



Activity report

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

September 2014–March 2016

A note about the scope of this report

The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell took office as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on September 23, 2014. This report presents the highlights of the first 18 months of her mandate. As an historical record, this report serves as a guide to understanding her varied roles and responsibilities.

This report covers activities taking place from Her Honour's first day in office to the end of the 2014–15 fiscal year (concluding March 31), as well as during the entire 2015–16 fiscal year.

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

Foreword

As the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, it is my pleasure to present this activity report of my first 18 months in office. It illustrates a broad range of responsibilities and opportunities to serve the people of Ontario.

At the commencement of my mandate on September 23, 2014, I made a commitment to the people of this province. I said that I wanted to listen to your achievements and aspirations, as well as to your challenges, and elicit your ideas about how to create a more just and sustainable society.

The overwhelming sentiments that have emerged have been of pride and affection for our land, our communities, and each other. We are blessed with an environment of unparalleled and spectacular diversity, rich with life and natural resources that have sustained generations. We are also home to millions of people from all walks of life and corners of the world, living and working in every kind of community, from small and remote, to large and urban. As I have heard (and have said) many times, Ontario has it all. We have much to contribute to the world. Equally, we have much to learn about the world—how to live, work, and trade in it—if we are not to be left behind.

I have been deeply impressed and inspired by the sheer talent and ingenuity of Ontarians. You have shown me what it looks like to be truly dedicated to the health and wellbeing of communities. Your stories deserve to be told, and I will do so. In spite of individual circumstances and shared challenges, Ontarians are constantly seeking to improve the pillars of sustainability: environmental stewardship, inclusive economic prosperity and innovation, and social and cultural inclusion.

It has become clear that the themes of Ontario in the world and sustainability have resonated with Ontarians. I look forward to further exploring these themes with you in the months ahead.

In closing, I would like to thank the many partners, organizations, families, and individuals across the province who have welcomed me so warmly and who have offered their inspiration and support.

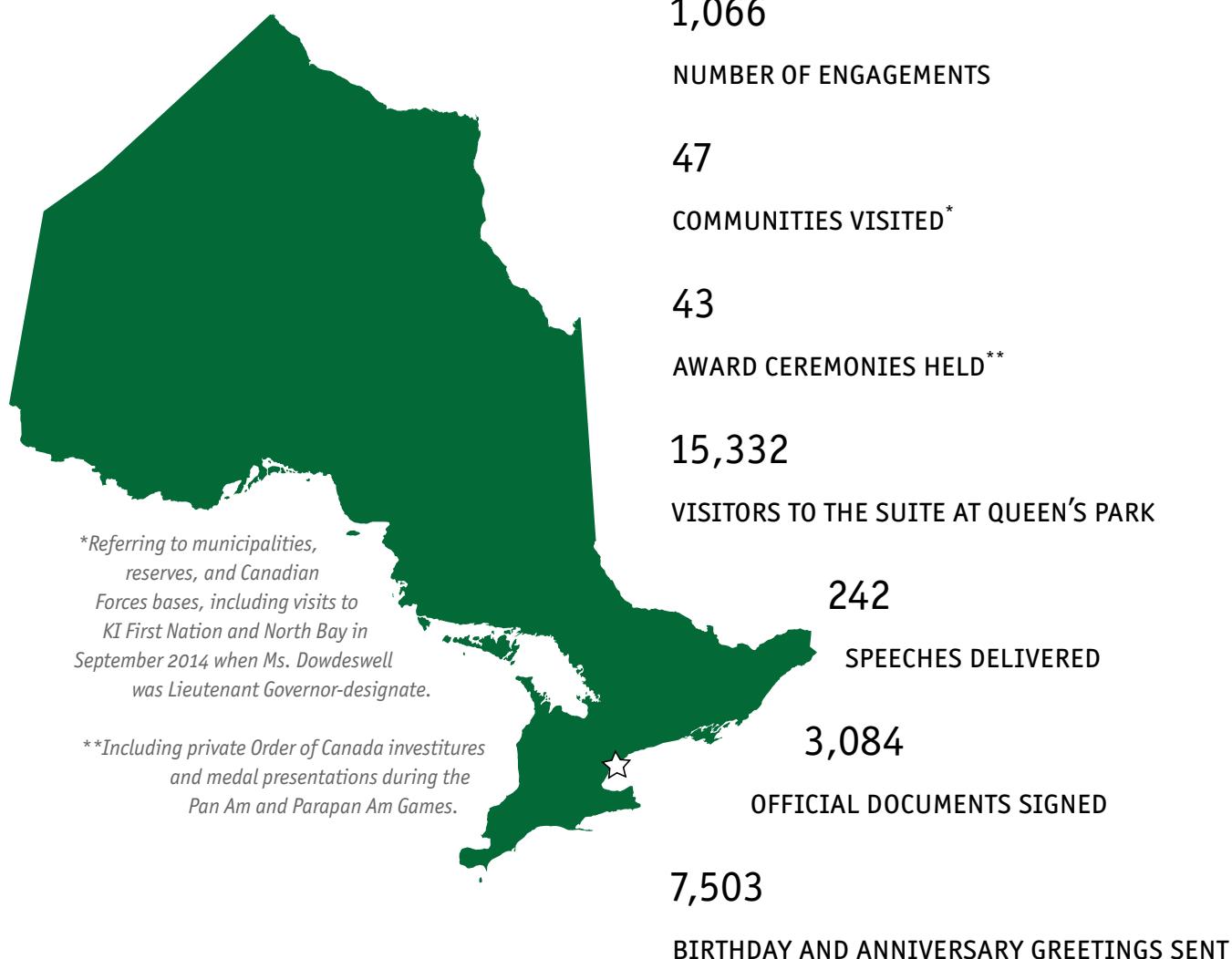
The signature is written in a flowing, cursive blue ink. It starts with a large, stylized 'E', followed by 'Dowdeswell' in a more standard script. The signature is slightly slanted to the left.

*Her Honour wearing her insignia as
Chancellor of the Order of Ontario and the
Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.*

Photo: V. Tony Hauser

At a glance

Covering the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell's first 18 months in office as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.



*Referring to municipalities, reserves, and Canadian Forces bases, including visits to KI First Nation and North Bay in September 2014 when Ms. Dowdeswell was Lieutenant Governor-designate.

**Including private Order of Canada investitures and medal presentations during the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games.

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

Her Honour



*Her Honour receives the
Viceregal Salute upon
inspecting a guard of honour
mounted for her installation
as Lieutenant Governor.*

Appointment

The Prime Minister announced the appointment of Elizabeth Dowdeswell as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on June 26, 2014. During the following months, she participated in numerous meetings and briefings in preparation of taking office. While at Queen's Park, she chose to sit at the desk of the Hon. Pauline McGibbon, Ontario's 22nd and first female Lieutenant Governor (1974–80).

Biography

The Hon. 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.

Installation ceremony

In the early afternoon of September 23, 2014, Ms. Dowdeswell travelled in a carriage procession from the Royal Ontario Museum to the front entrance of Queen's Park. A mounted detachment of the Governor General's Horse Guards escorted Ms. Dowdeswell, who was accompanied by two of her nephews in a landau lent by the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Upon their arrival, she was greeted by provincial dignitaries before entering the Legislative Chamber. Following the processional, an Indigenous blessing by Laurie Robinson, and an invocation by the Hon. David MacDonald, Ms. Dowdeswell's commission of appointment was read in the presence of members of the Executive Council (Cabinet ministers) and the Chief Justice. Ms. Dowdeswell swore and subscribed the required oaths and then took her seat upon the Throne as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Ms. Dowdeswell and the Premier delivered addresses, as did Senator Victor Oh on behalf of the Prime Minister. A musical program featured the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, directed by Noel Edison, a string quartet from the Royal Conservatory of Music, and vocalist Lauren Woods (Ms. Dowdeswell's niece).

The Lieutenant Governor then proceeded outdoors for a military ceremony including a guard of honour drawn from the 4th Canadian Division and a 15-gun salute fired by the 7th Toronto Regiment.



Outgoing Lieutenant Governor David Onley and Mrs. Onley congratulate Ms. Dowdeswell prior to her swearing-in.

Working visit to the United Kingdom

Newly installed Lieutenant Governors are traditionally received in audience by The Queen during the first year of their mandate, and Ms. Dowdeswell travelled to Buckingham Palace in February 2015. In addition, the invitation was an opportunity to undertake a more extensive working visit with a focus on Ontario in the world.

Following an audience with The Queen, Her Honour met with The Prince of Wales to learn more about his work as a charitable entrepreneur, his ongoing work in Canada, and his interests in a broad range of areas such as education and young people, responsible business, the built environment, and global sustainability. Her Honour toured Poundbury, a new town built according to the architectural principles advocated by The Prince of Wales.

Her Honour paid tribute to the province's history by visiting Wolford Chapel in Devon, the burial site of Col. John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario) from 1791 to 1796. In her capacity as Colonel of the Regiment of The Queen's York Rangers (Simcoe's army regiment during the American War of Independence), Her Honour presented a regimental coin to the chapel.

Ms. Dowdeswell discussed Ontario in the world with Canadian students in residence at Goodenough College in London.

Her Honour attended the reopening of the Canadian High Commission at Canada House in London in the presence of The Queen.



The Queen receives Her Honour in audience at Buckingham Palace in February 2015. (PA)

Constitutional role



Upon taking office, Her Honour entrusts the Great Seal of Ontario to the Hon. David Orazietti, Minister of Government and Consumer Services.

Representing the Crown

Canada is a constitutional monarchy and the Lieutenant Governor is The Queen's representative in Ontario. The Queen is head of state while the Premier is the provincial head of government. In our system of parliamentary democracy, these two roles are distinct: 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

In the Westminster system, responsible government refers to the principle whereby the Executive is responsible to the Legislature for its actions.

The government (Premier and Cabinet ministers) advises the Lieutenant Governor on the use of the Crown's authority under the constitution and other laws and are accountable to the elected Legislative Assembly for their decisions and actions while in office. Provided the government enjoys the support of the Legislative Assembly, its advice is invariably accepted and legitimized by the Crown.

Although the government is officially appointed by the Crown and remains in office until replaced, it is entitled to continue governing only as long as it retains the confidence of the Legislative Assembly. If the government loses confidence, then it must either resign, making way for a new administration, or submit to the will of citizens in a general election.

Powers and responsibilities

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

The Lieutenant Governor is therefore responsible for:

- Ensuring that Ontario always has a Premier who commands the confidence of the Legislative Assembly
- Appointing members of the Executive Council (Cabinet ministers) on the advice of the Premier
- Reading the Speech from the Throne at the beginning of a parliamentary session
- Granting Royal Assent, the final step of the legislative process, to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly
- Summoning, proroguing, and dissolving the Legislature on the advice of the Premier
- Ordering elections to the Legislative Assembly on the advice of Cabinet, in accordance with the *Election Act*
- Approving government business such as regulations and public appointments by signing Orders-in-Council on the advice of Cabinet
- Ensuring that the democratic will of Ontarians and their elected representatives is upheld and that the constitutional conventions of responsible government are respected

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Lieutenant Governor conducts herself in a strictly nonpartisan fashion.

The Lieutenant Governor meets periodically with the Premier and has the right to be consulted, to encourage, and to warn. These meetings, as with all communications between the Lieutenant Governor and the government, remain confidential.

In numbers

The Lieutenant Governor regularly reviews and signs papers formally approving government decisions.

2014-15

From September 23, 2014 to March 31, 2015:

- 20 bills received Royal Assent
- 1 by-election was authorized
- 507 Orders-in-Council (including 77 regulations) were signed into effect
- 212 letters patent were signed under the *Public Lands Act* and the *Mining Act*

2015-16

From April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016:

- 58 bills received Royal Assent
- 2 by-elections were authorized
- 1,986 Orders-in-Council (including 322 regulations) were signed into effect
- 177 letters patent were signed under the *Public Lands Act* and the *Mining Act*

Administrator

Under section 67 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*, if the Lieutenant Governor is absent from Toronto, ill, or unable to perform the required constitutional duties, the Administrator of the Government of Ontario can act at the request of the Lieutenant Governor or the provincial government.

Since 1958, the Chief Justice of Ontario has held a standing appointment as Administrator of the Government. If the Chief Justice is not available, another judge from the Ontario Courts is appointed by the Governor General-in-Council to act as Administrator.

Areas of focus



Students at St Justin, Martyr Catholic Elementary School in Markham greet the Lieutenant Governor during her visit on the occasion of Earth Day 2015.

Listening to Ontarians

Upon taking office, Ms. Dowdeswell indicated that rather than immediately declaring a particular overarching theme or area of focus, she would spend the beginning of her mandate engaging with Ontarians, seeking to learn what resonates with them.

As Canada approaches the 150th anniversary of Confederation, Ontarians will undoubtedly reflect on the central role that their province has played in the country's development. Ms. Dowdeswell has challenged Ontarians to dare to think about Ontario in the world. Specifically, what they can contribute and learn from others in meeting the common challenges of an interconnected world, and in creating just and sustainable communities by addressing the related concerns of environmental stewardship, inclusive economic prosperity and innovation, and social and cultural inclusion.

In the period following the announcement of her appointment, Ms. Dowdeswell invited the public to write in with suggestions for causes to which she might give attention during her mandate. Ontarians responded with emails and letters recommending a great variety of topics, and many made recommendations in person. Her Honour has benefitted from the insight and experience of many people during numerous conversations and meetings.

As her mandate continues, Her Honour will continue to solicit input from Ontarians in at least three particular ways. First, by regularly participating in community events in regions all across the province. Second, by undertaking official visits to municipalities in Ontario. Third, by meeting individually with those who serve Ontario and by calling upon people with expertise in all fields.

Throughout her travels, Her Honour has noted the resilience of Ontarians, but has said that she believes they are often unaware of the extraordinary work being done by ordinary people across the province. She has used community visits as a platform to raise public awareness of innovative community projects. She has made it her mission to bring people together, serving as Ontario's "chief story teller" and motivating them to act with a view to building just and sustainable communities.

Ontario in the world

In the early months of Ms. Dowdeswell's mandate, it became increasingly apparent that the notion of Ontario in the world resonates with Ontarians.

Speeches and conferences

Her Honour regularly speaks of her belief that it is essential for Ontarians to actively engage the world. To this end, Ms. Dowdeswell has addressed many conferences hosted in Ontario, including:

- Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (November 2014)
- 11th annual Trudeau Foundation conference (November 2014)
- Walter Gordon Symposium on Public Policy (March 2015)
- Beyond GDP: Development Alternatives to Growth (May 2015)
- Ontario Home Economics Association (May 2015)
- Ontario Biodiversity Summit (May 2015)
- Canadian Foreign Policy: Traditions and Transitions (May 2015)
- Taking Flight: Food Banks Canada (June 2015)
- Education International, 7th World Congress (July 2015)
- French Ameri-Can Climate TalkS (FACTS), (October 2015)
- B3D Design Conference (October 2015)
- The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Forum 2015 (October 2015)
- YOUN Economic Innovation Forum (November 2015)

In July 2015, Ontario hosted the Climate Summit of the Americas, coinciding with the Pan Am Games. Her Honour addressed the summit, welcoming delegates to Toronto and offering words of encouragement in advance of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris in December.

Her Honour also delivered keynote addresses focusing on public policy matters during gatherings of the Empire Club of Canada (December 2014), the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities Conference (May 2015), and the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs (April, August 2015).

In January 2016, Her Honour attended *The Crown in the 21st Century: Deference or Drift?* in Victoria, British Columbia. Presented by the Institute for the Study of the Crown in Canada, this conference brought together experts from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom to examine the evolving role of the Crown within the Commonwealth realms.

The United Nations

As a former Under-Secretary-General at the United Nations, Her Honour has frequently noted the varied connections that Ontarians have with the UN, taking care to highlight organizations working in support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and regularly marking significant international observances recognized by the UN.

Her Honour hosted dialogue sessions and attended engagements in partnership with the United Nations Association in Canada, and marked its 70th anniversary in March 2016. Also in March, she attended the presentation of the association's Pearson Peace Medal to the Hon. Louise Arbour by the Governor General. In April, she addressed the association's Global Citizens Dinner, during which the Hon. David Peterson was recognized as the 2015 Global Citizen Laureate.

In January 2016, Ms. Dowdeswell attended the memorial service for the Hon. Maurice Strong, first Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme.



Her Honour addresses the Climate Summit of the Americas.

Sustainability

Her Honour has focused on the theme of sustainability, emphasizing its interrelated three components: environmental stewardship, inclusive economic prosperity and innovation, and social and cultural inclusion. Of particular resonance with Ontarians has been the importance of protecting the environment.

Environmental stewardship

Her Honour has characterized the environment as the fundamental basis for life on earth, and believes in the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to solving environmental challenges. She delivered major speeches on climate change, water, biodiversity, and land, while remaining optimistic that the ideas and efforts of Ontarians can alter the trajectory to a damaged world of polluted air, water, and land, and endangered species.

Ms. Dowdeswell attended 75th anniversary celebrations for Nature Canada, the country's oldest nature conservation charity in November 2014. She delivered remarks as one of the founding members of the organization's Women for Nature initiative, which brings together the leadership, knowledge, and experience of influential Canadian women committed to conservation. She also accepted the Douglas H. Pimlott Award for her lifelong dedication to conservation.



Cree elder Gordon Williams offers a blessing and personal reflections at the opening of *Identity: Art Inspired by the Great Lakes*.

these immense bodies of water have helped shape the province. The exhibition recalls the economic, socio-cultural, and environmental role the lakes have played in the life of Ontario.

Making use of the Lieutenant Governor's ability to convene diverse individuals and groups, Her Honour hosted two significant conversations focused on raising public awareness of the importance of the Great Lakes.

While visiting communities, Her Honour has frequently engaged local representatives on issues relating to the Great Lakes, and has made a point to visit key sites, such as waterfront revitalization projects in Toronto and Northwestern Ontario, in person.

Her Honour brought her message about the Great Lakes to larger audiences, speaking at the Canadian Water Network conference in March 2015, and Georgian Bay Forever's Vital Signs IV event in April. In July, Ms. Dowdeswell had an opportunity to learn more about Ontario's waterways while travelling the Welland Canal aboard Algoma Central's ship Equinox.

Environmental education

Her Honour also understands the importance of engaging young people and students in discussions about the environment. In these times of rapid environmental change, their insights, experiences, and participation will be crucial in finding ways to care for our environment.

While in Greater Sudbury in December 2014, Her Honour visited the Science North museum and education centre. She also toured the Vale Living with Lakes Centre at Laurentian University, a

multidisciplinary research and monitoring institute that assists in the protecting and managing northern aquatic ecosystems. Joined by students, faculty, and administrators, she participated in a roundtable dealing with conservation and the environmental effects mining, among other topics.

Each December, Her Honour hosted the unveiling of a holiday balsam fir donated by Forests Ontario. She recognized winners of the organization's Tree Bee and Envirothon environmental education competitions during a reception at Queen's Park.

In April 2015, Her Honour attended Earth Day celebrations at St Justin, Martyr Catholic Elementary School in Markham. She viewed student science projects and demonstrations of the school's green initiatives, addressed an interactive assembly, and took part in a ceremonial tree planting. In January 2016, she addressed an assembly at Earl Haig Junior Public School in Toronto organized by Earth Rangers, a conservation organization dedicated to educating children about biodiversity.

- **Local initiatives**

Her Honour frequently tours environmental installations and projects in Ontario's communities, allowing her to see conservation efforts firsthand and to meet those involved in their development.

For example, during a tour of Northwestern Ontario in August 2015, Her Honour visited sustainable buildings, including the new Dryden Wastewater Treatment Facility, the first of its kind to be LEED certified. While in Kenora, she received a briefing from the Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation on its cross-jurisdictional and community-based initiatives relating to the Lake of the Woods Basin. In Thunder Bay, she toured the newly developed waterfront.

Inclusive economic prosperity and innovation

In August 2015, Her Honour addressed the Accessibility Innovation Showcase, which coincided with the Parapan Am Games.

Her Honour met with Prof. Ted Sargent in August 2015 and visited the Sargent Group, an establishment uniting chemistry, physics, and engineering within eight experimental laboratories at the University of Toronto.

In October 2015, Her Honour and The Earl of Wessex visited innovation sites in Toronto, including Think2Thing, a 3D-printing and research lab, and Ryerson University's DMZ, one of Canada's largest business incubators for emerging tech firms. Her Honour and His Royal Highness met with the founders of several start-up companies, viewed demonstrations of new technologies, and participated in a roundtable focusing on youth entrepreneurship and the importance of fostering a culture of innovation.

In November 2015, Her Honour joined The Countess of Wessex as she visited hospitals forming part of the University Health Network in Toronto. They met with doctors, nurses, and researchers while learning about new technologies relating to vision care, stroke treatments, arthritis, and organ donation.

Her Honour presented the Royal Canadian Institute's Sandford Fleming Medal to Prof. Molly Shoichet in November 2015.

In December 2015, Her Honour conducted the first of several planned visits to the Kitchener-Waterloo region, during which she met with organizations exemplifying the talent and ingenuity required to succeed in an innovation economy. The visit highlighted the ongoing innovation of the region



Her Honour with Earth Rangers organizers and students at Earl Haig Junior Public School.



Her Honour and The Earl of Wessex enjoy a light moment while meeting young entrepreneurs at Ryerson University's DMZ.



Her Honour discusses the Kitchener-Waterloo tech corridor with the senior leadership team at Communitech.

and throughout Ontario. Her Honour visited Communitech, an innovation hub for tech companies, as well as of Magnet Forensics, a leader in digital forensics software. While at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, she attended a working lunch and participated in a roundtable focusing on how Ontario can succeed in a world affected by an emerging innovation-based economy and climate change.

In January 2016, Her Honour addressed a board meeting of the International Institute for Sustainable Development in Ottawa. In March, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted a reception for the Council of Canadian Academies, a non-profit organization providing independent, evidence-based, and expert assessments aimed at informing the development of public policy in Canada.

Her Honour has recognized leaders in science, technology, and innovation by presiding at the presentation of important awards, including:

- Canada Gairdner Awards (medical research), (October 2014)
- Ernest C. Manning Innovation Awards (October 2014)
- John Charles Polanyi Prizes (postdoctoral research), (November 2014, 2015)
- Awards of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (November 2015)

Social and cultural inclusion

Her Honour has said that Ontarians benefit from the fact that our society welcomes diversity, respects the traditions of all, and is committed to fairness. Ms. Dowdeswell has encouraged Ontarians to reach across divides in addressing the challenges of building more just and sustainable communities.

To this end, Her Honour has regularly interacted with people and organizations working to better Ontarians' quality of life in all parts of the province.

Her Honour has built upon the close relationship between the Lieutenant Governor's Office and The Prince's Charities Canada. Ms. Dowdeswell has lent her support to the organization in

its efforts to promote The Prince of Wales' core interests in Canada, including improving the lives of disadvantaged youth, education, responsible business, improving the built environment, regeneration of heritage, environmental sustainability, and support for the armed forces.

In November 2015, Her Honour attended a formal dinner held by Peacebuilders, and introduced keynote speaker the Hon. Louise Arbour, who was recognized for her commitment to promoting equality, resolving conflict, strengthening democracy, and upholding the rule of law in Canada and across the world.

During an official visit to Kitchener in December 2015, Her Honour addressed the 11th annual interfaith gathering held by the Islamic Humanitarian Service, a faith-based charitable community centre providing spiritual, educational, and social services. In January



The Prince of Wales receives Her Honour in February 2015.

2016, she addressed the inaugural presentation of the Peace and Dialogue Awards of the Intercultural Dialogue Institute.

In February 2016, Her Honour addressed the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons' 32nd Great Valentine Gala.

In March 2016, Her Honour attended the Trudeau Foundation's Borders and Belonging: Citizenship in an Age of Transition seminar. Also in March, Her Honour received the Social Work Doctors Colloquium's 2015 Award of Merit in recognition of her lifetime achievements and commitment to social cohesion.

Bringing people together



Indigenous peoples

In the aftermath of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Her Honour has stressed the importance of becoming engaged in the reconciliation process. To this end, the Lieutenant Governor's Office hosted *100 Years of Loss: The Residential School System in Canada* in March 2016. Presented by the Legacy of Hope Foundation, this travelling exhibition uses archival photos and documents, first-person accounts, and artwork to reveal the stories of the more than 150,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children who were forcibly institutionalized in residential schools from the 1830s to 1996. Nearly one thousand people viewed the exhibition in person. The youth cultural organization DAREarts led a closing ceremony featuring an Indigenous music and dance performance.

As Lieutenant Governor, Ms. Dowdeswell has met with representatives of Indigenous communities whenever possible and has been diligent in ensuring Indigenous representation at events.

Visit to KI First Nation

In September 2014, while Lieutenant Governor-designate, Ms. Dowdeswell joined The Countess of Wessex, Mrs. Onley, the Premier, and a delegation of women business and community leaders during a three-day visit to Northern Ontario, with stops at Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inniniuwug (KI) First Nation—a fly-in community also known as Big Trout Lake First Nation—and North Bay.

This visit's purpose was to emphasize the unique relationship between the Crown's representatives and Indigenous peoples while also acknowledging Indigenous achievements and youth leadership. The delegation of women from the cultural, business, academic, and philanthropic sectors had meaningful opportunities to engage with First Nations community members and leaders. The visit was positively received and set the tone for Ms. Dowdeswell's further engagement with Indigenous communities during her mandate as Lieutenant Governor.

Ms. Dowdeswell accompanied by The Countess of Wessex, Ruth Ann Onley, and the Premier during a visit to KI First Nation.



Her Honour works with a participant at a summer reading camp in Fort Albany First Nation.

The Lieutenant Governor's Office also supports Club Amick, a book club for First Nation children in kindergarten to Grade 6 in Ontario's remote communities, begun by the Hon. James Bartleman, 27th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (2002–07). Members are encouraged to use their new books to create home libraries. The Southern Ontario Library Service and the Ontario Library Service–North administer the program.

Aboriginal Forum

On September 9, 2015, coinciding with celebrations of The Queen's historic reign, Her Honour hosted the eighth edition of the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal Forum. This forum focused on the topic of reconciliation. Commissioner Marie Wilson of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada addressed the gathering and offered guidance on how to respond to the commission's calls to action.



Her Honour signs the Queen Anne Bible at the Royal Chapel of the Mohawks.

In November 2015, Ms. Dowdeswell addressed a commemoration of Louis Riel Day hosted by the Métis Nation of Ontario at Queen's Park. Later in November, she travelled to Winnipeg to tour the Canadian Museum of Human Rights and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation at the University of Manitoba.

Arts and culture

Her Honour recognizes that museums and galleries are powerful instruments to foster citizenship and a sense of belonging, while also noting their ongoing contributions to Ontario's cultural industry and economy. In June 2015, Ms. Dowdeswell hosted a working dinner with members of the arts community to discuss the global influence of Ontario's contributions to arts and culture.

The Countess of Wessex returned in November 2015 to accompany the Lieutenant Governor and a group of women business leaders to learn about the unique issues facing Indigenous peoples living in an urban setting. In addition to attending a working lunch, the delegation visited Native Child and Family Services of Toronto and the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre.

Literacy initiatives

Her Honour continues to support the Lieutenant Governor's Aboriginal 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 July 2015, Her Honour visited a reading camp in Fort Albany First Nation.

The forum, initiated by the Hon. David Onley, is a periodic roundtable and networking event that fosters information sharing and collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and organizations. The forum aims to provide mutual learning opportunities leading to tangible initiatives.

Community milestones

In April 2015, Her Honour attended a ceremony at Dundurn National Historic Site in Hamilton marking 200 years of peace following the War of 1812. The ceremony featured a re-enactment of the exchange of the Pledge of the Crown Wampum Belt between representatives of His Majesty's Government and the Six Nations.

In September 2015, while in Brantford to commemorate the 230th anniversary of Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks, Her Honour visited the Mohawk Institute Residential School.

While undertaking community visits, she made a point to visit local museums, including the Oeno Gallery (May 2015, Prince Edward County), the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art (June, September 2015, Toronto), the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum (50th anniversary, July 2015), the Dryden Museum (August 2015), Mather-Walls House (August 2015, Kenora), and the Thunder Bay Art Gallery (August 2015). In October 2014, Her Honour visited the newly opened Aga Khan Museum. In May 2015, she attended 20th anniversary celebrations for the Bata Shoe Museum. In November, she hosted a reception marking the 50th anniversary of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. She visited the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives in March 2016.

Her Honour participated in several events in 2014 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Royal Ontario Museum. Her Honour welcomed new members of the Lieutenant Governor's Circle at the ROM, which recognizes donors as well as longtime volunteers at the museum.

In April 2015, Her Honour presented the 11th annual Glenn Gould Jury Prize to composer Philip Glass. In October, she joined the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto for its inaugural presentation of the NEXT! Ontario-Wide Arts Exhibition Awards. In November, Her Honour presented the inaugural Massey Hall Honours Award to Gordon Lightfoot.

In September 2015, Her Honour hosted the launch of author Douglas Gibson's new book *Across Canada by Story!* In October, Her Honour attended an exhibition of work by the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists in Toronto. In November, she addressed Chorus Niagara's season opening.

Her Honour regularly lent her support to the film industry. She hosted a screening of the Niagara Integrated Film Festival (June 2015) and a reception to mark the International Indian Film Festival Toronto (October 2015). She attended and a screening of the Toronto International Film Festival (August 2015). In March each year, Her Honour attended the Canadian Screen Awards in Toronto.

Ms. Dowdeswell attended the opening of the Stratford Festival in May 2015, and the opening of the Shaw Festival in June 2015. Also in June, she attended the launch of the Luminato Festival.

In January 2016, Her Honour attended a performance of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's *Going Home Star: Truth and Reconciliation*, in Ottawa. In March, Her Honour toured Canada's National Ballet School in Toronto, where she met with students, visited a dance class for people with Parkinson's disease, and met with the school's Artistic Director and CEO Mavis Staines and other members of its senior leadership team.

Her Honour was a regular patron of the performing arts, attending functions and performances of the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada, and Opera Atelier, as well as independent theatrical productions, including The County Theatre Group of Prince Edward County.

Young people

Her Honour met regularly with members of the Legislative Page Program and the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme. Her Honour welcomed participants of the Queen's Model Parliament (January 2015), the Legislative Assembly of Ontario Model Parliament (February 2015, 2016), and the Ontario Model Parliament (April 2015). Annually in February, Her Honour welcomed students from across the Greater Toronto Area as part of the Canadian Black Caucus Day at Queen's Park.

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

- Ontario Community Newspapers Association Junior Citizen of the Year (March 2015, 2016)
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award (May, December 2015)
- The Queen's Venturer Award (Scouts Canada), (October 2015)

In January 2016, Her Honour hosted Mothercraft's biennial CITYKIDS Inclusion Awards, which acknowledge exemplary inclusive practices within early learning and care programs in Toronto.

In March 2016, Her Honour hosted a reception to recognize Ontario winners of the Vimy Pilgrimage Award. Presented by the Vimy Foundation, the award recognizes young people who have demonstrated outstanding service, contributions, leadership, or bravery. As part of the award, recipients participate in a week-long educational program in Belgium and France. The program includes education sessions and trips to sites important to Canada's involvement in the First World War.

Community celebrations

The Lieutenant Governor routinely promotes the Canadian values of multiculturalism and inclusion by taking part in diverse community events. For example, Her Honour attended the launch of Black History Month in Ontario (January 2015), the Quilts for the World Show (May 2015), the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto's Imperial Ball (May 2015), the Ontario Public Service Pride Network's flag raising ceremony (June 2015), the Ontario Prayer Breakfast (June 2015), FinnFestival and Nordic Fair (June 2015), a Chinese New Year celebration held by the Anglican Church of Canada's Diocese of Toronto (February 2016), and the Toronto St Patrick's Day Society's Grand Marshal Ball (March 2016).

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

- National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada Awards (November 2014, October 2015)
- Ordre de la Pléiade de l'Association des parlementaires de langue française (April 2015)
- Canadian Disability Hall of Fame (October 2015)

Her Honour celebrated important community anniversaries, including the 200th anniversary of Tay Valley Township (September 2015). Also in September, she presided at the dedication of a new pavilion at the Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery in Grey County. In November, she attended events marking the 200th anniversary of Bridge Street United Church in Belleville.

In June 2015, Her Honour unveiled a statue of *Anne of Green Gables* author Lucy Maud Montgomery in Leaksdale. To mark the 35th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope in September, Her Honour helped to unveil a statue of Terry Fox in Richmond Hill.

Higher education

During the course of community visits around the province, Her Honour has made a point of including representatives of colleges and universities and engaging with students wherever possible. In June 2015, Her Honour was pleased to accept a Doctor of Laws *jure dignitatis* from the University of Western Ontario and delivered a convocation address to graduating students.

Her Honour visited the Willowbank School for Restoration Arts in Queenston in June 2015. While engaging with a broad cross-section of community members, Her Honour was introduced to the student experience, the community's cultural landscape, and Willowbank's reach in Ontario and the world. The Prince of Wales has served as the school's royal patron since 2014.

In September 2015, Her Honour opened the new campus of Tyndale University College & Seminary in Toronto. Also in September, she attended the inaugural CIFAR Massey Talk on Science & Society at Massey College in Toronto.



Her Honour at the Willowbank School for Restoration Arts.

In October 2015, Her Honour addressed the installation of Prof. William Robins as the 13th President of Victoria University in the University of Toronto.

In March 2016, Her Honour met with faculty and students of the York University School of Public Policy during its annual day at Queen's Park.

Sports and recreation

Her Honour recognizes the important role of sports in fostering social cohesion. She hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup Trophy and young women soccer players in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in April 2015.

Her Honour attended the 155th running of the Queen's Plate at Woodbine Racetrack in July 2015. In September, Her Honour paid a visit to WindReach Farm in Ashburn. The farm provides recreational, educational, and work experience opportunities for persons with special needs of all ages. Her Honour attended the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair annually in November and was accompanied by The Countess of Wessex in 2015.

Her Honour granted her viceregal patronage to Variety Village, which provides services and recreation for children of varying abilities through the promotion of athletics and fitness. Her Honour attended the Lieutenant Governor's Games at Variety Village annually, and in October 2014 marked the 30th anniversary of the games' founding by the Hon. John Aird, 23rd Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (1980–85).

During a visit to Stratford in January 2016, Her Honour attended the opening ceremonies of the 7th Annual All Seniors Care Seniors' Games. Organized nationally by the All Seniors Care Living Centres, the week-long games are an opportunity for seniors to keep active in a friendly and competitive setting.

Women and girls

In February 2016, Her Honour attended 119th anniversary celebrations in Hamilton for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Also in February, she welcomed participants of Girls on the Rise, a program dedicated to improving literacy, writing skills, and positive expression among young girls from Toronto's Rexdale community.

In March 2016, Her Honour addressed the second annual International Women's Day Talks, hosted by #DevTO, a place to gather and collaborate on coding and developing applications. Ms. Dowdeswell also joined with the Canadian Army's 4th Canadian Division and the Peel Regional Police at Denison Armoury in Toronto to mark International Women's Day.

Health

In December 2014, Her Honour addressed Toronto Rehab's 10th annual Research Day and congratulated the recipients of several leadership awards.

In February 2015, Her Honour visited the Ontario Genomics Institute. In March, she toured the iDAPT Centre for Rehabilitation Research. During an official visit to Barrie in April, she met with staff, patients, and volunteers at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre. In May, she toured CAMH's clinical and research facilities at its Queen Street site in Toronto. Also in May, she met with representatives of the Ontario Brain Institute.



Her Honour with brothers Zach, Aaron, and Aidan Rayment, participants in the 2014 Lieutenant Governor's Games at Variety Village.

Representing Ontarians



Her Honour represents Ontario during the Parapan Am Games closing ceremony.

Edwin Luk / SVPhotography.ca

Official visits to communities

Her Honour has instituted a rigorously paced program of official visits to municipalities across the province. By visiting Ontarians in their own communities, she is able to get a better sense of the varied aspirations and concerns of residents, while at the same time learning about local initiatives.

Official visits involve courtesy calls with mayors and city councillors, and have frequently included roundtables or presentations by community groups on topics having to do with sustainability, the environment, and the building of livable communities.

Her Honour paid official visits to:

- Ottawa (November 2014)
- Greater Sudbury (December 2014)
- Niagara-on-the-Lake (December 2014)
- St Catharines (December 2014)
- Kingston (January 2015)
- Oakville (March 2015)
- London (March 2015)
- Barrie (April 2015)
- Toronto (April 2015)
- Prince Edward County (May 2015)
- Mississauga (May 2015)
- Township of Woolwich (May 2015)
- Brantford (June 2015)
- Uxbridge (June 2015)
- Windsor (July 2015)
- Dryden (August 2015)
- Kenora (August 2015)
- Fort Frances (August 2015)
- Thunder Bay (August 2015)
- Brighton (November 2015)
- Sioux Lookout (November 2015)
- Kitchener (December 2015)
- Stratford (February 2016)
- Hamilton (March 2016)
- Waterloo (March 2016)

In August 2015, Her Honour conducted a tour of Northwestern Ontario, visiting the communities of Dryden, Fort Frances, Kenora, and Thunder Bay. Ms. Dowdeswell met with residents, local representatives, and Indigenous leaders over four days.

Hosting visitors

The Lieutenant Governor regularly receives members of the Royal Family during their stays in Ontario. Her Honour accompanied The Princess Royal (November 2014), The Earl of Wessex (October 2015), and The Countess of Wessex (November 2015) during working visits throughout the province.

Her Honour also welcomes world leaders, acting as Ontario's official host and providing opportunities to learn about and appreciate Canadians and Ontarians. Since taking office, Ms. Dowdeswell welcomed the King and Queen of the Netherlands, the presidents of Germany and Finland, and 31 ambassadors, high commissioners, and consuls general.



Her Honour welcomed King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands.

Pan Am and Parapan Am Games

The Toronto 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games, occurring in July and August 2015, were a tremendous opportunity for the province to welcome the world. Her Honour took part in several sporting events and in the concurrent arts and cultural festival.

In the run-up to the games, Her Honour hosted a reception to honour of Toronto 2015 volunteers in March 2015, and participated in Pan Am and Parapan Am torch welcoming ceremonies at Toronto's waterfront and at Queen's Park.

During the games, she visited with organizing officials on several occasions and toured sites of importance, including the athletes' village, the Aboriginal Pavilion, Canada House (Team Canada's home during the games), and PrideHouseTO (a focused space for LGBTQ people and allies).

In addition to attending the opening and closing ceremonies, Her Honour presented medals at nine sporting events and attended a further 23 as a distinguished spectator.

Her Honour took part in many events as part of the PANAMANIA arts and cultural festival associated with the games. To emphasize the importance and social impact of cultural programming, she addressed the festival's launch in May. She addressed the world premiere of *NIÁGARA: A Pan-American Story*, directed by Veronica Tennant, and hosted receptions following two commissioned theatrical performances: the world premiere of Robert Lepage's *887*, and *Obeah Opera* by Nicole Brooks.



Her Honour and T2015 CEO Saäd Rafi pose with mascot Pachi the Porcupine.

Milestone commemorations

Her Honour participated in many events marking the 100th anniversary of the First World War and the 75th anniversary of the Second World War. These include attending the launch of *Dear Sadie: Love, Lives, and Remembrance from Ontario's First World War* at the Archives of Ontario; hosting a performance of *Canada, Fall In! The Great War Remembered in Words, Images, and Song* as part of the International Festival of Authors (November 2014); hosting several film screenings in the suite; addressing a presentation of France's Légion d'honneur to Canadian veterans of the Second World War (November 2014); and attending the Dutch Liberation Festival in Toronto (May 2015).



With his Portrait of John McCrae in the background, artist Charles Pachter addresses guests in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite.

To commemorate the centenary of the First World War, the Lieutenant Governor's Office commissioned *Lest We Forget*, a new contemporary art exhibition by celebrated artist Charles Pachter. A catalogue featuring a collection of essays by a diverse group of distinguished Canadians reflecting on the question "What have we learned from war?" accompanied the exhibition, which was displayed in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite for one year beginning in June 2014.

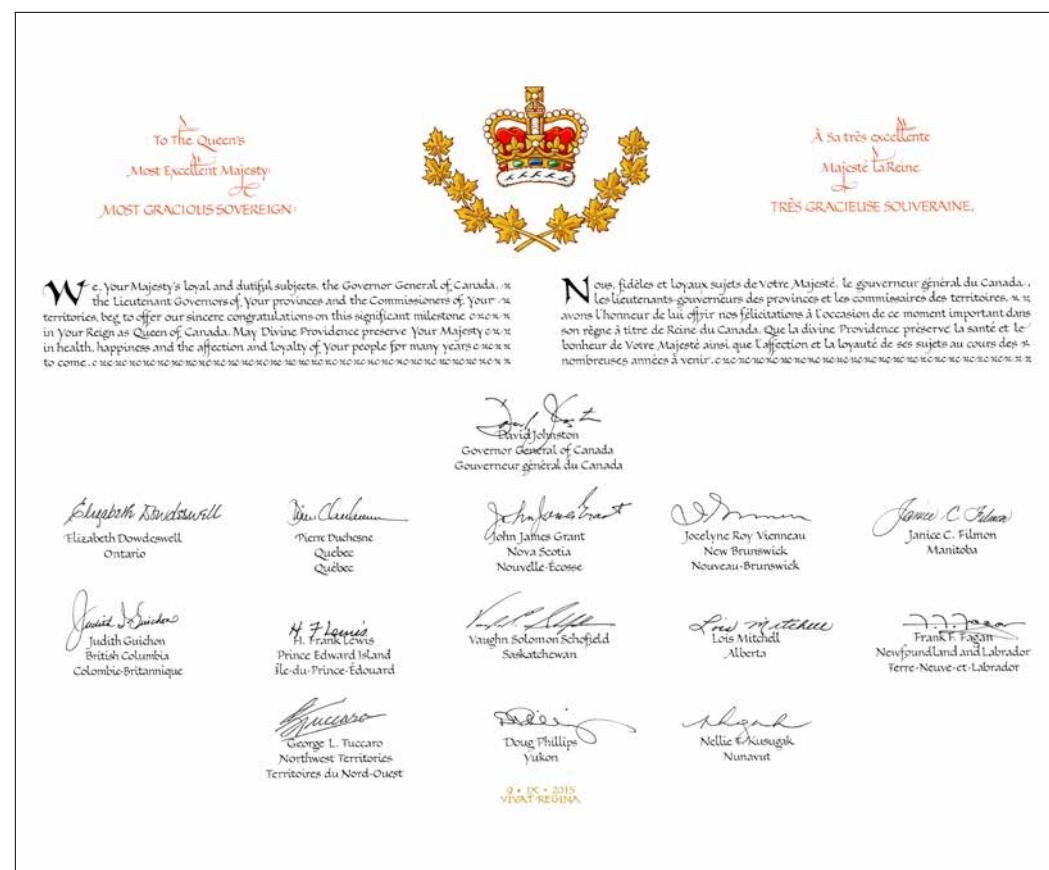
In October 2015, Her Honour attended the opening of *World War Women*, an exhibition at the Canadian War Museum honouring the contributions of women during the First and Second World Wars. In November 2015, Her Honour hosted a reception to mark the centenary of the Ontario Soldiers' Aid Commission.

In January 2015, Her Honour attended several events in Toronto and Kingston marking the 200th birthday of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

In May 2015, Her Honour marked the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta by hosting the launch of *Magna Carta and Its Gifts to Canada* by historian Dr. Carolyn Harris. Later that month, Her Honour marked 400 years of French presence in Ontario by hosting a reception in partnership with the Ontario Museum Association. In June, Her Honour met delegates to the 20th Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie.

On September 9, 2015, The Queen became the longest reigning monarch in Canada's modern era, surpassing Queen Victoria. To pay tribute to The Queen's historic reign and dedicated lifetime of service, Her Honour joined with the Governor General, other Lieutenant Governors, and territorial commissioners in signing a loyal address to Her Majesty. In addition to marking the milestone on social media, Her Honour presided at the unveiling of a commemorative park bench in Hamilton and attended a celebration in Toronto held by the Monarchist League of Canada.

On September 9, 2015, Her Honour joined the Governor General, the other Lieutenant Governors, and the territorial commissioners in signing a loyal address to mark The Queen's historic reign.



Welcoming new Canadians

Citizenship ceremonies

To mark the 50th anniversary of the National Flag of Canada in February 2015, Her Honour welcomed over a thousand Ontarians to form a living re-creation of the Canadian flag on centre ice at Ryerson University's Mattamy Athletic Centre (formerly Maple Leaf Gardens). Included among the recipients were one hundred new Canadian citizens. Large-scale photographer Edward Burtynsky captured the newly iconic image, which now hangs in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite.



On Canada Day 2015, Her Honour travelled to Windsor, where she presided at a citizenship ceremony, led the city's parade as grand marshal alongside the mayor, attended local celebrations, and met with a group of young Francophones who had recently immigrated to Canada.

Syrian refugees

In December 2015, Her Honour welcomed arriving Syrian refugees at Toronto Pearson International Airport. In January 2016, Ms. Dowdeswell published a blog post for *The Huffington Post Canada*, in which she commended the kindness and generosity displayed by people and communities across Ontario in response to the ongoing refugee crisis.

Service to the Crown and Remembrance

Her Honour received the ceremonial first poppy in Ontario from the Royal Canadian Legion annually in October. In October 2014, Her Honour represented Ontarians at the funeral of Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, who was tragically killed while standing guard at the Canadian National War Memorial in Ottawa.

Her Honour presided at the Ontario firefighters' memorial service (October 2014), the province's Remembrance Day ceremony (November 2014), and the Ontario police memorial service (May 2015). In November 2015, Her Honour attended a memorial service and hosted a reception in Brighton on the occasion of Remembrance Day. She also hosted a public screening of two episodes of HISTORY's documentary series *War Story: Afghanistan*, which recounts the personal stories of Canadian soldiers and military support personnel.

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. In February 2015, Ms. Dowdeswell attended a changeover ceremony at Fort York Armoury in Toronto to mark her appointment.

In September 2014, 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, which happened to be her first event since taking office, she honoured newly commissioned OPP inspectors. In December, she marked the 40th anniversary of women serving in the OPP.

In October 2015, Her Honour participated in centennial celebrations for The Toronto Scottish Regiment (Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother's Own).

Ms. Dowdeswell attended the funeral of Canadian diplomat, educator, and businessman Ken Taylor in October 2015.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Flag, Former Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, Canada.

Photo (detail) by Edward Burtynsky

Honouring Ontarians



Her Honour and the Premier pose with members of the Order of Ontario invested in 2016.

Representing the Crown as the “fount of honour” in Canada, the Lieutenant Governor confers official honours upon Ontarians. This is a tangible and public way of recognizing those who have demonstrated individual merit and exceptional achievements.

Order of Canada and national honours

From time to time, the Lieutenant Governor presents national honours and awards on behalf of the Governor General. Her Honour presented the insignia of the Order of Canada to several Ontarians during private visits to their homes and communities:

- **Prof. Gaétan Gervais, CM** (Sudbury, December 2014), for contributions to the advancement of the French fact in Ontario, notably as a founder of organizations and as a historian.
- **Dr. James Low, CM** (Kingston, February 2015), for contributions as an academic and as the founder of the Museum of Health Care, which preserves the history and artifacts of Canada’s health care pioneers.
- **Frances Oldham Kelsey, CM** (London, August 2015), for efforts to protect public health, notably by helping to end the use of thalidomide, and for contributions to clinical drug trial regulations.
- **Jacques Israelievitch, CM** (Toronto, August 2015), for contributions to music as a violinist, as an educator, and as a champion of Canadian musical creation.
- **Garnet Angecone, CM** (Sioux Lookout, November 2015), for contributions to his community, for fostering relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, and for helping to promote the Anishenabek culture.

The Lieutenant Governor presented the Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award to 28 distinguished volunteers during a ceremony at Queen’s Park in November 2015.

Her Honour attended the presentation of the Governor General’s History Awards in October 2015.

Order of Ontario

The Order of Ontario is the province's highest official honour. The order recognizes current and former longtime residents of Ontario who have demonstrated high levels of individual excellence and achievement in any field benefitting the people of Ontario or anywhere in the world. In her capacity as Chancellor of the Order of Ontario, Her Honour invested 28 appointees in February 2015 and 27 appointees in February 2016. As members are invested into the order for life, Ms. Dowdeswell invited each new member to meet with her so that she might hear their stories.

Ontario medals and awards

The Government of Ontario has established honours and awards recognizing excellence in education, health care, business, science and medicine, community service, the arts, and many other fields. Honours also recognize volunteer service as well as acts of courage and bravery.

The Lieutenant Governor acts as honorary chair of the advisory councils for the following medals, and presided at their annual presentation ceremonies:

- Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (November 2014, 13 honourees)
- Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery (November 2014, 15 firefighters)
- Ontario Medal for Police Bravery (November 2014, 6 police officers)
- Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers (April 2015, 8 young people)

Her Honour also presented the following awards:

- Ontario Senior Achievement Award (October 2014, 21 seniors)
- James Bartleman Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing Award (November 2014, October 2015; 6 Indigenous youth yearly)
- Lincoln M. Alexander Award (January 2015, 2016; 3 young people yearly)
- David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility (June 2015, 4 recipients)
- Hilary M. Weston Scholarship (August 2015, 2 recipients)

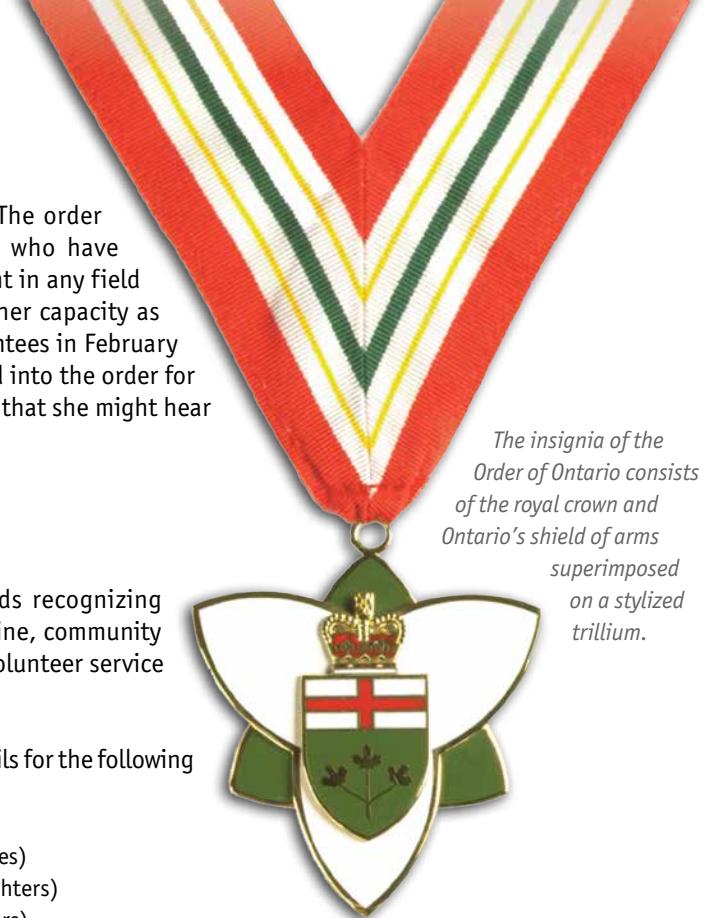
Lieutenant Governor's Awards

Successive Lieutenant Governors have created awards programs in partnership with independent organizations.

Her Honour continued the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Ontario Wines, which marked its fifth year in 2015 and has become a fixture of Ontario's wine industry. A record 84 wineries submitted a record 305 wines in 2015.

The awards are conducted in partnership with the Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College, with support from the Grape Growers of Ontario, the Wine Council of Ontario, and the Winery and Grower Alliance of Ontario.

Representatives of winning wines are recognized in a ceremony at Queen's Park. Members of the Toronto-based consular corps are also invited to accompany the Lieutenant Governor to a selection of winning wineries, which further presents Ontario's wines to an international audience. The winning wines are served in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite during official functions.



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



Armorial bearings of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Ontario Wines (winner's badge).

Activity report (September 2014–March 2016): The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

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 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 2015, 621 graduates were recognized.

Several provincial organizations recognize excellence in various fields of endeavour through awards programs bearing the Lieutenant Governor's title. These include:

- 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 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 Distinguished Service Award (Royal Ontario Museum)

In partnership with the Ontario Association of Architects, Ms. Dowdeswell presented the inaugural Lieutenant Governor's Award for Design Excellence in Architecture in May 2015. N45 Architecture Inc. (in association with Snøhetta Architecture Design) received the award for the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts in Kingston.

A view of the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts in Kingston.



Order of St John and St John Ambulance

In March 2015, Ms. Dowdeswell was invested as a Dame of Justice in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. In June, she presided at an investiture of the order and, in November, at an awards ceremony for its associated service organization, St John Ambulance.

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 vital support and recognition.

To date, Ms. Dowdeswell has granted patronage to 38 organizations:

- Air Cadet League of Canada (Ontario Provincial Committee)
- Army Cadet League of Canada (Ontario)
- 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
- The Good Neighbours' Club
- Health Arts Society of Ontario
- 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
- Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations
- Ontario Society of Artists
- 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
- Travellers' Aid Society
- Variety Village
- Warriors' Day Parade Council
- Waterlution: A Water Learning Experience
- Women's Musical Club of Toronto

Office operations



Guests attend a reception in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite.

The Lieutenant Governor's Suite

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor operates out of a series of offices and state rooms inside Queen's Park in Toronto. Unlike in other provinces, Ontario's Lieutenant Governor has not had a Government House (official residence of the monarch and her representative) since 1937. For nearly 80 years, Lieutenant Governors have used the suite to preside over events in the constitutional, political, social, and official life of the province. This represents more than half of the history of Ontario since Confederation and is longer than the life spans of the two previous Government Houses.

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 2015. In addition to learning about historical artifacts, visitors took particular notice of the changing art exhibitions. It is estimated that 15,332 persons visited the suite on tours or during official functions.

New Year's Levee

Ms. Dowdeswell annually hosted the Lieutenant Governor's New Year's Levee on January 1. The levee is a unique opportunity for Ontarians to meet The Queen's representative in Ontario, learn about the Lieutenant Governor's role, and enjoy refreshments and local entertainment. In 2015, the levee was held at Queen's Park, as it was Her Honour's first year in office.

As Canadians prepared to mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017, Her Honour hosted the 2016 New Year's Levee in Kingston, the first capital of the United Province of Canada. The levee took place at The Grand Theatre and included a free performance of *The Trial of John A.*, a one-act

theatrical production in which Sir John A. Macdonald faces the complex legacy of his mandate as the first Prime Minister of Canada.

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, 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 addition to highlighting Ontarians' efforts to welcome refugees, she wrote a blog post encouraging nominations to Order of Ontario. Ms. Dowdeswell plans to continue using the platform to address important issues.

Media

The Lieutenant Governor regularly interacts with the media during community engagements. In addition, following the announcement of her appointment, and later after taking office, she held introductory interviews. One such example was Her Honour's appearance in October 2014 on TVOntario's "The Agenda with Steve Paikin", where her interview provided background for a panel discussion on social cohesion and multiculturalism.

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 171 signed messages of congratulations.

The Lieutenant Governor sent 7,503 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.

The Chief Aide-de-Camp is Lt.-Cmdr. Albert Wong. First appointed in April 2013, he is the Lieutenant Governor's senior volunteer and military advisor. Born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, he has over 35 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces. In June 2014, he was appointed a citizenship judge for the Greater Toronto Area.



Chief of Staff Anthony Hylton (above); Lt.-Cmdr. Albert Wong, Chief Aide-de-Camp (below).

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: 2014–15

	Estimates	In-year changes	Final budget	Actuals
Salaries and wages	788,000	100,000	888,000	839,540
Employee benefits	93,600		93,600	94,601
Transportation and communications	92,100		92,100	33,919
Services	162,500	25,000	187,500	202,763
Supplies and equipment	37,500		37,500	81,020
Discretionary allowance	155,800		155,800	155,800
	<u>\$1,329,500</u>	<u>\$125,000</u>	<u>\$1,454,500</u>	<u>\$1,407,643</u>

Year ending March 31

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

Note: The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell took office in September 2014, halfway through the 2014–15 fiscal year.

Expenditure Estimates (Ontario): 2015–16

	Estimates
Salaries and wages	960,000
Employee benefits	118,600
Transportation and communications	92,100
Services	245,500
Supplies and equipment	37,500
Discretionary allowance	155,800
	<u>\$1,609,500</u>

Year ending March 31

Complete figures to appear in the Public Accounts of Ontario in due course.

Source: Expenditure Estimates. Ministry of Finance.

<http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/estimates>

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): 2014–15

	Actuals
Travel and accommodation	26,863
Hospitality	90,868
Operational and administrative expenses	42,158
	<u>\$159,889</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>

Note: The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell took office in September 2014, halfway through the 2014–15 fiscal year.

Main Estimates (Canada): 2015–16

	Estimates
Travel and accommodation	-
Hospitality	-
Operational and administrative expenses	-
	<u>\$105,627</u>

Year ending March 31

All amounts rounded to the nearest \$1

Complete figures (including line items) to appear in the Public Accounts of Canada in due course.

Source: "Government Expenditure Plan and Main Estimates." Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada.

<http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/hgw-cgf/finances/pgs-pdg/geomme-pdgbpd/index-eng.asp>

This report presents the highlights of the first 18 months of the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell's mandate as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. As an historical record, it serves as a guide to understanding her varied roles and responsibilities.

An electronic copy of this report is available on the Lieutenant Governor's website at www.lgontario.ca.

Follow **LGLizDowdeswell** on Twitter and Facebook.