highlights include dinner with the Crown Prince and Princess of Denmark and meetings with diplomatic officials and representatives of the Toronto delegation. As part of the conference, Ms. Dowdeswell addressed a panel discussion focusing on city leadership for inclusive action on the climate–migration nexus.

The Lieutenant Governor's attendance at the summit was an opportunity to build upon her focused engagement at the municipal level in Ontario. Upon returning home, Her Honour took care to share knowledge gained at the summit. To that end, in December she convened a number of mayors of municipalities in Ontario with approved sustainability plans to share insights and best practices. Present was David Miller, North American Director of the C40 Climate Leadership Group and former chair

*Her Honour and David Miller,  
North American Director of the  
C40 Climate Leadership Group,  
in Copenhagen, October 2019.*



of C40 Cities, to provide a recap of the C40 World Mayors Summit, held in September. Also present was Dr. Patricia McCarney, president and CEO of the World Council on City Data, who briefed the mayors on the potential of data-informed policy to drive co-ordinated responses to climate change.

## Democracy

The Lieutenant Governor plays an important role in fostering a strong civic community, spreading awareness of our democratic inheritance, and encouraging good citizenship. At engagements throughout the year, Her Honour called upon people to consider how they can leave their own positive impact while strengthening democracy.

In May 2019, the Lieutenant Governor welcomed student participants in the Legislative Assembly's public programs marking International Day of Democracy.

Also in May, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Ministry of Labour. Addressing parliamentarians, public servants, and labour movement representatives, Her Honour noted the historical role of labour activism in supporting Ontario on its journey to becoming an economic powerhouse within Confederation and a technology and innovation hub on a global scale.

In June, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception to mark the fourth Conference on the Crown organized by the Institute for the Study of the Crown in Canada. Attended by scholars from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom, the conference was an opportunity to consider the health of core constitutional institutions.

Her Honour met with each intake of the Legislative Page Program at Queen's Park, as well as with participants of the Legislative Assembly's high school and post-secondary model parliaments. In October 2019, she addressed a Model United Nations conference for high school students in Burlington.

The Lieutenant Governor recognizes the role of a strong and independent media as essential to a healthy democracy. In June 2019 in Toronto, Her Honour addressed the 20th annual convention of the Media Ecology Association. In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell spoke of the ever-important role of a trusted media sector in shepherding people through misinformation and in building a culture in which truth flourishes.

In December, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a panel discussion on media freedom in partnership with advocacy organization Journalists for Human Rights. A goal of the event was to help inform the agenda of the upcoming second Global Conference for Media Freedom, to be jointly hosted by the Canadian and British governments in Canada in late 2020.

In December 2019, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the unveiling of the official portrait of Kathleen Wynne, 25th Premier of Ontario. In her remarks, she reflected on the importance of symbols and traditions of governance. While commenting on the nature of leadership, she paid tribute to Ms. Wynne's record of public service, noting the symbolic importance of visitors to Queen's Park being able to see the portrait of Ontario's first woman head of government.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the Crown's unique role in Canada's constitution while addressing 50th anniversary celebrations of the Monarchist League of Canada, of which she is honorary patron, in February 2020 in Toronto.



*Her Honour hosts a panel discussion on media freedom in partnership with Journalists for Human Rights, December 2019.*



*Her Honour, joined by Premier Doug Ford, attends the unveiling of the official portrait of former Premier Kathleen Wynne, December 2019.*



*Her Honour poses with members of the Samara Centre for Democracy at the launch of Speaking of Democracy, April 2019.*

## **Speaking of Democracy**

In April 2019, Her Honour launched *Speaking of Democracy*, an art exhibition presented in partnership with the Samara Centre for Democracy. The exhibition features quotes considering the roots of, threats to, and promise of democracy. On display in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite as well as online, the exhibition offers multiple perspectives on democracy while encouraging visitors to consider how they themselves can work to strengthen and promote democracy in their communities.

In addition to being featured during public tours of Queen's Park, *Speaking of Democracy* inspired the organization of Dare to Discuss, a forum on democratic engagement held at Queen's Park with the support of Elections Ontario in September 2019. The exhibition

was also the centrepiece of a reception recognizing Democracy Week hosted in partnership with the Samara Centre for Democracy. In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell noted that democracy is not a spectator sport and praised organizations that seek to get ordinary people involved in how we govern ourselves.

### ***Democracy at the local level***

Ms. Dowdeswell strongly believes that democracy begins at home and that a healthy democracy depends on strong engagement at the municipal level, the order of government closest to the people. To this end, she continued to engage directly with representatives of local governments during official visits to the province's municipalities.

In Toronto in October 2019, Her Honour spoke of the potential of municipal governments to solve intractable problems while addressing the inaugural Urban Economy Forum, jointly organized by UN-Habitat, International City Leaders, and the Urban Economy Forum Association. The forum was an opportunity for cities, financial institutions, and the private sector to come together to discuss enhancing the efficiency of urban economy with a view to creating sustainable development markets.

In August 2019, Her Honour invited women mayors in Ontario to a fireside chat with the federal Minister of Women and Gender Equality focusing on *Women Deliver*, a triennial conference hosted by Canada in Vancouver earlier in June.

In Toronto in January 2020, Her Honour addressed the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference, during which she pointed to success stories of small communities making a positive impact on the sustainability agenda.

### ***Annual Conference of the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors, and Territorial Commissioners***

For the first time since its formal establishment, the Annual Conference of the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors, and Territorial Commissioners took place in Toronto. Hosted by Ms. Dowdeswell, the three-day conference was an opportunity for members of the Viceregal Family to exchange best practices and discuss issues of mutual concern.

The conference featured dialogue sessions with thought leaders on topics ranging from modern communications to the role of the Crown in fostering resilience amid societal change.

A highlight of the conference was a sunrise welcome ceremony at the recently designated Chapel Royal at Massey College, during which the Lieutenant Governor and her viceregal colleagues presented tobacco to Elder Gary Sault of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and also participated in a circle dance around a sacred fire. The ceremony was followed by an address by National Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Assembly of First Nations. Both events were opportunities to pay tribute to the enduring relationship between the Crown and First Nations people in Canada. To mark the occasion, the Ontario Heritage Trust unveiled a plaque within the chapel featuring a message in English, French, and Ojibwe.

# Constitutional role



## Representing the Crown

*Her Honour and the Chief Electoral Officer sign by-election writs, January 2020.*

Canada is a constitutional monarchy with The Queen as Sovereign and head of state. In Ontario, the Lieutenant Governor is The Queen'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 Government of the day.

## Responsible government

The foundation of Ontario's democracy is "responsible government", which simply means that:

- The Crown acts upon formal advice
- The Executive (Government) is responsible to the Legislature for its advice

The Government (Premier and Cabinet ministers) is formally appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and advises on the use of the Crown's authority according to law and is accountable to the elected Legislative Assembly for its decisions and actions while in office.

Provided the Government enjoys the "confidence" of the Legislative Assembly, its advice is invariably accepted and legitimized by the Crown. If the Government loses a confidence question raised in the Legislative Assembly, then it must either resign, making way for a new Government to be appointed, or submit to the will of citizens in a general election.

The Lieutenant Governor holds regular meetings with the Premier, during which she has the right to be consulted, to encourage, and to warn on government matters. If either the Lieutenant Governor or the Premier is not available to meet, they may speak by phone. These meetings, as with all communications between the Lieutenant Governor and the Government, remain confidential in order to promote an open and productive exchange of views.

## Powers and responsibilities

In Ontario, the Lieutenant Governor exercises the powers of the Crown, which derive from the written constitution, constitutional convention (political rules of the constitution), and statute law. These powers are similar to those of The Queen and Governor General with regard to Parliament and the federal government.

The Lieutenant Governor:

- Ensures that Ontario always has a Premier who is able to command the confidence of the Legislative Assembly
- Appoints members of the Executive Council (Cabinet ministers) on the advice of the Premier
- Summons, prorogues, and dissolves the Legislature on the advice of the Premier
- Reads the Speech from the Throne at the beginning of a parliamentary session
- Grants Royal Assent, the final step of the legislative process, to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly
- Orders elections to the Legislative Assembly on the advice of Cabinet, in accordance with the *Election Act*
- Approves government business such as regulations and public appointments by signing Orders-in-Council on the advice of Cabinet

The Lieutenant Governor remains strictly nonpartisan in carrying out her constitutional duties. In doing so, the Lieutenant Governor ensures that the democratic will of Ontarians and their elected representatives is upheld and that the constitutional conventions of responsible government are respected.

## Facts and figures

The Lieutenant Governor routinely reviews and formally approves parliamentary and government decisions. For example, during the 2019 calendar year, Her Honour assented to 31 bills and approved 1,963 orders-in-council (including 340 regulations). This is in addition to numerous other documents including public appointment commissions, letters patent under the *Public Lands Act* and the *Mining Act*, papers tabled by ministers in the Legislative Assembly, and writs of election.

## Administrator

If the Lieutenant Governor is absent, ill, or unable to act, the Administrator of the Government of Ontario may execute the office and functions of the Lieutenant Governor. By order of the Governor-General in Council, the Chief Justice of Ontario and other judges of the courts of Ontario, in order of seniority, are empowered to act as Administrator as needed.

# Bringing people together



## Indigenous peoples

The Lieutenant Governor attempts to engage frequently with representatives of Indigenous communities, ensure Indigenous representation at events wherever possible, and create opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together in dialogue. Throughout the year, the Lieutenant Governor visited First Nations communities, including Wahnapitae First Nation (May 2019) and the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte (August 2019).

In November, Her Honour addressed the signing ceremony for *Ezhi-Wijikiwendiyang*, a friendship accord between Indigenous communities and municipal authorities in Peterborough County.

The Lieutenant Governor continued to engage with *UNCEDED: Voices of the Land*, Canada's entry in the 2018 Venice Architectural Biennale, the world's foremost exhibition of contemporary architecture. In May 2019, Her Honour addressed the opening of *UNCEDED* at the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa. Led by renowned architect Douglas Cardinal, this ground-breaking project takes inspiration from the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and offers the international community a new understanding of the enduring laws, customs, and traditions of First Peoples.

In July, the Lieutenant Governor travelled to Caledon to meet participants of the Indigenous Youth Employment and Mentorship Program at Camp Bolton, a joint initiative of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the University of Toronto Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design. The following month, Her Honour welcomed program participants to the Lieutenant Governor's Suite during a visit to Queen's Park.

In August, the Lieutenant Governor attended the opening of the Bear's Den All Nations Traditional Medicine Sweat Lodge on the grounds of Michael Garron Hospital in Toronto. The sweat lodge is part

*Her Honour visits the Heart Lake Conservation Area in Brampton, July 2019.*



*Her Honour meets women and girls following a traditional meal during a visit to Wahnapitae First Nation, May 2019.*

of the Toronto East Health Network's Aboriginal Healing Program, which provides culturally sensitive wellness services.

Also in August, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the annual Three Fires Homecoming Pow Wow hosted by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

In September, Her Honour hosted a roundtable on urban Indigenous placemaking attended by City of Toronto staff and a delegation from Sydney, Australia. Throughout, Ms. Dowdeswell emphasized that future societal resilience depends upon reconciliation, while also noting the potential of art and culture to create opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together.

In Ottawa in March 2020, Her Honour attended the annual awards ceremony of Indspire, which honours First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement.

Her Honour continued to support the Lieutenant Governor's Indigenous Summer Reading Camps, a joint program of literacy organization Frontier College and First Nations communities aimed at reducing summer learning loss and building enjoyment and confidence in reading among young people. In December, she hosted a reception to thank supporters of the program.

## Women and girls

The Lieutenant Governor frequently conducts engagements underscoring the endless potential of women and girls to make meaningful contributions to social and economic life in Ontario and elsewhere. In doing so, Her Honour has emphasized the importance of engaging people of all genders in addressing the challenges, and exploring the opportunities, brought by a complex and interdependent world.

In April 2019, the Lieutenant Governor welcomed participants in *A Remarkable Assembly*, a forum bringing together 124 young women representing each riding in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The forum is an opportunity for participants to represent their community, meet prominent women and key parliamentary figures, and gain a behind-the-scenes perspective the Legislative Assembly.

To mark Persons Day in October, Her Honour hosted a reception for members of the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario.

To mark International Women's Day in March 2020, Her Honour addressed *Breakfast with Bright Minds*, a working breakfast in Markham bringing together local women leaders and role models. In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell noted the importance of women having a seat at local governance tables.

*Her Honour poses with members of the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario, October 2019.*



## Young people

Her Honour regularly encouraged youth volunteerism and community service. To this end, she presided at presentation ceremonies of the The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award in May 2019 and at Gold Award ceremonies in June and November. She also presided over the presentation of The Queen's Venturer Award of Scouts Canada during a ceremony at Queen's Park in October 2019.

In Toronto in April, Her Honour addressed the Tech4Good Connected North on Ice Challenge, a hockey tournament supporting Connected North, a program that connects schools in remote Northern communities to experts, content partners, and educational venues like galleries and museums.

In May, Her Honour took part in celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of Kids Help Phone. In Spring 2020, she commended the organization for its work in helping young people cope with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In May, Her Honour visited Pickering College in Newmarket, where she met students participating in the school's global leadership program. In October, Her Honour visited the Children's International Learning Centre in Hamilton. Founded to mark the 20th anniversary of the United Nations in 1970, the organization, of which Ms. Dowdeswell is honorary patron, collects artifacts from around the world and works with local schools and libraries to offer students opportunities to learn about people and places beyond our borders.

To mark National Child Day in November 2019, Her Honour addressed a forum hosted in Ottawa by Children First Canada. The event was an opportunity to foster intergenerational ties and to highlight stories of young people who have excelled in addressing the sustainability agenda.

In December, Her Honour recognized winners of Forest Ontario's TreeBee and Envirothon student competitions, encouraging them and other young people to continue learning about nature and environmental stewardship.

In Toronto in February 2020, Her Honour addressed Big Data Day, the culmination of a national competition organized by the STEM Fellowship in which high school students propose solutions to global challenges through creative data analysis. In her remarks, she emphasized the increasing importance of digital citizenship for public discourse.



*Her Honour poses with recipients of The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award, May 2019.*

## Higher education

During the course of community visits around the province, the Lieutenant Governor sought to include representatives of colleges and universities and to engage with students whenever possible. She also welcomed the generous invitations of many institutions to attend lectures and events that continued to broaden her horizons.

In addition to events taking place at public colleges and universities around Ontario, Her Honour paid official visits to Algonquin College (Ottawa, May 2019) and the University of Toronto Mississauga (August 2019).

At McMaster University in Hamilton in October 2019, Her Honour addressed the annual conference of the Magna Charta Universitatum, a grouping of more than 800 universities in nearly 90 countries that have signed the Magna Charta Universitatum, a document setting out fundamental principles for universities. Her Honour presided over ceremony in which representatives from 15 institutions of higher learning signed the document, the first time that this took place in Canada.

In October, Her Honour addressed the opening of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation's office at Massey College in Toronto. The new office follows the dedication of the Chapel Royal at Massey College in 2017. Earlier in the year in July, Ms. Dowdeswell attended a reception marking the selection of Nathalie Des Rosiers as the college's new principal.

Also in October, Her Honour attended the installation of Linda Hasenfratz as Chancellor of Western University in London.

In March 2020, Her Honour delivered a guest lecture during a colloquium held in Toronto for students of Glendon College's master of public and international affairs program.

## Science, technology, health, and innovation

The Lieutenant Governor recognizes the importance of scientific exploration and the encouragement of innovation, frequently noting that societies are most successful in addressing shared challenges when they are able to combine conventional wisdom with new modes of thinking. Her Honour often took part in events supporting Ontario's leading role in promoting knowledge-based economies.

As honorary patron of the Ontario Science Centre's 50th anniversary celebrations, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception for members of the science centre community in April 2019. In September, she addressed the science centre's annual Innovators Ball in Toronto, where she spoke of the institution's enduring contributions to scientific literacy in Ontario and beyond.

In Kitchener in April 2019, the Lieutenant Governor presented awards to Ontario finalists in the Pitch@Palace Canada entrepreneurship program. In May, Her Honour attended the national finals in Toronto.

In May 2019, Her Honour took part in the inaugural Collision conference in Toronto. The conference brought together people and firms aimed at disrupting the global tech industry.

In Toronto in July, the Lieutenant Governor presented the Lawrence J. Burpee Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society to renowned astrophysicist Dr. Brian May. In Ottawa in November, Her Honour presented additional medals during the society's annual fellows dinner.



Her Honour congratulates astrophysicist Dr. Brian May on receiving the Lawrence J. Burpee Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, July 2019.

During a visit to McMaster University in October, Her Honour visited the DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research, where she learned about Ontario's contributions to global health.

In Toronto in December, Her Honour presented the 2019 Sanford Fleming Medal and Citation of the Royal Canadian Institute for Science, of which she is vice-patron, to renowned science journalist Dan Falk.

In Toronto in February 2020, Her Honour addressed the presentation of the John Charles Polanyi Prizes, given annually to up to five postdoctoral researchers in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and economic science. In her remarks, she noted the important role of Canada in championing innovation on a global scale.

In Ottawa in February, Her Honour addressed a gala in support of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. In her remarks, she paid tribute to medical innovators working at the hospital's youth concussion clinic.

Also in February 2020, Her Honour hosted *Mission from MaRS*, a working dinner and networking event that brought together representatives of start-ups based at MaRS in Toronto and potential funders with the aim of supporting climate innovation. The initiative followed Ms. Dowdeswell's visit to the MaRS Discovery District in October 2019, where as part of Nuit Blanche she viewed *Transformation*, an art exhibition that depicts an environment in crisis.

In March, Her Honour hosted a reception to mark the 20th anniversary of Mitacs, a national non-profit organization that seeks to foster research-based solutions to business-related challenges by connecting businesses with academic institutions.

## Arts and culture

The Lieutenant Governor recognizes the potential within the arts to foster social cohesion and promote shared cultural understanding. To this end, Her Honour interacted with heritage, arts, and cultural organizations while travelling throughout Ontario, noting their unique ability to unite community members from all walks of life.

In October 2019, Her Honour addressed the Spirit of the Hills Art Festival in Cobourg. In her remarks, she noted the ability of the arts to foster shared interests and person-to-person ties, more important than ever as we navigate these early years of the 21st century.



*Her Honour visits the Textile Museum of Canada, January 2020.*

### ***Museums and cultural institutions***

Throughout the year, Ms. Dowdeswell delighted in supporting and attending numerous exhibitions and events at museums and cultural institutions across Ontario, including the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto (of which she is honorary patron), the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto (of which she is honorary patron), the Textile Museum of Canada in Toronto (of which she is honorary patron), and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Vaughan.

In April 2019, Her Honour delivered the Fellows Lecture during the Canadian Museums Association's annual conference. In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell highlighted recent trends in museum innovation and the role of cultural institutions in fostering shared identities.

### ***Support for the written word***

In October 2019, Her Honour paid tribute to writers and lovers of the written word during several events taking place as part of the International Festival of Authors in Toronto, including a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Booker Prize for Fiction. In November, she attended the Writers' Trust Gala and the presentation of the Scotiabank Giller Prize, both in Toronto. In January 2020, she attended the annual gala in support of *The Walrus*, a current affairs magazine based in Toronto.

### ***Performing arts and film***

In addition to supporting opera, ballet, symphony, theatre, and film productions in the GTA whenever possible throughout the year, Ms. Dowdeswell attended several performances as part of annual festivals, including the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival (Toronto), the Shaw Festival (Niagara-on-the-Lake), the Elora Festival (Centre Wellington), the

Toronto Summer Music Festival, the Toronto International Film Festival, and the Stratford Festival. In Toronto in October 2019, Her Honour addressed the opening of the Reelworld Film Festival.

Her Honour also attended performances by leading musical groups, including Opera Atelier (Toronto), the National Youth Orchestra, the Women's Musical Club of Toronto, and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir.

In Ottawa in April 2019, Her Honour attended the presentation of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards. In Toronto in May, Her Honour addressed the presentation of the Pauline McGibbon Award, which recognizes emerging members of Ontario's theatre community.

In June, Her Honour addressed celebrations marking the 125th anniversary of Toronto performing arts venue Massey Hall.

Also in June in Toronto, Her Honour attended several events as part of the Luminato Festival, an annual celebration featuring commissioned works from a diverse group of artists representing dozens of countries. The festival highlights the indispensable role of the arts in supporting dialogue and inclusion.

Throughout the year the Lieutenant Governor supported *Brotherhood*, a new Canadian film that retells the story of young people and veterans who tragically lost their lives in a thunderstorm during a canoe trip in Kawartha Lakes in the 1920s, as well as lasting community effects of the accident. Winner of a 2020 Canadian Screen Award for achievement in visual effects, *Brotherhood* is a testament to both human sacrifice and in the face of tragedy.

Her Honour often reflected on the vibrancy of the arts community in Ontario. In Toronto in February, she attended the premiere of the musical *Hamilton* at the Ed Mirvish Theatre. In March, also in Toronto, Her Honour attended performances by the National Ballet of Canada, as well as pianist James Rhodes' Canadian debut concert, organized by the Glenn Gould Foundation.

## Sports and recreation

Her Honour recognizes the important role of sports and outdoor activities in our culture. When addressing athletes and spectators throughout the year, Her Honour emphasized the ability of athletics to promote active lifestyles, develop personal confidence and leadership skills, and foster social cohesion.

In Toronto in May 2019, Her Honour joined members of the Disabled Sailing Association of Ontario during a barbecue marking the organization's 20th season.

In July, Her Honour attended the 160th running of the Queen's Plate at Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto as guest of honour.

Also in July, Her Honour addressed the opening of the Outdoor Minor Track Association provincial championships in Brampton.

In September, Her Honour hosted a reception to mark the 35th anniversary of the Lieutenant Governor's Games at Variety Village. Founded by the Hon. John Aird, 23rd Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (1980-1985), the games are an opportunity for children with disabilities to engage in athletic and fitness activities. Ms. Dowdeswell is honorary patron of Variety Village.

## Community celebrations and inclusion

In keeping with her focus on social cohesion, the Lieutenant Governor endeavoured to pay tribute to individuals and community organizations honouring excellence and achievement while fostering inclusion.

In March 2020, Her Honour read The Queen's Commonwealth Day message during a service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto.

In April 2019, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a presentation ceremony for the Ordre de la Pléiade de l'Association des parlementaires de langue française, an honorary order of the Organisation internationale de la francophonie. The order recognizes individuals who distinguish themselves in promoting the French language.

Throughout the year she attended a variety of festivals, including the Pan American Food and Music Festival in Toronto (August 2019) and the Toronto Biennial of Art (September 2019).



Her Honour celebrates the 35th anniversary of the Lieutenant Governor's Games at Variety Village, September 2019.

In Toronto in November, the Lieutenant Governor hosted the premiere of *Private Eyes*, a series of six short plays created to mark the 50th anniversary of the *Criminal Law Amendment Act*, widely acknowledged as the first step to decriminalize homosexuality in Canada. Commissioned in partnership with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador and produced by lemonTree creations (Toronto) and Power Productions (Newfoundland and Labrador), *Private Eyes* considers the anniversary's complicated history and highlights the struggles that many continue to face within the queer, Indigenous, racialized, and disability communities. The plays are available to be performed free of charge by interested theatre groups thanks to the financial support of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

In February 2020, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the opening of the Kuumba Festival, which in its 25th year is Toronto's longest running Black History Month festival. Also in February, Her Honour viewed *The Heart of Africa: Retracing our History*, an exhibition at the Old Town Hall in Newmarket; she was joined by participants of Girls on the Rise, a program offered by the Trust 15 Youth Community Support Organization that is dedicated to improving literacy, writing skills, and positive expression among young girls from Toronto's Rexdale community.

In February, the Lieutenant Governor presented the Ontario Heritage Trust's inaugural Thomas Symons Award for Commitment to Conservation, paying tribute to the pioneering example of the award's namesake in fostering widespread of heritage conservation in the province.



Her Honour visits cast members before the premiere of *Private Eyes*, November 2019.

## Volunteerism and philanthropy

Throughout the year, the Lieutenant Governor recognized the ideals of service and altruism demonstrated by volunteers and members of the philanthropic community. In doing so, Her Honour made a point of highlighting the power of individual action.

In Toronto in May 2019, Her Honour took part in celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the W. Garfield Weston Foundation. Also in May, Her Honour paid tribute to long-time volunteers and donors at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, where she presented the Lieutenant Governor's Distinguished Service Award.

In May, the Lieutenant Governor met volunteers while taking part in Project Ramadan, a food basket packing and distribution project of the Muslim Welfare Centre in Toronto. In September, she visited the Women's Mosque of Canada in Toronto.

In September, at the invitation of Global Medic, a humanitarian organization providing emergency relief and supplies to people experiencing natural disasters and complex emergencies, Her Honour joined volunteers packing aid supplies destined for the Bahamas following Hurricane Dorian.



Her Honour receives a warm welcome from a client during a visit to Haven Toronto, December 2019.  
(Photo: Dave Wannan)

In December, Her Honour visited Haven Toronto, a drop-in centre for homeless men aged 50 and over in downtown Toronto. Along with staff members of the Lieutenant Governor's Office, Ms. Dowdeswell volunteered serving lunch to nearly 100 of the centre's patrons.

In December, Her Honour addressed an award ceremony honouring long-standing volunteers of The Lifesaving Society (Ontario branch). Also in December, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception marking the Ontario Public Service's fundraising efforts in support of the United Way of Greater Toronto's annual holiday campaign.

# Representing Ontarians



*Her Honour meets veterans  
during the New Year's Levee in  
Thunder Bay, January 2020.*

## Official visits to communities

The Lieutenant Governor continued on a program of official visits to municipalities across Ontario. By visiting Ontarians in their own communities, Her Honour is able to get a better sense of the varied aspirations and concerns of residents, while at the same time learning about local initiatives in which they take pride. Official visits involve courtesy calls with mayors and local representatives, and have frequently included roundtables with residents, members of civil society, and community groups on topics having to do with economic, environmental, and social sustainability. Official visits often entail a civic reception and take place in conjunction with significant local events.

Her Honour paid an additional 10 official visits to municipalities, bringing the total number since the beginning of her tenure to 85:

- Peterborough (April 3)
- Brant (April 5)
- Belleville (April 12)
- Bradford West Gwillimbury (April 16)
- Welland (May 3)
- Georgian Bay (May 30)
- Clarence-Rockland (May 30)
- Niagara Falls (August 26)
- Orangeville (November 11)
- Collingwood (February 4)

Since the beginning of her time in office, Ms. Dowdeswell has conducted engagements in 115 municipalities across all of Ontario's 124 provincial ridings.

## Greater Ottawa tour

In May 2019, the Lieutenant Governor visited municipalities in the Ottawa region, conducting 13 engagements over three days. Highlights include official visits to Algonquin College and to the city of Clarence-Rockland, where she addressed nearly a thousand school children at the Très-Sainte-Trinité Church, opened an expansion of the Rockland Manor Senior Home, and celebrated the 125th anniversary of the St Albert Cheese Factory.

Ms. Dowdeswell made a point to visit the community of Constance Bay in Ottawa, which had experienced severe regional flooding earlier in the year. While touring a community support centre, Her Honour received a briefing from the site commander, paid tribute to staff and volunteers, and met affected residents. She later visited the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority in Nepean.

## New Year's Levee

On January 1, 2020, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted the Lieutenant Governor's annual New Year's Levee at the O'Kelly Armoury in Thunder Bay. A long-standing tradition, the levee is a unique opportunity for the public to meet The Queen's representative, learn about her role and responsibilities, and enjoy local entertainment.

The levee coincided with the 50th anniversary of the founding of Thunder Bay. Highlights of New Year's celebrations include a welcome brunch with the mayor and city councillors, public events at the Fort William Historical Park, a community skating party, and a visit to the residents of the Pioneer Ridge Long-Term Care Home and Seniors Centre.

While in Thunder Bay, Her Honour conducted a 13-engagement, two-day tour of the community, during which she visited local institutions representative of Thunder Bay's growth in all sectors and its progress in addressing challenges as a diverse municipality in Northern Ontario. For example, at the public library she learned about efforts to respond to systemic racism. During a tour of the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant, she met staff working on the city's award-winning climate adaptation plan. Finally, she spoke of her experience in Thunder Bay during an interview with young reporters.

## Hosting visitors

The Lieutenant Governor receives members of the Royal Family during their stays in Ontario, including The Countess of Wessex, who in November 2019 came to the province to visit with patronage and charity organizations, including Toronto-based hospitals, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Canada, and the networking and empowerment group 100 Women in Finance.

The Lieutenant Governor also receives world leaders, acting as Ontario's official host and providing opportunities to learn about and appreciate Canadians and Ontarians. Her Honour welcomed the presidents of Croatia and Ukraine, various parliamentary delegations, and numerous ambassadors, high commissioners, and consuls general.

In August 2019, Her Honour welcomed Princess Takamado of Japan during her visit to Canada. In addition to addressing a formal dinner marking the 90th anniversary of Canadian-Japanese diplomatic relations, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted a luncheon for the Princess in the company of mayors of Ontario municipalities twinned with Japanese cities.

In October 2019, Her Honour addressed the annual ball of the Toronto Consular Corps.



*Her Honour receives a briefing during a visit to the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, May 2019.*



*Her Honour joins The Countess of Wessex during a tour of the Toronto General Hospital, November 2019.*

# Service to the Crown and Remembrance

The Lieutenant Governor regularly promotes volunteer and public service in communities across Ontario, and maintains strong links with those who serve their neighbours, including members of the Canadian Forces and police, fire, and paramedic services.

## ***Canadian Forces***

Since 2011, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario has served ex officio as Colonel of the Regiment of The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment), a Primary Reserve unit in the Canadian Army. This honorary appointment recognizes the regiment's link to Colonel John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario), who commanded the regiment during the American War of Independence.

In April 2019, the Lieutenant Governor joined serving and retired Canadian military personnel at the Army Ball in Gatineau, Québec, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. In May, she attended the premiere of Historica Canada's D-Day Heritage Minute at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto. In June, she addressed a ceremony at the Ontario Veterans' Memorial at Queen's Park in Toronto marking the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

In May, Her Honour addressed the inaugural patron's dinner of the Royal Niagara Military Institute, in St. Catharines. In June, she took part in a change of command ceremony for the 4th Canadian Division of the Canadian Army, held at the Denison Armoury in Toronto.

In July, the Lieutenant Governor addressed a ceremony hosted in Brampton by the Korean Veterans Association of Canada marking the 65th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities of the Korean War.

In October, the Lieutenant Governor received the ceremonial first poppy in Ontario from the Royal Canadian Legion while visiting former service members and military families at the veterans centre of Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto.

In November, Her Honour addressed the rededication of a cenotaph in Ayr and participated in Remembrance Day commemorations in Orangeville.

## ***First responders***

The Lieutenant Governor presided at the Ontario police memorial service in May 2019. In October, Her Honour addressed the Ontario firefighters' memorial service.

In New Tecumseth in October, Her Honour attended the annual Ontario Provincial Police Mess Dinner, where she honoured newly commissioned OPP inspectors.

In Toronto in November Her Honour addressed the annual awards dinner of Commissionaires Great Lakes, a non-profit organization that seeks to provide employment opportunities to retired police and military members in the private security sector. Her Honour is honorary patron of the organization.

## ***Funerals and memorial services***

In July 2019, Ms. Dowdeswell attended the state funeral of the Hon. Tom Molloy, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan. In August, she attended the state funeral of the Hon. Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick.

In January 2020, the Lieutenant Governor took part in a memorial service hosted by the University of Toronto honouring victims of the Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 plane crash in Iran.

In January, Ms. Dowdeswell attended the funeral of Diane Ford, the mother of Premier Doug Ford. In March, she attended the funerals of renowned constitutional law scholar Peter Hogg and his wife, Frances.

# Honouring Ontarians



As the Crown's representative, the Lieutenant Governor plays an important role in recognizing Ontarians through the honours system. Honours and awards strengthen the fabric of Ontario's communities and shape the aspirations of Ontarians. They are a way to formally and publicly acknowledge the excellence, achievements, and contributions of role models from all walks of life.

*The insignia of the Order of Ontario consists of the royal crown and Ontario's shield of arms superimposed on a stylized trillium.*

## National honours

The Lieutenant Governor may present national honours, including the Order of Canada, bravery decorations, the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, and commemorative medals, on behalf of the Governor General.

As the Vice-Prior in Ontario of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, the Lieutenant Governor presided at an investiture of the Order of St John in June 2019. In Toronto in October, Her Honour addressed the annual gala of the St John Canada Foundation, expressing support for volunteer medical service by members of the Order of St John and its associated service organization, St John Ambulance.

## Order of Ontario

Established in 1986, the Order of Ontario is the province's highest official honour and recognizes Ontarians of all backgrounds whose excellence in any field of endeavour has left a lasting legacy in the province and beyond. Through their contributions, members have shaped—and continue to shape—the Ontario's history and place in Canada. The Lieutenant Governor is Chancellor of the Order of Ontario.

In March 2020, the Lieutenant Governor presided at the investiture of new members of the Order of Ontario. As in previous years, Her Honour invited each new member to meet with her so that she may learn more about their contributions.

## Ontario medals and awards

The Government of Ontario has established several official honours and awards, which are conferred by the Lieutenant Governor on the government's formal advice, including:

- Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers
- Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship
- Ontario Senior Achievement Award
- Lincoln M. Alexander Award (for leadership in eliminating racial discrimination)
- Hilary M. Weston Scholarship (for graduate studies in mental health)
- James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award
- David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility

In all cases, members of the public submit nominations to an honours advisory council, which provides the government with recommendations.

## Lieutenant Governor's Awards

The Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award for Students pays tribute to students who not only exceed the number of volunteer service hours required to graduate, but also go above and beyond. Each year, one graduating student at each of Ontario's high schools receives the award, which includes a certificate and a commemorative pin.

Independent organizations have created awards in partnership with successive Lieutenant Governors to recognize achievements in fields of endeavour, including:

- Lieutenant Governor's Award for Design Excellence in Architecture (Ontario Association of Architects)
- Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration (Institute of Public Administration of Canada in Ontario)
- Lieutenant Governor's Cup (sport horse breeding), (Royal Agricultural Winter Fair)
- Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards (Ontario Heritage Trust)
- Lieutenant Governor's Award for Marketing Excellence in Ontario (Economic Developers Council of Ontario)
- Lieutenant Governor's Distinguished Service Award (Royal Ontario Museum)
- Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Ontario Wines (Ontario Wine Awards)

# Viceregal patronage

The Lieutenant Governor plays a key role in supporting outstanding contributions to civil society. To this end, the Lieutenant Governor from time to time grants viceregal patronage to organizations and initiatives, lending them vital support and recognition.

In November 2019, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception and informal networking event for representatives of organizations to which she has granted patronage.

To date, Ms. Dowdeswell has granted patronage to 47 organizations:

- Aga Khan Museum
- Air Cadet League of Canada (Ontario Provincial Committee)
- Army Cadet League of Canada (Ontario)
- Artscape Foundation
- Canadian Centre for Ethics and Corporate Policy
- Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons
- Children's International Learning Centre
- CNIB (Ontario-Nunavut)
- Commissionaires Great Lakes
- Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall
- DAREarts
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards (Ontario)
- Friends of HMCS Haida
- Haven Toronto (formerly The Good Neighbours' Club)
- Health Arts Society of Ontario
- IISD Experimental Lakes Area
- IODE (Ontario)
- Last Post Fund (Ontario)
- Learning for a Sustainable Future
- Let's Talk Science
- The Lifesaving Society
- Magna Carta Canada
- 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
- Schizophrenia Society of Ontario
- Scouts Canada
- Textile Museum of 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 has granted patronage to the following special initiatives:

- Wounded Warriors Canada Highway of Heroes Bike Ride (August 2016)
- Greatness: The Great Lakes Project (launched in October 2016, ongoing)
- 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)

# Office operations

## Opposites & Opposition | Opposés et opposition



*A view of Speaking of Democracy, an art exhibition launched in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in April 2019.*

## The Lieutenant Governor's Suite

After the closure of Chorley Park in 1937, Lieutenant Governors of Ontario have operated out of offices and state rooms in the northwest wing of the Legislative Building at Queen's Park, located in downtown Toronto. The Lieutenant Governor's Suite is a working office and also serves as the setting for official functions and hospitality.

### *Tours*

The Lieutenant Governor's Suite was routinely opened to visitors as part of tours of the Legislative Building at Queen's Park. Members of the public were welcomed during Doors Open Toronto in May 2019. In addition to learning about the office's history, visitors were able to view changing art exhibitions. Approximately 11,500 people visited the suite on tours or during official functions.

## Communications

### *Engaging Ontarians online*

The Lieutenant Governor maintains an active social media presence on Facebook, Flickr, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. Public explanation of Her Honour's responsibilities continues to form an important part of the office's online outreach. To this end, the Lieutenant Governor's website is frequently updated to include current and accessible information relating to Her Honour's role and activities.

- ***Stories of Sustainability***

In August 2019, Her Honour launched *Stories of Sustainability*, a series of 40 blog posts on the Lieutenant Governor's website introducing people and organizations in Ontario that have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the three pillars of sustainability: inclusive prosperity, environmental stewardship, and social cohesion.

- **Ontario in the world**

In May 2019, Her Honour launched a series of blogs on her website offering an in-depth view of Ontario's connections to people and places beyond our borders. Topics include the Lieutenant Governor's working visits abroad, virtual connections, and Canadian organizations working abroad to further the sustainability agenda.

- **COVID-19 response**

Following the novel coronavirus outbreak in February 2020, Her Honour launched a social media campaign to thank front-line workers and to raise awareness about people and organizations in all sectors who have had to adjust their activities to respond to the crisis.

#### ***Correspondence***

The Lieutenant Governor showed her support for charities and community organizations celebrating significant anniversaries, hosting conferences and galas, and organizing cultural and sporting events by sending hundreds of signed messages of congratulations.

The Lieutenant Governor sent thousands of signed congratulatory greetings to Ontarians celebrating birthdays (90 years and over) and to couples celebrating anniversaries (50 years and over).

## **Serving the Lieutenant Governor**

Led by Chief of Staff Anthony Hylton, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor comprises a team of 12 full-time staff members and one part-time member.

In addition, a corps of more than 50 aides-de-camp and volunteers serve the Lieutenant Governor by contributing thousands of hours of service each year. Aides-de-camp are current or retired uniformed service members who accompany and assist Her Honour during events. The position of aide-de-camp is honorary and those appointed serve at pleasure. In Ontario, aides-de-camp are selected from the three branches of the Canadian Armed Forces, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, regional and municipal police services, and local emergency services and first responders, including St John Ambulance.

# Finances

## *Provincial funds*

The Government of Ontario provides the principal means of financial support for the Lieutenant Governor's activity program.

### **Operating expenses: 2019–20**

	Interim actuals
Salaries and wages	1,110,201
Employee benefits	165,919
Transportation and communication	41,225
Services	192,760
Supplies and equipment	93,131
Discretionary allowance	155,800
	<b>\$1,759,036</b>

Year ending March 31

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

Source: *Estimates Briefing Book 2020-21*. Treasury Board Secretariat.

## *Federal funds*

The Lieutenant Governor receives a salary from the Government of Canada, the amount of which is determined by Parliament. The Department of Canadian Heritage provides the Lieutenant Governor with funds for the purpose of defraying operating expenses not covered by the provincial government.

### **Lieutenant Governors' Annual Grant (Department of Canadian Heritage): 2019–20**

	Interim actuals
Travel and accommodation	5,780
Hospitality	103,162
Operational and administrative expenses	13,915
	<b>\$122,857</b>

Year ending 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.



The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell took office in September 2014 as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. This report presents the highlights of her public engagements from April 2019 to March 2020.

An electronic copy of this report is available online at [lgontario.ca](http://lgontario.ca).  
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