



Activity report

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

April 2016–March 2017

A note about the content of this report

This report presents the highlights of the Lieutenant Governor's public engagements from April 2016 to March 2017. For an authoritative listing of activities, consult the Lieutenant Governor's website at lgontario.ca.

*Activity report: The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell,
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (April 2016–March 2017)*

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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



The Lieutenant Governor wearing her insignia as Chancellor and Member of the Order of Ontario and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. (Photo: V. Tony Hauser)

Above, right: Ms. Dowdeswell's coat of arms, granted by the Chief Herald of Canada, was unveiled by the Governor General in July 2016. (Register of Arms, Flags and Badges of Canada, Volume VI, page 621)



As the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, I am pleased to present this illustrative accounting of my public activities of the past fiscal year.

During more than 770 engagements throughout Ontario, I have been fortunate that thousands of Ontarians have shared with me stories of their successes, hopes, and challenges. These stories are inspirational yet all too often remain untold. The voices and visions of Ontarians deserve to be shared, and my humble ambition is to be your Storyteller-in-Chief.

Taken together, these stories say something quite profound about who we are. They articulate the importance of place, and they contemplate what we owe to our roots and how we aspire to transcend our current circumstances. They reveal our generosity and our desire to help others in this world while speaking of the ongoing work that is required at home to build more just and sustainable communities. They remind us of our obligations and opportunities as citizens of Canada and the world and of our responsibility to serve as stewards of the resources we have inherited.

The year 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of Confederation, and is a moment for all Canadians to engage in genuine dialogue about who we are, and wish to be, as a people. I am extraordinarily proud of the contributions that Ontarians, in going about their ordinary lives in extraordinary ways, have made to our understanding of what it means to be Canadian. I greatly look forward to what you will continue to contribute to our national story.

I hope that this report will provide insight into how blessed we are to live in such a special place.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Dowdeswell".

Her Honour



The Lieutenant Governor speaks with a cadet during the Annual Ceremonial Review of the 104 Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Brilliant and the Navy League of Canada in North Bay in June 2016.

Biography

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell was invested as Ontario's 29th Lieutenant Governor on September 23, 2014. Her eclectic public service career has spanned provincial, federal, and international borders, and has transcended disciplinary and sectoral lines.

Ms. Dowdeswell began her professional career as a teacher and university lecturer. After serving as the Deputy Minister of Culture and Youth for the Government of Saskatchewan, she held increasingly senior positions in the Canadian public service, most notably as head of the Atmospheric Environment Service. Throughout this period, she managed several public inquiries and royal commissions.

Her international negotiating experiences prefaced her election in 1992 as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. Upon returning to Canada in 1998, she established an international consulting practice and became the founding President and CEO of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Immediately prior to her appointment as Lieutenant Governor, Ms. Dowdeswell was the President and CEO of the Council of Canadian Academies. She has also served on numerous boards of corporate and non-profit organizations.

Ms. Dowdeswell was born in Northern Ireland and immigrated to rural Saskatchewan with her parents in 1947. She earned a Bachelor of Science in home economics and teaching certificate from the University of Saskatchewan (1966) and a Master of Science in behavioural sciences from Utah State University (1972). An Officer of the Order of Canada, Ms. Dowdeswell holds 11 honorary degrees.

Areas of focus



Storytelling

Upon taking office, the Lieutenant Governor committed to listen to Ontarians. She sought to learn what themes resonate with them, what gives them pride, and what issues they find challenging. In reporting back to the people of Ontario during hundreds of engagements in all corners of the province, she noted a number of common themes: the importance of place—the physical grandeur as well as a place of opportunity, the generosity and openness of people, the amazing diversity of our communities, the ingenuity of our problem-solving, and the feeling of safety and respect for law and order. Nonetheless, they articulated challenges in a fast-paced technological and interconnected world. We remain a “work in progress”.

These stories can provide inspiration and motivation to others and yet these voices are often silent. Informally declaring herself Ontario’s “Storyteller-in-Chief”, Her Honour set out to engage Ontarians through multi-disciplinary roundtables and a varied program of community events, encouraging people to listen and learn from each other and to take part in meaningful dialogue. In doing so, Ms. Dowdeswell noted the capacity of stories to give meaning to life experiences, through which personal, family, and community identities are formed.

150 Stories

Following the success of *Identity: Art Inspired by the Great Lakes*, an art exhibition that ran in the Lieutenant Governor’s Suite from June 2015 to July 2016, Her Honour sought to engage Ontarians in further dialogue about their collective identity. As the 150th anniversary of Confederation drew nearer, Her Honour invited a number of Ontarians from across the province to take part in a project touching on the themes of identity and storytelling.

In February 2017, Her Honour launched *150 Stories*, a collection of new stories and images that speak eloquently about what it means to be Canadian in Ontario. Taking the form of a 225-page book, an

During the launch of 150 Stories in February 2017, the Lieutenant Governor poses with Ahmad Al Mansour, Maysoun Mansour, and two of their children, who arrived in Canada from Syria in 2015.

online exhibition, and an exhibition in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite, *150 Stories* features written vignettes of no more than 150 words from Ontarians representing all corners of the province and many walks of life. Divided into eight chapters (A place to grow, Where we came from, Caring Canadians, Rights and freedoms, Yours to discover, Keep it beautiful, Arts and minds, Ontario in the world), the stories invite readers to contemplate the many perspectives and voices that make Ontario Ontario.



Anne Michaels, Poet Laureate of Toronto, performs a reading of her story during the launch of *150 Stories* in February 2017.

150 Stories has been positively received by people in communities across the province and in the media. To date, more than 20,000 people have visited the exhibition online (available at arts.lgontario.ca/canada150) and in person. More than 35,000 books have been printed for distribution across the province. Members of the public may receive a complimentary copy of *150 Stories* during a visit to the Lieutenant Governor's Suite. The project was supported in part by the Government of Ontario through its Ontario150 program, and the Government of Canada.

Other Worlds

In collaboration with OCAD University, the Lieutenant Governor launched *Other Worlds* in September 2016. Displayed in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite and featuring works by 19 contemporary Ontario artists affiliated with OCAD U, the exhibition affirmed the value of embracing ties with those beyond our borders while at the same time seeking to strengthen one's own community. As works examined the convergence of disparate visual worlds, viewers were likewise encouraged to engage with unfamiliar cultures, groups, and social issues. Echoing one of Her Honour's areas of focus, *Other Worlds* proclaimed that, in the shadow of an increasingly globalized and crowded world, there is much to gain by bringing more of Ontario to the world and by inviting more of the world to Ontario.

Supporting the written word

Reinforcing her focus on storytelling, the Lieutenant Governor attended the launch of books by several prominent Canadian authors, including *Two Freedoms: Canada's Global Future* by the Hon. Hugh Segal (April 2016), *Seasons of Hope: Memoirs of Ontario's First Aboriginal Lieutenant Governor* by the Hon. James Bartleman (April 2016), *Canada Always: The Defining Speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier*, edited by Arthur Milnes, and *Kakuma Girls: Sharing Stories of Hardship, Hope and Joy from Kakuma Refugee Camp* by Clare Morneau (March 2017). In October 2016, Ms. Dowdeswell addressed a gala marking the 25th anniversary of the *Literary Review of Canada*, emphasizing its important role in supporting literary culture in English-speaking Canada. In December, the Lieutenant Governor paid tribute to the important work of journalists by hosting a reception for representatives of the charity Journalists for Human Rights.

Sustainability

The Lieutenant Governor continued to emphasize sustainability as a priority, linking the concepts of inclusive economic prosperity, environmental stewardship, and social cohesion. Over the period of this report, Her Honour regularly paid tribute to people and organizations working to achieve the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, conducting 257 engagements broadly supporting the goals.

Inclusive economic prosperity

Ontarians and Canadians 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 150 years. Yet not all have benefitted from equal access to prosperity, notably Indigenous people, racialized persons, women, and people employed in some traditional economic sectors. During the past year, the Lieutenant Governor held roundtables focusing on social and economic concerns during visits to communities throughout the province. When reflecting on these discussions, Her Honour has noted two recurring questions: "Where will our future prosperity come from?" and "Are we keeping pace with the world?"

The concept of inclusive prosperity understands that resources are not always fairly distributed in today's complex and changing world, and recognizes that economic uncertainty has a social cost and that the road to prosperity may be different depending on one's lived experience, community, or region. It challenges Ontarians to consider the sources of future prosperity and the ways in which as many people as possible have a chance to meaningfully participate in economic and social spheres.

The Lieutenant Governor regularly spoke of the importance of inclusivity in considering economic issues. In April 2016, Her Honour took part in the conference *Pluralism, diversity, and the future of citizenship: The economic dimension* at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo. In September 2016, Her Honour met with Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. In November, Her Honour addressed the Ontario Economic Summit in Niagara-on-the-Lake, encouraging delegates to consider the interconnected economic benefits of innovation and diversity. Ms. Dowdeswell reiterated the message at the annual conference of the Economic Developers Council of Ontario in February 2017. In March, she partnered with Futurpreneur Canada in hosting a roundtable on supporting youth entrepreneurship in the GTA; in attendance were representatives of the education and business sectors, startups, incubators, and youth employment agencies.

Environmental stewardship

Since the start of Ms. Dowdeswell's mandate, 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, toting the many dimensions of environmental stewardship, including climate change, air, water, land, and biodiversity quality, conservation, and innovation. She challenged Ontarians to consider the economic effects of an ailing environment and encouraged people and institutions to consider the voices of Indigenous people and other underrepresented communities when taking environmentally related decisions.

In April 2016, Her Honour recorded a video message for Lake Ontario Waterkeeper's Watermark project, a collection of Canadian water stories aiming to demonstrate why swimmable, drinkable, and fishable water matters. In October 2016, the Lieutenant Governor granted her patronage to, and hosted a reception marking the launch of, Greatness: The Great Lakes Project, an initiative aimed at publicly celebrating the majesty and meaning of the Great Lakes and ensuring that they are cherished, protected, and nurtured. The project was conceived following a series of roundtables hosted by the Lieutenant Governor and attended by leaders in Ontario's business, arts, science, media, sport, architecture, and design sectors.

In November 2016, Her Honour launched the Lieutenant Governor's Climate Change Essay Challenge in collaboration with the Centre for International Governance Innovation. This contest invited Grade 12 students from across Ontario to tell their story of how Canada will have contributed to stopping climate change by 2067. Nearly 150 submissions were considered by a judging panel comprised of journalists, teachers, and environmental research fellows, and three winners were honoured during a ceremony in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite during Earth Week 2017. Winners received a scholarship and winning essays were published by online magazine *OpenCanada*.

The Lieutenant Governor addressed 100th anniversary celebrations of the Georgian Bay Association in April 2016, congratulating its members and supporters for an impressive record of environmental stewardship and awareness-raising of issues facing the Great Lakes. Also in April, Her Honour delivered remarks at the Sustainable Development Technology Canada Conference in Ottawa, encouraging delegates to strengthen their commitments to ongoing dialogues on renewable energy and clean technology.



The logo of Greatness: The Great Lakes Project



Her Honour poses with winners of the Lieutenant Governor's Climate Change Essay Challenge in April 2017.

In June 2016, in partnership with the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts, Her Honour hosted a recording of "Re-Imagining Ecology", an episode of CBC Radio's "Ideas with Paul Kennedy", in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite. The episode brought together experts in urban and environmental conservation to discuss ecological approaches to preserving and restoring wilderness and cityscapes.

In June 2016, Ms. Dowdeswell introduced keynote speaker Mary Robinson, a former President of Ireland (1990–1997) and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997–2002), during Climate Justice: The Way Forward Post Paris Agreement, an event hosted by the Law Society of Upper Canada held in partnership with the Centre for International Governance Innovation, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, and the Ontario Bar Association.

In September 2016, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the Clean50 Summit, hosted in Toronto by the Delta Management Group, during which she congratulated sustainability leaders and winners of the Clean50 Awards. Later in the month, Her Honour attended a sustainability panel hosted by the Canadian Club of Toronto as part of its Canada 150 discussion series. Also in September, Her Honour addressed the *Building Local Community Confidence in Renewable Energy Development* conference at the Ivey Energy Policy and Management Centre in London during which she emphasized the importance of connecting the insights of scientists, policymakers, and concerned citizens in the pursuit of renewable energy projects.



The Lieutenant Governor observes an oil spill cleanup simulation during the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Student Summit in October 2016.

people to share their sustainability ideas with public decision makers. In November, Ms. Dowdeswell delivered a keynote address during the Pollution Probe Youth Forum, an intergenerational dialogue addressing social and technological solutions to environmental priorities identified by young people.

In November 2016, Her Honour addressed 50th anniversary celebrations of Amici Camping Charity, an organization dedicated to making camping and outdoor activities accessible to children of all backgrounds. In December, Her Honour recognized the winners of Forests Ontario's Tree Bee and Envirothon student competitions, encouraging them and other young people to continue learning about nature and environmental stewardship. In January 2017, Her Honour met with students taking part in Aqua-Links, an Atlantic salmon conservation program offered by the Toronto Zoo.

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 accept 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 August 2016, Her Honour addressed *The Canada Project: Identify, Citizenship and Nationhood in a Changing World*, the 85th annual summer conference of the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs, in Orillia. In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell reflected on the intersection of the environment, reconciliation, and innovation in the building of just and sustainable communities.

In September 2016, Her Honour attended 6 Degrees, a global forum exploring inclusion and citizenship in the 21st century hosted by the Institute for Canadian Citizenship. Her Honour was a distinguished audience member at the 14th LaFontaine-Baldwin Lecture, delivered by author Naomi Klein. In October, Ms. Dowdeswell addressed *Realizing an Inclusive Canada: 2017 and Beyond*, the biennial conference of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, during which she emphasized the connection

between the underlying principle of social cohesion and Ontarians' efforts in pursuing reconciliation, welcoming refugees, and leading internationally in the promotion of human rights.

Building on earlier experiences of welcoming refugees arriving in Canada, the Lieutenant Governor sought to increase awareness of the challenges facing refugees. Throughout 2016, Her Honour hosted *Clouds over Sidra*, an educational arts installation that uses virtual reality to present the Zaatri refugee camp in Jordan through the eyes of Sidra, a 12-year-old girl displaced by the Syrian conflict. In all, hundreds of people viewed the installation during visits to the suite.

In April 2016, Her Honour delivered opening remarks at a Walrus Talk on spirituality. Her Honour praised the role of faith communities in fostering social cohesion during an address to the Ontario Prayer Breakfast in May. In October, the Lieutenant Governor demonstrated support for intercultural understanding by taking part in the York Regional Police's Places of Worship Tour. During visits to St Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, Jam'e Masjid Markham, and Cham Shan Temple, Her Honour learned about local efforts to maintain positive relationships between minority communities and the police.

In November 2016, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the annual Cathay Ball of the Mon Sheong Foundation, noting the organization's efforts to advance social cohesion through the building of intergenerational ties in Chinese-Canadian communities in Ontario.

In September, Her Honour addressed a gathering in Vaughan in support of Caritas School of Life, a provider of addiction recovery and mental health programs and therapeutic community. In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell commended the organization for its efforts to eradicate stigma surrounding mental illness. Also in September, Her Honour conducted a tour of Yorktown Family Services and met with shelter users. In December, she met with staff and volunteered at a lunch service during a visit to the Scott Mission in Toronto.

The Lieutenant Governor regularly recognized the ideals of service and altruism demonstrated by volunteers and the generosity of members of the philanthropic community. In doing so, Her Honour made a point of highlighting the power of individual action in building more just, sustainable, and inclusive communities. In June 2016, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted the biennial summit of Foundations Partnering for Reconciliation, where she addressed representatives of nonprofit organizations in Ontario meeting to discuss strategies aimed at embedding reconciliation within philanthropic activities. In December, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception to mark the successful participation of the Ontario Public Service in the United Way of Greater Toronto's annual fundraiser.

In March 2017, Her Honour hosted board members of the MasterCard Foundation to discuss the ongoing efforts of Ontarians and Canadians in addressing humanitarian challenges abroad. In April, Her Honour marked the fifth anniversary of The Prince's Charities Canada, and continued to lend her support to the organization in its efforts to promote The Prince of Wales's core interests in Canada, including increased opportunities for disadvantaged youth, education, responsible business, the built environment, regeneration of heritage, environmental sustainability, and support for the armed forces.

In November 2016, Her Honour showed support for supporters of public art by attending the Mayor's Evening for the Arts in aid of the Toronto Arts Foundation. Also in November, Her Honour paid tribute to the intersection of arts and philanthropy by attending the 38th annual Business for the Arts award gala.



In October 2016, the Lieutenant Governor visited the Cham Shan Temple in Markham.

Ontario in the world

Since taking office, the Lieutenant Governor has challenged Ontarians to dare to think deeply about their role not only as residents of a province within Canada, but also as global citizens. Recalling that the world is more complex and interconnected than ever, Her Honour emphasized that Ontarians

have much to contribute to the world, yet also much to gain. To this end, Ms. Dowdeswell regularly attended events paying tribute to Ontarians fostering international dialogue and action.

As a former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Her Honour has highlighted the many connections that Ontarians have with the UN, and regularly engaged with people and organizations contributing to the adoption and attainment of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Dowdeswell frequently conducted engagements in partnership with the United Nations Association in Canada.

In June 2016, the Lieutenant Governor addressed *Ontarians & The World: Universality Matters*, a conference held by the Ontario Council for International Cooperation. In September, Her Honour met with entrepreneurs and business leaders during the Toronto Global Forum at a reception hosted by Export Development Canada. In November, Ms. Dowdeswell highlighted the ongoing leadership of Ontarians and Canadians in promoting human rights in an address to delegates of *Protection in times of conflict: Health, displacement and humanitarian principles*, a conference on international humanitarian law hosted at York University's Glendon campus by the Canadian Red Cross.

The Lieutenant Governor addressed the annual holiday luncheon of the Consular Corps Association of Toronto in December 2016. In her remarks, Ms. Dowdeswell commended the work of consular representatives in building bridges between longtime Canadians, new Canadians, and members of diasporic communities in Ontario. Her Honour also highlighted the importance of subnational ties in promoting technological innovation.

The Lieutenant Governor also 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 regularly took part in events supporting Ontario's leading role in promoting knowledge-based economies. At the Governor General's invitation, the Lieutenant Governor was a regular contributor to Enhancing Global Recognition for Canadian Research Excellence, an initiative aimed at boosting Canada's research profile on the global stage.

In October 2016, Her Honour paid tribute to Canadian biomedical scientists during the annual presentation of the Canada Gairdner International Awards. In November, she toured the newly opened Harriet Brooks Building in Chalk River, where she met with atomic scientists and administrators and learned about Ontario's leadership in nuclear research.

Working visit to Utah

In November 2016, the Lieutenant Governor conducted a working visit to Utah, conducting 13 engagements over two days. Invited by her alma mater, Utah State University, Her Honour met with faculty and students at the university's Logan campus, and delivered an address at a speaking series hosted by the university's Institute of Government and Politics. Ms. Dowdeswell took note of ongoing advances in psychological, medical, and environmental research during visits to laboratories at the university's College of Education, the Utah Climate Centre, and the USU Spider Silk Lab.

While in Utah, Her Honour highlighted subnational ties between Ontario and Utah during a visit to Salt Lake City, where she held meetings with Governor Gary Herbert, Canada's honorary consul in Utah, business leaders with connections to Ontario, and entrepreneurs seeking to expand operations within Ontario. Her Honour hosted a dinner for women leaders in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in partnership with the Salt Lake



The Lieutenant Governor was received by Utah Governor Gary Herbert during an official visit in November 2016.

City-based Women's Leadership Institute. Her Honour also visited the University of Utah's Lassonde Entrepreneur Institute, a nationally ranked hub for student entrepreneurship and innovation founded by Canadian mining entrepreneur and philanthropist Pierre Lassonde.

Constitutional role



Representing the Crown

Canada is a constitutional monarchy with The Queen as Sovereign and head of state. In Ontario, the Lieutenant Governor is The Queen's representative while the Premier is the head of government. 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.

The Lieutenant Governor opens the second session of the 41st Parliament of Ontario by reading the Speech from the Throne in September 2016.

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.

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 commands 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.

In numbers

On September 12, 2016, the Lieutenant Governor delivered the Speech from the Throne beginning the second session of the 41st Parliament of Ontario.

The Lieutenant Governor regularly reviews and signs papers formally approving government decisions. From April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017:

- 45 bills received Royal Assent
- 2 by-elections were authorized
- 1,604 Orders-in-Council (including 346 regulations) were signed into effect
- 378 letters patent were signed under the *Public Lands Act* and the *Mining Act*

Administrator

If the Lieutenant Governor is temporarily absent, ill, or unable to perform constitutional duties, the Administrator of the Government of Ontario may fulfil the functions of the Lieutenant Governor.

The Chief Justice of Ontario holds a standing appointment as Administrator of the Government. If the Chief Justice is not available, another judge from the courts of Ontario is temporarily appointed by the Governor General-in-Council to act as Administrator.

Bringing people together



Indigenous peoples

In furtherance of the Crown's unique relationship with Indigenous peoples, the Lieutenant Governor regularly interacted with representatives of Indigenous communities, ensured Indigenous representation at events wherever possible, and took efforts to create opportunities for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together in dialogue. In particular, Her Honour emphasized the importance of witnessing significant ceremonies and events when visiting First Nations and Métis communities.

In May 2016, on the occasion of the Government of Ontario's Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples before the Legislative Assembly, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a lunch for leaders of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities in Ontario, Indigenous elders, and survivors of the residential school system. At the time, Her Honour stated: "Let me say that, without hesitation, and within the bounds of my constitutional responsibilities, I intend to do all that I can to encourage a culture of reconciliation in Ontario."

In October 2016, Her Honour delivered the inaugural keynote address of "What is reconciliation?", a lecture series presented by the Friends and Neighbours Group, a Brantford community committee, in partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University. In her remarks, during which she emphasized the importance of relationship building and storytelling to reconciliation. In February 2017, Ms. Dowdeswell delivered a keynote address on reconciliation during a visit to the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. In her remarks, she explored the relationship between the Crown, treaties, relationship-building, and reconciliation.

In November 2016, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception for delegates of the Chiefs of Ontario's Leaders in the Legislature event, a series of discussions between First Nations chiefs and ministers of the Crown in Ontario. In February 2017, Her Honour addressed the Indigenous Women's Leadership Forum, hosted by the Ontario Native Women's Association, during which she accepted the honour of

The Lieutenant Governor poses with Ontario participants of Daughters of the Vote: Marking History, an event marking the 100th anniversary of suffrage for some women, in February 2017.

receiving a Pendleton blanket from the association's president. In March, Ms. Dowdeswell delivered remarks at the National Indigenous Women's Summit. Also in March, she recognized provincial finalists in Imagine a Canada, a competition conducted in partnership with the Governor General in which young people are invited to share their vision of Canada through the lens of reconciliation.



Her Honour receives a Pendleton blanket from the president of the Ontario Native Women's Association in February 2017.

National Aboriginal Day 2016

To mark the 20th anniversary of National Aboriginal Day in June 2016, at the invitation of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Her Honour hosted a series of events at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford, site of the Mohawk Institute, one of only two former residential schools remaining in Ontario. In the presence of the Governor General, and in partnership with The Prince's Charities Canada and Historica Canada, Her Honour welcomed national representatives of the corporate, philanthropic, educational, religious, cultural, media, and public service sectors to engage in dialogue and develop partnerships in pursuit of reconciliation.

Participants had the opportunity to take guided tours of the residential school building while meeting with survivors. Historica Canada premiered a Heritage Minute telling the story of Chanie "Charlie" Wenjack, whose death in 1966 prompted the first inquiry into the conditions faced by residential school students.

Summer reading camps

Her Honour continues to support the renamed Lieutenant Governor's Indigenous Summer Reading Camps. Administered by Frontier College, the camps are an opportunity for youth in remote Indigenous communities to improve their literacy skills in a fun, engaging, and activity-oriented setting. In August 2016, Her Honour visited a reading camp in Cat Lake First Nation. In 2016, more than 7,500 students attended 141 camps in 127 communities across Canada.

Community visits

In May 2016, the Lieutenant Governor conducted an official visit to the traditional territory of the Mohawks of Akwesasne. During the visit, Her Honour was greeted by community members during

an edge of the woods ceremony, met with elders and leaders during a lunch hosted by the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, and toured the local administration.

In June, Her Honour visited Nbisiing Secondary School, a First Nations-operated high school associated with Nipissing First Nation. Her Honour met with participants of the school's Ojibway language program and attended a reception with chiefs, elders, teachers, staff, and students.

In July 2016, Her Honour showed support for local reconciliation efforts in Sault Ste. Marie by addressing the signing of the Unity Pact between the Anishinabeg Nation and the Port of Algoma. Taking place at the Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site, where the Robinson-Huron Treaty was signed in 1850, the ceremony symbolized a commitment to consultation and co-operation in the redevelopment of port lands. Also in July, Her Honour paid tribute to First Nations veterans of the War of 1812 during a ceremony on Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve.

Women and girls

The Lieutenant Governor regularly conducted engagements that underscore the endless potential of women and girls to make meaningful contributions to social and economic life in Ontario and



The Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by Chief Ava Hill of the Six Nations of the Grand River and the Governor General and Mrs. Johnston during a visit to Woodland Cultural Centre in June 2016.

elsewhere. Throughout, Her Honour emphasized the importance of engaging the missing half of the population in addressing our challenges.

In May 2016, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the annual gala of Daughters for Life, a charity aimed at fostering peace in the Middle East and the rest of the world by empowering girls and young women through education. Also in May, Her Honour addressed 60th anniversary celebrations of the Leaside-East York chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women. In June, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted a reception for delegates of the annual conference of the International Women's Forum Canada.

Her Honour received Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, during a courtesy call in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in June 2016. Also in June, Her Honour addressed the launch of the book *100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women*.

In October 2016, the Lieutenant Governor received Deb Deller upon her retirement after nine years as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Ms. Deller is the eighth person and first woman to have held the position. In February 2017, Her Honour received Insp. Jackie Gordon, the Legislative Assembly's new Sergeant-at-Arms and the first woman to hold the position.

In November 2016, Her Honour paid tribute to the Hon. Pauline McGibbon, Ontario's 22nd and first woman Lieutenant Governor, and visited her gravesite in Sarnia.

In January 2017, the Lieutenant Governor paid tribute to women's achievements in science, technology, engineering, and math fields during a screening of *Hidden Figures* hosted by the Faculty of Science at Ryerson University.

International Women's Day

It was not lost on the Lieutenant Governor that International Women's Day in 2017 coincided with significant anniversaries in Canadian history, notably the sesquicentennial of Confederation and the centennial of the vote having been granted to many women in Ontario. Recognizing an opportunity to reflect on the specific role that women have played in the achievement of these and other milestones, and to also shine a light on the unfinished business that remains, Her Honour announced that she would actively seek out ways to inspire partnerships and collective action to empower women to bring their knowledge, perspectives, and leadership to every field of human endeavour. To this end, Ms. Dowdeswell set out to involve herself in further engagements relating specifically to women and girls.

In March 2017, Ms. Dowdeswell delivered a keynote address at an International Women's Day breakfast hosted by the Mayor of Mississauga. Her Honour also marked International Women's Day by attending an assembly at Pierre Laporte Middle School in Toronto. Her Honour addressed students alongside Lt.-Col. Susan Beharriell, a retired Royal Canadian Air Force fighter pilot and one of the first women to hold the position of Air Intelligence Officer.

100th anniversary of women's suffrage

The year 2017 marked the 100th anniversary of the extension of the right to vote to some women in Ontario. To mark this important step on the path to universal suffrage, the Lieutenant Governor took part in a number of special events and regularly paid tribute on social media to the ongoing contributions of women and girls to public life.



The Lieutenant Governor receives Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, in June 2016.



The Lieutenant Governor poses with members of the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service during International Women's Day celebrations in March 2017.

In November 2016, Her Honour attended the presentation of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, held in Winnipeg to mark the centenary of women's suffrage in Manitoba, the first Canadian province in Canada to have granted the vote to some women.

In January 2017, the Lieutenant Governor attended a reception marking the 30th anniversary of the *Pay Equity Act*. In February, Her Honour hosted a meeting with Ontario participants in *Daughters of the Vote: Marking History*, a conference bringing together 338 young women representing each riding in the House of Commons. The event was supported by Equal Voice, an organization aimed at increasing women's representation in elected offices in Canada.

Higher education

During the course of community visits around the province, the Lieutenant Governor has made a point of including representatives of colleges and universities and engaging with students wherever possible. In addition, Her Honour conducted official visits to the following public colleges and universities:

- University of Toronto (May 2016)
- University of Ontario Institute of Technology (May 2016)
- University of Guelph (September 2016)
- Queen's University (October 2016)
- Wilfrid Laurier University (October 2016)
- University of Windsor (November 2016)
- Lambton College (November 2016)
- Sheridan College (January 2017)
- York University (February 2017)
- Lakehead University (February 2017)



In January 2017, the Lieutenant Governor marked the 50th anniversary of Sheridan College.

During official visits, the Lieutenant Governor took a special interest in meeting with students and faculty involved in areas of study integrating environmental, economic, and social concerns. In May 2016, Her Honour placed special emphasis on youth and innovation during official visits to the University of Toronto and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. While visiting the University of Guelph in September 2016, Her Honour delivered a lecture to undergraduate students enrolled in the Department of Political Science's Environmental Politics and Governance course. In October, Her Honour hosted a group discussion at Queen's Park for visiting members of the Master of Public Administration program at Queen's University.

The Lieutenant Governor regularly marked the 50th anniversary of the colleges system in Ontario throughout 2016. Her Honour addressed celebrations at Centennial College in October 2016. Also in October, Her Honour visited Queen's University on the occasion of its 175th anniversary.

The Lieutenant Governor attended the installation of the Rt. Hon. Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, as the Visitor of Massey College in September 2016.

In April 2016, Her Honour welcomed Canadian alumni of Goodenough College, an international residential centre for post-graduates in London, United Kingdom. Her Honour previously visited the college during her working visit to the United Kingdom in 2015.

Arts and culture

The Lieutenant Governor recognizes the capacity of the arts to foster social cohesion and promote a shared cultural understanding. To this end, Her Honour regularly interacted with heritage, arts, and cultural organizations while travelling throughout Ontario, noting the contributions of cultural institutions to the province's economy. Her Honour regularly received incoming heads of significant cultural institutions in Ontario, including the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. In March 2017, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted a working dinner in honour

of Library and Archives Canada, during which members of various arts communities within Ontario considered how best to make Canada's cultural history resonate with people across the province.

Her Honour marked Canadian excellence in heraldic artistry by addressing 50th anniversary celebrations of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada in April 2016. In May, Her Honour viewed artistic installations at the Centre culturel les trois p'tits points in North Glengarry, and engaged staff and supporters of the centre in dialogue about Franco-Ontarian culture.

The Lieutenant Governor recognizes the importance of the performing arts in bringing people together through shared cultural experiences. In June 2016, the Lieutenant Governor attended a performance of *Body Politic* at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto. Her Honour attended the final concert of the Tragically Hip in Kingston in August. In September, Her Honour brought greetings to Stage Centre Productions' North American premiere of *Entertaining Angels* at the Fairview Library Theatre in Toronto. In November, Ms. Dowdeswell attended a production of musical *Come From Away* to mark the reopening of the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto. The musical was workshopped at Sheridan College. Also in November, Her Honour addressed the presentation of the 11th Glenn Gould Prize to composer Philip Glass in November 2016.

In June 2016, Her Honour addressed a screening of *All Roads Lead to Rome* as part of the Niagara Integrated Film Festival and the Italian Contemporary Film Festival. Throughout June, Ms. Dowdeswell showed support for the Luminato Festival in Toronto by addressing and attending a number of artistic functions. In August, Her Honour attended several events as part of the Toronto International Film Festival. In addition to viewing opera, ballet, symphony, theatre, and film productions in the GTA whenever possible throughout the year, Ms. Dowdeswell attended several performances as part of the Shaw Festival and the Stratford Festival.

Young people

As a former educator, the Lieutenant Governor has a unique understanding of the importance of an educational system that keeps pace with an ever more changing and interconnected world. In October 2016, Her Honour addressed the launch of Canada 2067, an initiative of non-profit organization Let's Talk Science aimed at motivating young people to develop science, technology, engineering, and math skills and motivating educational institutions and business communities to commit to supporting STEM learning. Recognizing its important role, Ms. Dowdeswell granted her viceregal patronage to Let's Talk Science.



Her Honour regularly encouraged youth volunteerism and community service. To this end, she presided at the presentation of the following awards:

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award (October 2016)
- The Queen's Venturer Award (Scouts Canada), (October 2016)
- Ontario Community Newspapers Association Junior Citizen of the Year (March 2017)

In October 2016, the Lieutenant Governor presided at the 2016 Grad Ball of Pathways to Education, a charitable organization that empowers young people in low-income communities to graduate from high school and successfully transition into post-secondary education.

In May 2016, the Lieutenant Governor attended 125th anniversary celebrations of St. Mildred's-Lightbourn School in Oakville. Her Honour addressed students during visits to Nbisiing Secondary School (Nipissing First Nation, June 2016), St Margaret's Public School (Toronto, January 2017), and Pierre Laporte Middle School (Toronto, March 2017).

Her Honour met with each intake of the Legislative Page Program at Queen's Park, and wrote about the experience in a contribution to the Ontario Heritage Trust's MyOntario project in January 2017. In February, Her Honour met with participants of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario Model Parliament.

The Lieutenant Governor views a robotics demonstration during the launch of Canada 2067 in October 2016.

Community celebrations

The Lieutenant Governor routinely promotes the ideals of multiculturalism and inclusion by taking part in diverse community events. For example, Her Honour attended a New Year celebration hosted by the Vietnamese Association of Toronto (January 2017), the launch of Black History Month in Ontario (February 2017), a Chinese New Year celebration hosted by the Mayor of Markham (February 2017), and the Ireland Fund of Canada's St Patrick's Day luncheon (March 2017). Her Honour attended the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November 2016.

In February 2017, Her Honour delivered a keynote address on the historical evolution of the Lieutenant Governor's role during a dinner hosted by Heritage York at Lambton House, a historical residence in Toronto once owned by Lieutenant Governor Sir William Howland.

Her Honour took part in presenting awards conferred by various cultural organizations, including:

- Ordre de la Pléiade de l'Association des parlementaires de langue française (April 2016)
- National Trust for Canada's National Heritage Awards (October 2016)
- National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada Awards (November 2016)
- Canadian Forces Liaison Council Employer Support Awards (March 2017)

Her Honour celebrated important community anniversaries, including the 200th anniversary of St John's York Mills Anglican Church in Toronto (September 2016) and the 70th anniversary of the Garden Club of Toronto (January 2017).

In September 2016, Her Honour attended a performance of the Szeged Contemporary Dance Company to mark the 60th anniversary of the first arrival of Hungarian refugees in Canada following the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. In November, Her Honour attended a church service marking 50 years of the independence of Barbados.

Sports and recreation

Her Honour recognizes the important role of sports and outdoor activities in our culture. When addressing athletes and spectators, Her Honour emphasized the capacity of athletics in promoting active lifestyles and in fostering social cohesion.

Her Honour attended the annual Lieutenant Governor's Games at Variety Village, an organization providing services and recreation for children of varying abilities through the promotion of athletics and fitness.

In May 2016, the Lieutenant Governor attended events in the presence of Prince Harry and hosted a reception in support of the launch of the Toronto 2017 Invictus Games. In August, Her Honour met with Marcia Trudeau, CEO of the 2017 North American Indigenous Games, to be held in Toronto. Her Honour cheered on yachters during the 30th annual Canadian Optimist Championship. Also in August, the Lieutenant Governor presided at the opening ceremonies of the Ontario 55+ Summer Games in Midland. In February 2017, Her Honour opened the Ontario 55+ Winter Games in Cobourg.

Her Honour attended professional sporting events throughout the year, including a Toronto Raptors basketball game (May 2016) and a Toronto Blue Jays baseball game (September 2016). In November 2016, Her Honour took part in many events surrounding the Grey Cup Festival as its Honorary Chair, including the arrival ceremony of the Grey Cup trophy, a bullying prevention rally held by the Toronto Argonauts' Huddle Up program, the festival kickoff party, and the 104th Grey Cup championship game.

In July 2016, Her Honour attended the 156th running of the Queen's Plate at Woodbine Racetrack as guest of honour.

Representing Ontarians



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 may entail a civic reception and take place in conjunction with significant local events.

Her Honour paid an additional 23 official visits to municipalities, bringing the total number since the beginning of her mandate to 48:

- Brockville (April 2016)
- Cambridge (April 2016)
- Brampton (May 2016)
- Oshawa (May 2016)
- Cornwall (May 2016)
- Grimsby (June 2016)
- North Bay (June 2016)
- Vaughan (July 2016)
- Parry Sound (July 2016)
- Sault Ste. Marie (July 2016)
- Elliot Lake (July 2016)
- Central Manitoulin (July 2016)
- Midland (August 2016)
- Oro-Medonte (August 2016)
- Guelph (September 2016)
- Goderich (October 2016)
- Chatham-Kent (November 2016)
- Pembroke (November 2016)
- Markham (February 2017)
- Cobourg (February 2017)
- Burlington (February 2017)
- Whitby (March 2017)
- Mississippi Mills (March 2017)

The Lieutenant Governor joins Prince Harry during the launch of the Invictus Games Toronto 2017.

Since the beginning of her mandate, Ms. Dowdeswell has conducted engagements in 73 municipalities.

In July 2016, Her Honour conducted a tour of Northern Ontario communities, visiting Sault Ste. Marie, Elliot Lake, municipalities on Manitoulin Island, and Northern Bruce Peninsula. Ms. Dowdeswell met with residents, local representatives, and Indigenous leaders during 23 public events over four days.

During the Northern Tour, the Lieutenant Governor engaged with local representatives, residents, and members of civil society during three roundtables focusing on sustainable economic development and social cohesion. Additional highlights include a tour of downtown revitalization efforts in Sault Ste. Marie, visits to the Art Gallery of Algoma and the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, a visit to Miners' Memorial Park in Elliot Lake, and a tour of the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum. Ms. Dowdeswell met with chiefs and elders of the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising during a visit to the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation in M'Chigeeng, and addressed a community gathering during a visit to Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. Ms. Dowdeswell also visited the Neon Raven Art Gallery in M'Chigeeng and renowned Ojibway artist James Mishibinijima's gallery in Wikwemikong. The Northern Tour concluded in Tobermory with visits to Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park.

Hosting visitors

The Lieutenant Governor regularly receives members of the Royal Family during their stays in Ontario, including Prince Harry (May 2016), The Earl and Countess of Wessex (June 2016), and The Duchess of Gloucester (February 2017).

The Lieutenant Governor also welcomes world leaders, acting as Ontario's official host and providing opportunities to learn about and appreciate Canadians and Ontarians. Her Honour welcomed the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway, the presidents of Mexico and Croatia, ambassadors, high commissioners, and consuls general. Ms. Dowdeswell also met with the Aga Khan during his visit to Toronto in May 2016.

Milestone commemorations

The Lieutenant Governor participated in a number of events marking national milestones.

The Queen's 90th birthday



On April 21, 2016, Her Majesty The Queen marked her 90th birthday. To celebrate the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor, in association with The Royal Conservatory of Music, hosted *Happy and Glorious: A Celebration of The Queen's 90th Birthday* at Koerner Hall, in Toronto, in May. A tribute to Her Majesty in words and images, *Happy and Glorious* was narrated by historian Hugh Brewster and actress Fiona Reid with music conducted by Noel Edison. Following performances by great Canadian artists such as singer-songwriter Susan Aglukark, actor and singer Brent Carver, singer Matt Dusk, and parliamentarian and pianist Bob Rae, guests and members of the public enjoyed birthday cake and refreshments during a reception. *Happy and Glorious* received positive media attention and clips of the show have been viewed on YouTube and Facebook more than 25,000 times.

*The Lieutenant Governor
commissioned a cake featuring
the Royal Arms of Canada and
provincial floral emblems to mark
The Queen's 90th birthday.*

The Lieutenant Governor further marked The Queen's 90th birthday by attending events throughout the year, including a concert hosted by the Governor General's Horse Guards Cavalry and Historical Society in April and a formal lunch hosted by the Royal Canadian Military Institute in May.

150th anniversary of Confederation

On July 1, 1867, the four original provinces joined together to form a united Canada. To prepare for the 150th anniversary year of Confederation, the Lieutenant Governor attended many events to mark

this significant moment in Canadian history. On New Year's Eve, the Lieutenant Governor addressed an estimated 40,000 people at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto, wishing them a happy New Year and encouraging them to take part in celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of Confederation. During the first quarter of 2017, Her Honour had a role in dozens of events placing emphasis on the sesquicentennial, and will continue to do so throughout 2017. A list of Canada 150 events appears on the Lieutenant Governor's website.

Lieutenant Governor's Visionaries Prize

To mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation, Her Honour announced the launch of the Lieutenant Governor's Visionaries Prize in September 2016. Conducted in partnership with the Walrus Foundation, and supported by the Government of Ontario through its Ontario 150 program, the Visionaries Prize is an opportunity for innovative and creative thinkers across Ontario to identify and present their potential solutions to the great challenges facing Ontarians and Canadians over the next 50 years.

The first phase of this initiative was conducted by March 31, 2017. Ontarians from across the province submitted 445 ideas in six categories. A panel led by head judge Piya Chattopadhyay and six subject-matter experts have identified a total of 36 finalists to showcase their visions in front of audiences that will include policymakers, industry leaders, and members of the public. Audience members will help choose the category winner through live voting.

The six events, based on each submission category, will take place as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reconciliation Thunder Bay, September 13, 2017• Governance Kingston, September 19, 2017• Inclusive prosperity Windsor, September 21, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental stewardship Waterloo, September 26, 2017• Social cohesion Brampton, September 28, 2017• Scientific and technological innovation Toronto, October 2, 2017
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Free tickets to each of these events are available to members of the public on the Walrus Foundation's website. At each event, a winner will be declared, and all six category winners will receive a \$2,500 award and a spread in the pages of *The Walrus* magazine, and will be recognized by the Lieutenant Governor during a special ceremony.

Welcoming new Canadians

Citizenship ceremonies

The Lieutenant Governor welcomed 90 new Canadian citizens during a citizenship ceremony in May 2016 to mark The Queen's 90th birthday. On Canada Day in 2016, the Lieutenant Governor presided over a citizenship ceremony in Vaughan.

Refugees

In November 2016, the Lieutenant Governor joined students at West Humber Collegiate during a packing session sponsored by GlobalMedic, a civilian organization providing emergency relief and supplies to victims of humanitarian disasters. Her Honour assisted in packing supplies destined for those affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria.

In March 2017, the Lieutenant Governor addressed *Up/Rooted: Refugees, Resettlement, Community Conference*, a multi-day conference on the experiences of refugees in Canada, hosted by the International Migration Research Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University.



The logo of the Lieutenant Governor's Visionaries Prize



The Lieutenant Governor welcomes new citizens in July 2016.

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, such as members of the Canadian Forces and civilian police, fire, and medical services.

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 Col. John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario), who commanded the regiment during the American War of Independence. Ms. Dowdeswell attended a change of command ceremony for the regiment in April 2016. In July 2016, Her Honour attended a change of command ceremony for the 4th Canadian Division of the Canadian Army.

The Lieutenant Governor attended 125th anniversary celebrations of the 48th Highlanders of Canada in May 2016, and in June addressed a conference in Fort Erie marking the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Ridgeway as part of the Fenian Raids.

In August 2016, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the re-opening of the Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church in Oro-Medonte. Built in 1839 by a community of Black Loyalists and their

descendants, the church remains as a symbol of one of Canada's first Black communities and of the service of Black militiamen during the War of 1812. Her Honour participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony and met with community members, veterans, and descendants of the church's founders.

In June 2016, the Lieutenant Governor marked Canadian Forces Day in North Bay. In addition to viewing military equipment demonstrations, Her Honour presided over the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps Brilliant's 73rd annual ceremonial review. In August, Ms. Dowdeswell was present on the reviewing stand during the 95th annual Warriors' Day Parade in Toronto. In September, Ms. Dowdeswell had an opportunity to engage with members of the Royal Canadian Navy while sailing from Whitby to Toronto on the HMCS Ville de Québec, one of Canada's 12 Halifax-class frigates. In February 2017, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the 200th anniversary of the Toronto Officers' Garrison Ball.

Her Honour received the ceremonial first poppy in Ontario from the Royal Canadian Legion in October 2016. During an official visit to Goderich, the Lieutenant Governor presided at the dedication of the Huron County Afghanistan Community Monument. In November 2016, following an official visit to CFB Petawawa, the Lieutenant Governor marked Remembrance Day in Pembroke. Her Honour addressed a memorial service at the local cenotaph, met with veterans at Pembroke Legion Hall, and attended an organ concert honouring veterans.

In September 2016, the Lieutenant Governor presided at a memorial service honouring Afghanistan War veteran Cpl. Justin Stark, where Her Honour presented the Memorial Cross and Ribbon to members of the Stark Family. In December 2016, Her Honour attended the funeral of Royal Canadian Air Force pilot Capt. Thomas McQueen, who died in a training accident.

In October 2016, Her Honour attended the annual Ontario Provincial Police Mess Dinner, where she delivered remarks in her capacity as an Honorary Commissioner of the OPP. During the dinner, she honoured newly commissioned OPP inspectors.

The Lieutenant Governor presided at the Ontario police memorial service in May 2016. In July, Her Honour represented Ontarians at the funeral of firefighter Patrick Pidgeon of the Loyalist Township Emergency Services. In October, Her Honour addressed the Ontario firefighters' memorial service.



The Lieutenant Governor participates in a change of command ceremony for The Queen's York Rangers in April 2016.

Throughout the year, Her Honour represented the people of Ontario during the funerals and memorial services of prominent Ontarians. Ms. Dowdeswell attended the funeral of the Hon. Mauril Bélanger, MP for Ottawa—Vanier, in August 2016. In September, she attended a memorial service for trailblazing scientist, educator, and humanitarian Dr. Ursula Franklin.

Battle of Vimy Ridge

In April 2016, the Lieutenant Governor accompanied winners of the Vimy Pilgrimage Award during the 99th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in France. Presented by the Vimy Foundation, the pilgrimage award recognizes young people demonstrating outstanding volunteer service, leadership, or bravery. As part of the award, recipients participate in a week-long educational program at sites in Belgium and France significant to Canada's involvement in the First World War. During the tour, Her Honour conducted 13 engagements over three days, visiting several memorials and monuments, the French office of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and local museums. The visit culminated on Vimy Ridge Day, during which Ms. Dowdeswell participated in a ceremony of remembrance at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, viewed Canada's new visitor and education centre, and published a blog post about the experience for Huffington Post Canada.

In June 2016, Her Honour addressed the dedication of the Vimy Memorial Wall at CFB Borden. The memorial wall was constructed to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and to honour the wartime service of those based at what was then known as the Borden Military Camp.



The Lieutenant Governor visits the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in April 2016.

Honouring Ontarians



The Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration, and International Trade, poses with recipients of the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers in May 2016.

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.

During presentation ceremonies throughout the year, the Lieutenant Governor takes great pride in recognizing people who have made a difference to their communities.

Order of Canada and 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. Her Honour presented the insignia of the Order of Canada to two Ontarians during private visits to their homes and communities:

- **Ronald Wonnacott, OC** (London, October 2016), for contributions to Canadian international trade policy, particularly in relation to Canada's free trade agreements.
- **Robert Cox, CM** (Waterloo, November 2016), for contributions to the field of international relations as one of Canada's foremost scholars in the area of political economy.

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 2016.

In the presence of the Governor General, the Lieutenant Governor addressed recipients of national honours during a presentation ceremony in London in March 2017.

Order of Ontario

Established in 1986, the Order of Ontario is the province's highest official honour. It 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.

In December 2016, it was announced that the Lieutenant Governor would invest new members in June 2017 during a special gala marking the 30th anniversary of the first investiture of the order. As members are appointed to the order for life, Her Honour has invited each new member to meet with her so that she may learn about their contributions.

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



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

Her Honour presided at the presentation of the following medals:

- Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers (May 2016, 10 young people)
- Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery (November 2016, 3 firefighters)
- Ontario Medal for Police Bravery (November 2016, 7 police officers)
- Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (December 2016, 19 honourees)

In November 2016, Her Honour presented the Ontario Senior Achievement Award to 20 seniors.

Her Honour also presented the following awards in recognition of former Lieutenant Governors:

- David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility (June 2016, 3 recipients, 8 champion organizations)
- Hilary M. Weston Scholarship (August 2016, 2 graduate-level social work students)
- James Bartleman Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing Award (October 2016, 6 Indigenous youth)
- Lincoln M. Alexander Award (February 2017, 3 young leaders in eliminating racial discrimination)

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. In 2016, 773 graduates were recognized.

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, May 2016)
- Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration (Institute of Public Administration of Canada in Ontario, October 2016)
- Lieutenant Governor's Cup (sport horse breeding), (Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, November 2016)
- Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards (Ontario Heritage Trust, February 2017)
- Lieutenant Governor's Award for Marketing Excellence in Ontario (Economic Developers Council of Ontario, February 2017)
- Lieutenant Governor's Distinguished Service Award (Royal Ontario Museum, March 2017)

In 2016, it was announced that the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Ontario Wines would become part of annual Ontario Wine Awards as a "top-tier" award, with the highest-scoring wines in each year's varietal categories competing against each other for eight to 12 winning spots.

Viceregal patronage

The Lieutenant Governor plays a key role in supporting organizations making outstanding contributions to civil society. To this end, the Lieutenant Governor from time to time grants her viceregal patronage to applicants from community, charitable, military, and cultural associations, as well as public service organizations, lending them support and recognition.

To date, Ms. Dowdeswell has granted patronage to 43 organizations:

- 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 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 Ontario Museum
- Schizophrenia Society of Ontario
- Scouts 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

Ms. Dowdeswell granted patronage to 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)

Office operations



The Lieutenant Governor's Suite

After the closure of Chorley Park 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 regularly 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 2016. In addition to learning about the office's history, viewers were able to view the changing art exhibitions. It is estimated that 10,544 persons visited the suite on tours or during official functions.

New Year's Levee

Ms. Dowdeswell welcomed members of the public to the Lieutenant Governor's Suite on January 1, 2017, during the annual New Year's Levee. A longstanding tradition, the levee is a unique opportunity for the public to meet the Lieutenant Governor, learn about her role and responsibilities, and enjoy local entertainment. This year, representatives of federal signature initiatives were invited to involve visitors in plans to celebrate 150 years of Confederation.

Her Honour greets guests during the 2017 Lieutenant Governor's New Year's Levee.



Communications

Engaging Ontarians online

The Lieutenant Governor maintains an active social media presence, regularly documenting her activity program. The office operates official accounts on Facebook, Flickr, Instagram, Scribd, 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 routinely updated to include current and accessible information relating to the Her Honour's role.

As an occasional blogger for *The Huffington Post Canada*, Her Honour is able to share her message with a greater audience. In 2016, she published blog posts offering reflections on the 99th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, Canadian athletes' achievements during the Olympics and Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, and the approaching 150th anniversary of Confederation.

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 118 signed messages of congratulations.

The Lieutenant Governor sent 5,112 signed congratulatory greetings to Ontarians celebrating birthdays (90 years and over) and wedding 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 11 staff members.

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, St John Ambulance, and local emergency services and first responders.

Finances

Provincial funds

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

Public Accounts of Ontario: 2015–16

	Actuals
Salaries and wages	897,580
Employee benefits	108,568
Transportation and communications	35,212
Services	184,872
Supplies and equipment	85,611
Discretionary allowance	155,800
	\$1,467,643

Year ending March 31

Source: Public Accounts of Ontario. Ministry of Finance. <http://www.ontario.ca/page/public-accounts-ontario>

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): 2015–16

	Actuals
Travel and accommodation	11,044
Hospitality	58,675
Operational and administrative expenses	12,782
	<u>\$82,501</u>

Year ending March 31

All amounts rounded to the nearest \$1

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

<http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1455301281166>

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 2016 to March 2017.

An electronic copy of this report is available online at lgontario.ca.

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