



Annual Report

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

April 2022–March 2023

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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.

A note about the content of this report

This report presents the highlights of the Lieutenant Governor's public engagements from April 2022 to March 2023.

*Annual Report: The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell,
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
(April 2022–March 2023)*

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

Introduction



Foreword Message from the Lieutenant Governor

I am proud to present the 2022-23 Annual Report of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor to the people of Ontario. It is a privilege to serve.

This was another year of challenge and fast-paced change.

We mourned the loss of too many who were close to us. After serving for more than seventy years as our beloved Queen of Canada, Elizabeth II passed away in September. In the early days of 2023, we lost our dear friend, the 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable David C. Onley. During the fall and winter months, we saw the tragic deaths of four Ontario police officers killed in the line of duty.

Three simultaneous global crises persist – all with local impacts: a pandemic whose effects continue to be felt; the existential threat of climate change, which is becoming more real each day; and an unthinkable war and shifting geopolitics.

And yet, amidst all of these stories of grief, fear and poignancy, I found hope. I heard about the best of building community, and stories of amazing creativity, collaboration, and empathy. There is renewed energy and ideas about how to build our province, our country, and our world back better.

This report is a snapshot of the evidence.

We amplified your stories as we witnessed communities celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. As we planted trees and shared tea, from Red Lake in the northwest, to Renfrew County in the east, I was moved to hear Ontarians eager to share their memories one generation to another. There could be no doubt that service, tradition, stability, and continuity are valued.

Through many public engagements and constitutional duties and the convening of thoughtful dialogues in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite – the ceremonial home of the Crown in Ontario – our Office aimed to be an inclusive and steadfast presence.

In a non-partisan way, we focused on examining our precious democracy, particularly at the municipal level. We shone a light on efforts to realize sustainability and resilience: social cohesion, environmental stewardship, and economic prosperity.

And always we walked the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Through the arts, sports, and science, we tried to reach the young and the more mature, the military, first responders, civil society, and the business community. We held up a mirror to Ontarians at home and in the world, celebrating who we are, determined to be the best we can be.

As this fiscal year ends and a new one begins with the recent Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, my optimism remains strong. This is a moment of opportunity and possibility for Ontarians.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell



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



Her Honour delivers the Speech from the Throne in August 2022.



The Lieutenant Governor presides over the swearing-in of the Honourable Michael H. Tulloch as the new Chief Justice of Ontario and President of the Court of Appeal for Ontario at Queen's Park in March 2023.

Her Honour



Her Honour places a wreath during the Ontario Fire Fighters Memorial Ceremony in Toronto in October 2022.

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell is the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and is the second-longest serving lieutenant governor in the history of the province. As the representative of His Majesty The King, Ms. Dowdeswell carries out constitutional and ceremonial duties and facilitates healthy citizen and community engagement.

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

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

Ms. Dowdeswell has a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics and a teaching certificate from the University of Saskatchewan, as well as a Master of Science in Behavioural Sciences from Utah State University. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Member of the Order of Ontario, and the recipient of numerous distinctions and fellowships. She holds 12 honorary doctorates.

By the Numbers (Facts and Figures)

CONSTITUTIONAL



In 2022-23, the Lieutenant Governor approved **1,379 orders-in-council** including **4 emergency orders** responding to the COVID-19 global pandemic

40
proclamations

186
regulations



72
Great Seal letters
patent under the *Public Lands Act*

82
Great Seal letters
patent under the *Mining Act*

The Lieutenant Governor granted Royal Assent **19 times** to a total of **21 bills**



13 Provincial Judges appointments
+ 3 Associate Judge &
1 Regional Senior Judge appointments



23 Deputy Minister appointments

28 Justice of the Peace appointments

COMMUNICATIONS

The Lieutenant Governor provides special event messages to non-profit organizations and congratulatory greetings to Ontarians celebrating birthdays (90 years and older) and anniversaries (50 years and longer). In 2022-23, the Office provided:

87 special event messages & **2,908** greetings



The Lieutenant Governor recorded **35 video messages** that were broadcast as part of events around Ontario.

CROWN HONOURS AND LG AWARDS



In 2022-23, Her Honour presented 10 provincial honours, including the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers, the David C. Onley Awards, the Hilary M. Weston Scholarship, and the Lincoln M. Alexander Award.

In 2022-23, Her Honour was pleased to make special presentations of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (SMV), a federal honour. In total, the Lieutenant Governor made 10 in-person presentations of the SMV. (See page 8 to learn more about these special medal presentations.)

SOCIAL MEDIA

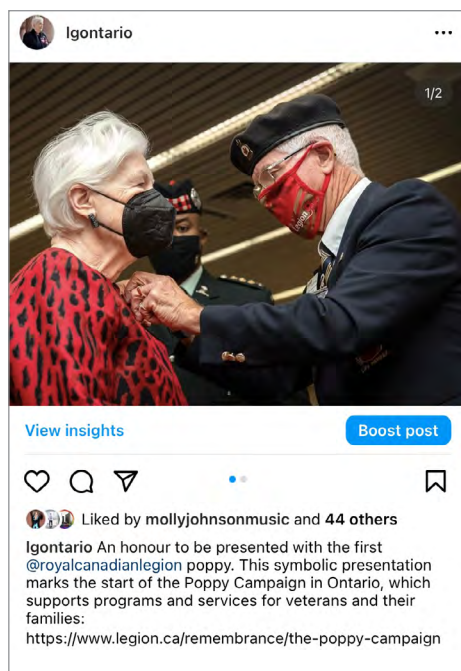


The Lieutenant Governor's website is frequently updated to include current and accessible information relating to Her Honour's role and activities. www.lgontario.ca.

Her Honour maintains an active social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, in order to amplify the many diverse stories and life events of Ontarians. Below are three examples of leading posts from each of these platforms.



Her Honour tweets about a Citizenship Ceremony held in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in March 2023.



Her Honour posts on Instagram regarding the first poppy presentation at Sunnybrook Veterans Centre in October 2022.



Her Honour posts on Facebook about meeting Martin Luther King III in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in February 2023.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS & GEOGRAPHIC REACH

During the fiscal year 2022-23, the Lieutenant Governor participated in 680 public engagements, reaching all corners of the province and Ontarians of all backgrounds and ages.

To support the municipal order of government and learn about local issues, the Lieutenant Governor attended events in 45 communities, including 11 official visits (shown here).

Throughout her mandate, the Lieutenant Governor has attended thousands of events in all **124** ridings.

As part of those thousands of events, Her Honour has also made

99

official visits to municipalities

&

25

visits to First Nations communities.



Honouring Ontarians



Her Honour addresses 2020 Order of Ontario Appointees at the Royal Ontario Museum in October 2022.

Order of Ontario

This year, Her Honour was delighted to preside over three Order of Ontario investitures, making up for ceremonies that were delayed during the pandemic. The Order of Ontario is the province's highest civilian honour, paying tribute to Ontarians who have shown the greatest level of excellence and achievement in any field and whose impact has left a lasting legacy in our province, in our country, and around the world. As Chancellor of the Order of Ontario, the Lieutenant Governor presides over the annual investiture of new members.

The ceremony in April 2022 saw twenty deserving appointees honoured, including [journalists, physicists, and humanitarians](#). At the next ceremony in October, twenty-four remarkable Ontarians were invested into [the Order](#). Finally, in November, Her Honour recognized the contributions of another [twenty-four appointees](#).

These sixty-eight appointees – from all walks of life, including healthcare, business, arts, and science – remind us how fortunate we are to call Ontario home.

"In these turbulent times, we know there are forces that would undermine our democracy by creating and deepening fault lines between people and communities. But here and now, we affirm that the spirit of cooperation and collaboration is intact.

To bring about a more inclusive and resilient democracy, we must stand together in common cause – literally when possible, and every day, in our hearts.

With your commitment to excellence and innovation and your community-minded thinking, you are leading by example in Ontario's efforts to build back both bolder and better."

– From Her Honour's remarks at the Order of Ontario Investiture, November 21, 2022.



The Lieutenant Governor sits for a photo with the 2019 Order of Ontario Appointees at the Royal Ontario Museum in April 2022.



Her Honour sits for a photo with the 2020 Order of Ontario Appointees at the Royal Ontario Museum in October 2022.



The Lieutenant Governor sits for a photo with the 2021 Order of Ontario Appointees at the Royal Ontario Museum in November 2022.

Provincial Honours

The Government of Ontario has established several official honours and awards, which are granted by the Lieutenant Governor on the government's formal advice. For all such awards, members of the public are asked to submit nominations to an honours advisory council, which provides the government with recommendations.

Her Honour presided over the presentation of the following awards in 2022-23:

Order of Ontario (April, October, and November 2022)



Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers (April 2022)

Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship (April 2022)

Ontario Medal for Police Bravery (April 2022)

Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery (April 2022)

Ontario Senior Achievement Awards (January 2023)

Her Honour also presented the following awards created to honour the legacies of former Lieutenant Governors:

Hilary M. Weston Scholarship (September 2022)

David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility (December 2022)

Lincoln M. Alexander Award (February 2022)



The Lieutenant Governor presents the David C. Onley Awards alongside Minister Raymond Cho and the late Mr. Onley in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in December 2022.



Her Honour presents the Lincoln Alexander Awards at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in February 2022.

In addition to provincial honours, Her Honour is also privileged to present a number of community honours. In October 2022, Her Honour awarded the IPAC Medal of Distinction in Public Administration to Marion Jacko. Marion has spent 20 years as a public servant and dedicated leader. She helped advance the cause of reconciliation in Ontario as the first Ontario children's lawyer to implement mandatory Indigenous cultural competency, anti-racism, and anti-colonialism education for her staff. She also created a program that provides free legal representation to child survivors of human trafficking. What struck Her Honour most about Marion was her commitment to leave behind a better system than the one that existed at the start of her career.



Her Honour presents the IPAC Award in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in October 2022.

Community Honours

The Lieutenant Governor had the opportunity to recognize hundreds of Ontarians through the following awards programs:

The Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award for Students



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

The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards (Ontario Heritage Trust)

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

The Lieutenant Governor's Cup (Royal Agricultural Winter Fair)

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

The Lieutenant Governor's Distinguished Service Awards (Royal Ontario Museum)

Ordre de la Pléiade (Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie)

Order of St. John Investiture (St. John Council for Ontario)

Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth Honours

The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Ontario Wines (Ontario Wine Awards)

The Treebee and Envirothon Awards (Forests Ontario)

John Charles Polanyi Prizes (Council of Ontario Universities)

The Duke of Edinburgh International Awards

The Fleming Medal for Excellence in Science Communication (RCIScience)

Ontario Junior Citizen Awards (Ontario Community Newspapers Association)



The Lieutenant Governor hosts the Ordre de la Pléiade ceremony at Queen's Park in March 2023, during Semaine de la Francophonie.

In 2022-23, Her Honour was privileged to show support for Franco-Ontarians by presiding over the presentation of two groups of Ordre de la Pléiade recipients, one in April 2022 and one in March 2023.

These awards recognize exceptional commitment to preserving and bolstering the province's vibrant francophone community, thus helping to ensure inclusiveness, economic growth, and a diversified cultural landscape in Ontario.

Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (SMV) recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields.

On behalf of the Governor General, Her Honour made special presentations of the SMV to Sandi Burns in London, Major John Stephens in Toronto, Benjamin Fear in Guelph, and Pam Ward in Thunder Bay.

The at-home presentations began as an experiment during the COVID-19 pandemic, but the endeavour was so successful, that the Office continued the initiative even after restrictions were lifted. These presentations in the home communities of the recipients allowed family, friends, and fellow volunteers to attend.

At the Platinum Jubilee Garden Party at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Her Honour presented SMVs to Peter Bhatti, Harjinder Gill, Gordon Ip, Prabjhot Kainth, Anita Laipnieks, and Gerrard O'Connor.



The Lieutenant Governor presents the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers to the late Ben Fear's children in Guelph in May 2022.

Remembrances



Her Honour attends the National Memorial for Queen Elizabeth II in Ottawa in September 2022.

The Queen's Passing

On September 8, 2022, our beloved Queen of Canada passed away, a monumental loss for Ontario, Canada, and the world. The Lieutenant Governor represented Ontarians at a national commemorative ceremony in the Queen's honour in Ottawa on September 19.

The following day, Her Honour gave remarks at the provincial memorial service held at St. James Cathedral in Toronto.

Her Honour's remarks at the memorial honoured the Queen's life and the impact she had on Ontario and the Commonwealth. She spoke about the Queen's unwavering dedication to public service, as well as her important role in Ontario and the world.

The memorial was open to the public and offered Ontarians an opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of the Queen, who was the only Sovereign most Canadians had ever known.



The Lieutenant Governor addresses the Queen's Park Press Gallery following the news of the Queen's passing on September 8, 2022.

"In death, as in life, Her Majesty brings us together. Across Ontario, Canada, and indeed beyond our borders, in stillness and sadness, we are in mourning.

During wars and depressions, global instability and uncertainty, and incessant change, she was a pillar of strength, adaptation, and endurance, the embodiment of dignity and commitment to duty.

For more than seventy years, this was a woman who put duty before desire, service above self. And in doing so, the Queen's legacy may be measured by an extraordinary impact on the quality of our national character and the complexion of civic life in Canada.

She showed us that we must never give up in our quest for a world where fairness, security, opportunity, and freedom mutually support and reinforce each other. Such wisdom both in word and action – her humanity and human decency ever present.

And for that we are grateful. We might honour her best by following her example of a life of humility, constancy, civility, and caring.

May we commit to working together, with open hearts and open minds, as we celebrate her life."

– From Her Honour's remarks at the memorial service for Queen Elizabeth II, September 20, 2022.

ROYAL ASSENT

On the afternoon of September 8, just moments before Buckingham Palace announced that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away, Her Honour granted Royal Assent in Her Majesty's name. This is likely to have been the last instance in the Commonwealth where Royal Assent was granted in the name of Queen Elizabeth II.



The Lieutenant Governor grants Royal Assent at Queen's Park, just moments before receiving word that the Queen had passed away in September 2022.

ACCESSION

Four days after the Queen's passing, Her Honour was joined by the Premier, members of the Executive Council (Cabinet), the Leader of His Majesty's Loyal Opposition, and representatives from different political parties for a ceremony to proclaim the accession of King Charles III. This was the first time an accession proclamation had been issued since February 7, 1952, when Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was proclaimed Queen Elizabeth II.

The accession of The King signals a new chapter in our history and underscores the strength of our democratic institutions and the peaceful transfer of power from one generation to the next. As we begin this new era of the monarchy under King Charles III, we are reminded of the essential role that the Crown plays in our constitutional system, as a symbol of our unity, stability, and shared values.



Her Honour with the Executive Council at the Ontario Accession Proclamation Ceremony at Queen's Park in September 2022.

David C. Onley



The Lieutenant Governor gives remarks at David C. Onley's funeral at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto in January 2023.



Top — An officer stands vigil at Mr. Onley's lying in state at Queen's Park in January 2023.



Bottom — Mr. Onley's funeral at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto in January 2023.

In January 2023, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario was saddened to announce that the 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, renowned broadcaster, and advocate, the Honourable David C. Onley, had passed away.

Just one month prior to his passing, the Office was proud to host a presentation ceremony for the David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite for the first time in four years.

On January 30, Her Honour joined family, friends, and representatives from government, media, and the disability community at Mr. Onley's state funeral service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

She paid him tribute, alongside the Premier, the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Federal Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, and Mr. Onley's three sons, Jonathan, Robert, and Michael. Readings were shared by Mr. Onley's former Chief of Staff, Anthony Hylton, as well as disability activist Maayan Ziv.

Mr. Onley served as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario from 2007 to 2014, and during his time in office worked tirelessly to promote accessibility and inclusion for all Ontarians. He was a champion for those living with disabilities and worked to create a more inclusive society where barriers to full participation were removed. Mr. Onley also took a deep personal interest in furthering reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

His legacy continues to inspire us today, and his life and work serve as a reminder of the power of leadership and service.

"David Onley was an inspiration and a role model without comparison. He believed the Lieutenant Governor's Office could be a transformational force for good, and he worked daily and tirelessly to realize that possibility.

He attended thousands of events across the province and engaged with more than a million people – and he did so, not only in spite of the obstacles he faced, but because he believed he was in a unique position to help.

He used this platform to champion accessibility for others – a concept he defined, memorably, as, 'that which enables people to achieve their full potential'."

– Excerpt from Her Honour's Remarks at David Onley's State Funeral in Toronto, January 2023.

Fallen Police Officers

2022-23 was a tragic year for the policing community. Her Honour attended three police funerals for four fallen officers: Constable Andrew Hong of the Toronto Police Service, Constable Devon Northrup and Constable Morgan Russell of the South Simcoe Police Service, and Provincial Constable Greg Pierzchala of the Ontario Provincial Police.



The Lieutenant Governor pays her respects to fallen officer Greg Pierzchala in Barrie in January 2023.

The Lieutenant Governor gave remarks at two of the police funerals and at the Ontario Police Memorial in May 2022. Her Honour's words reminded us of the bravery and courage of those who serve and protect our communities and the gratitude we owe to them. We extend our deepest condolences to the families of these brave officers and pledge to never forget their service and sacrifice.



Her Honour gives remarks at the Ontario Police Memorial at Queen's Park in May 2022.

Hazel McCallion & Madame Helen Vari



The Lieutenant Governor gives remarks at Hazel McCallion's state funeral in Mississauga in February 2023.

Among many who passed in 2022-23, we also paid tribute to individuals who were of particular significance in our civic life.

On February 14, Her Honour gave remarks at the State Funeral of former mayor Hazel McCallion, honouring Ms. McCallion and reminding us all of her remarkable impact on women, on young people, and on citizens and their institutions.

The Lieutenant Governor was invited to remember Madame Helen Vari at her funeral on March 31. She was a great Canadian, whose philanthropic endeavours made a tremendous impact in the lives of countless students, veterans, and many other Ontarians.

"Tough but fair. Uncompromising but kind. Hazel was driven, in all that she did, by a fierce desire to make things better for the people around her."

Reminiscing about Hazel recently, I was reminded of the words of Robert Baden Powell, who once said, 'Try and leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate, you have not wasted your time but have done your best.'

Without question, the thousands of people from across the province and country who have responded to her passing will agree that she did just that. Her best."

– Excerpt from Her Honour's Remarks at Hazel McCallion's State Funeral, February 14, 2023.

Areas of Focus

Democracy

SPEAKING OF DEMOCRACY MOBILE EXHIBITION

In 2019, Her Honour launched *Speaking of Democracy*, an art exhibition presented in partnership with the Samara Centre for Democracy. In the years since, and in the face of growing threats to democracies around the world, interest in *Speaking of Democracy* has increased greatly. So, when the exhibition concluded in 2022, a mobile exhibition was created and made available to institutions across the province.

The mobile exhibition has been displayed at Huron County Museum, Midland Public Library, Mississauga Civic Centre, Queen's Park, Massey College for the screening of *2020: Chaos and Hope*, and the DemocracyXChange conference in Toronto. For more information about how the exhibition can be displayed in your community, visit www.lgontario.ca.



"Speaking of Democracy" on display at the Huron County Museum in May 2022.



The Lieutenant Governor with Patricia Hayes, CEO and Chief Librarian of Midland Public Library, Kim Weishar, Midland Public Library Board Chair, and Faith Shergold, Midland Public Library Manager of Programming and Engagement, at the Midland Public Library in November 2022.

2020: CHAOS AND HOPE

Her Honour was invited to offer remarks at the screening of the documentary *2020: Chaos and Hope* in January 2023 and to share remarks on the state of democracy. Hosted by Massey College and CITIZN, *2020: Chaos and Hope* explores the challenges facing the world today and offers a hopeful vision for the future. Following the screening, attendees – including the film’s executive producer Ceci Chan, immersive interactive artist, Stacey Spiegel, and Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, Akaash Maharaj – participated in a meaningful panel discussion, looking at how we can work together to address the challenges facing our planet and our communities.

“In these times of fake news, misinformation, and echo chambers, when the very status of truth is at stake – who do we believe? We must recommit ourselves to identifying common values and finding ways to build consensus.

Indeed, there’s never been a more important time for respectful conversations – honest, genuine dialogue – about who and what matters. How do we move forward?

Fundamentally, what we’re really talking about is democracy – the rules by which we choose to live together as a society.

Democracy is about so much more than a vote. And while the seat of our government is just down the street at Queen’s Park, so much of the work of our democracy takes place in the libraries, the public spaces, and in theatres, like the one we’re in tonight.”

– Excerpt from Her Honour’s remarks at the *2020: Chaos and Hope* screening, January 23, 2023.



Her Honour gives remarks at the screening of 2020: Chaos and Hope at the George Ignatieff Theatre in Toronto in January 2023.

DEMOCRACYXCHANGE

This past March, Her Honour was invited to participate in the DemocracyXChange, a conference that brought together a diverse group of leaders to discuss issues related to democracy, civic engagement, and public policy.



Her Honour welcomed renowned journalist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Ressa – the keynote speaker at the DemocracyXChange – to the Lieutenant Governor’s Suite in March 2023.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES & INTERNS

The Lieutenant Governor meets every cadre of legislative pages and interns, comprising over 100 youth each year.

Her Honour always appreciates the opportunity to engage with young people, as she believes that engaging with youth is critical to ensuring an informed and active citizenry in Ontario’s democracy.



The Lieutenant Governor in discussion with Ontario Legislative Internship Programme (OLIP) Interns in March 2023.

Sustainability

SYMPOSIUM ON CALIBRATING THE CLIMATE TRANSITION



Her Honour delivers remarks at the Symposium on Calibrating the Climate Transition hosted in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in May 2022.

In May 2022, Her Honour hosted a one-day symposium called “Calibrating the Climate Transition: Sustainability, Energy Security, Prosperity, and Social Impact in the Cold War II Era”, in partnership with BMO Climate Institute and The Long Run Institute. Gathering experts, dignitaries, and leaders from various sectors, the event sought to address the critical challenges and opportunities posed by the modern geopolitical climate.

Her Honour emphasized the importance of collaboration in shaping sustainable development, particularly during periods of heightened conflict. The symposium explored the interplay between energy security, prosperity, social impact, and the environment in shaping our future trajectory.

In her closing remarks, Her Honour reinforced the significance of global solidarity in mitigating the detrimental effects of Cold War II on our climate and societies. The insights gleaned from this symposium will contribute to more inclusive and innovative global conversations on these urgent issues.

REPORT LAUNCH FOR THE CANADIAN CLIMATE INSTITUTE



Her Honour gives remarks at the Report Launch for the Canadian Climate Institute at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in November 2022.

The Canadian Climate Institute released its *Damage Control* report in October 2022, telling the story of the cost of inaction on climate change and the need for immediate action. The report spotlights the intersection between climate action, sustainable economic growth, and social justice, with a focus on the economic impacts of climate change.

In November 2022, Her Honour was pleased to use the Lieutenant Governor's Suite to host both an opportunity for this organization to present evidence, as well as a forum for learning and dialogue around the topics covered in the report.

The Canadian Climate Institute report documents a first-of-its-kind study on the costs of climate change in Canada, integrating economy-wide macroeconomic analysis with bottom-up studies, including those from its previous *Costs of Climate Change* reports.

GREAT LAKES PUBLIC FORUM 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In September 2022, the Great Lakes Public Forum convened in Niagara Falls. The Forum brought together representatives from Canada, the United States, and Indigenous communities to discuss shared challenges and opportunities related to the Great Lakes region. The event was an important opportunity to engage with community leaders, scientists, and policy makers on critical environmental issues facing Ontario and the world.

From addressing the impacts of climate change on our water systems to promoting sustainable economic development, there was no shortage of important topics to explore. Participants were united in their commitment to protecting our shared natural resources and promoting a sustainable future for all. As a lifelong advocate of sustainability, Her Honour was pleased to deliver remarks, reminding listeners of the importance of working together to address the challenges facing our communities and our planet.



The Lieutenant Governor delivers remarks at the Great Lakes Public Forum in Niagara Falls in September 2022.

"Perhaps one of the most difficult things to work on may continue to be the changing of mindsets – both of individuals and institutions. How can we imagine and implement co-creation? How do we do transition and scale for impact? Will we see the recognition of a healthy climate and environment as a human right and a recognition that the greatest power to enforce that right might well lie within our own communities? Do we really believe that citizens have actual agency right here on our majestic Lakes?

And I suspect you would agree that we need to continue to work on engagement, not just consultation, to have the humility and courage to have the right people in the room and to really listen.

My optimism and hope that we can change the narrative are fuelled when I see a return to the notion of kinship that was at the heart of treaty-making and the essential involvement of young people, volunteers, and green entrepreneurs that will encourage the building of bridges, not walls."

– Excerpt from Her Honour's remarks at the Great Lakes Public Forum, September 27, 2022.

VICTORIA FORUM



The Lieutenant Governor participates in the closing panel with Dr. Wilton Littlechild at the Victoria Forum in Victoria, B.C., in August 2022.

In August 2022, Her Honour was invited to Victoria, British Columbia for the Victoria Forum, an event designed by the Senate of Canada and the University of Victoria, where thought leaders from around the world gathered to discuss pressing global challenges and explore innovative solutions.

The event was particularly focused on addressing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, providing a platform for leaders to share best practices and learn from one another. Discussions covered topics of climate change, clean energy, economic growth, and social justice. The forum also highlighted the urgency of creating sustainable solutions that address the interconnected challenges facing our planet. Her Honour appreciated the opportunity to engage with global leaders during the forum and to bring these lessons back to Ontario.

Ontario in the World

THE YEAR OF RESILIENCE EXHIBITION



The Lieutenant Governor gives remarks at the “The Year of Resilience” exhibition in the Lieutenant Governor’s Suite in February 2023.



“The Year of Resilience” on display at the Lieutenant Governor’s Suite in February 2023.



“The Year of Resilience” on display at Toronto City Hall in February 2023.

In February 2023, the Lieutenant Governor’s Office partnered with the Consulate General of Ukraine in Toronto and the International Organization of Ukrainian Communities – Fourth Wave to create a photography exhibition entitled “The Year of Resilience,” marking the one-year anniversary of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The exhibition featured over 40 images sharing the experiences of Ukrainian people since the first day of the invasion on February 24, 2022.

“The Year of Resilience” was hosted in the Lieutenant Governor’s Suite for Members of Provincial Parliament and members of the diplomatic corps to view. It was then moved to Toronto City Hall for public viewings. Finally, it was displayed at Saint Demetrius Ukrainian Church for members of the Ukrainian community in Toronto.

“To the Ukrainian Consul General, Mr. Shevchenko, may the presence of this special exhibition here in the ceremonial home of the Crown in Ontario, be a symbol of our province’s solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

To Ontarians, as we approach the one-year anniversary of the invasion later this week, may we never underestimate how precious our democracy is here at home.

And together, let us hope this is the only anniversary of this war that we will have to recognize, and that soon, the world will heed the call to our common humanity... and find peace.”

– Excerpt from Her Honour’s remarks at the opening of “The Year of Resilience”, February 20, 2023.

ROUNDTABLE ON AFGHANISTAN WITH JOURNALISTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

On May 11, 2022, Her Honour hosted a roundtable on Afghanistan with Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite. The event welcomed JHR's Executive Director, Rachel Pulfer, as well as esteemed Afghan refugees who are engaged with the media, to the Suite for an afternoon of conversation.

Attendees participated in a dialogue that shone a light on Afghanistan's ongoing turmoil, including the region's human rights violations, media censorship, and the critical role journalists play in revealing the truth.

Her Honour was especially touched by the personal testimonies of those who shared their accounts of reporting from conflict zones and authoritarian regimes. The event was a poignant reminder of the importance of press freedom and the vital role that journalism plays in holding those in power accountable.

The day concluded with the presentation of the JHR Journalist in Residence Fellowship, a program that offers work placement opportunities at some of Canada's leading media organizations to Afghan journalists and media professionals in Canada.



The Lieutenant Governor hosts a roundtable on Afghanistan with Journalists for Human Rights in May 2022.

RECEPTION WELCOMING AFGHAN GIRLS TO CANADA



Her Honour enjoys a conversation with two Afghan girls at the reception welcoming Afghan refugees to Canada in March 2023.

In March 2023, in partnership with the Prince's Trust and the 30 Birds Foundation, Her Honour hosted a reception to welcome a group of Afghan girls to Canada and thank the remarkable volunteers and supporters who helped bring these refugees to Canada.

The reception recognized the contributions, resilience, and determination of the girls as they began their new lives in Ontario and Canada. The welcoming spirit of Ontarians could be felt throughout the Lieutenant Governor's Suite that day. The reception was an opportunity to celebrate the girls' achievements thus far, and Her Honour's inspiring remarks encouraged the girls to tell their stories and speak their truths.

Unfinished Business

FAMOUS FIVE & PERSONS DAY

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario was pleased to partner with the Famous5 Foundation to host a reception to mark Persons Day – an historical milestone recognizing the struggle for gender equality in Canada – on October 18, 2022.

The event featured the Famous Five Maquette, a tribute to the five trailblazing women – Emily Murphy, Henrietta Edwards, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby, and Nellie McClung – who fought tirelessly for women’s rights.

Persons Day is an important reminder of the unfinished work of achieving gender equality in Canada. Although significant progress has been made in the last century, there is still much more to be done to ensure equal opportunities for all Canadians. The reception offered an opportunity to spark dialogue on gender equality and social inclusion, and to celebrate the accomplishments of women who have paved the way for future generations.



The Lieutenant Governor with special guest attendees of the Famous Five & Persons Day event hosted in the Lieutenant Governor’s Suite in October 2022.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY



Her Honour with attendees of the International Women’s Day breakfast hosted in the Lieutenant Governor’s Suite on International Women’s Day, March 8, 2023.

Each year on March 8, International Women’s Day (IWD) serves as a reminder of the challenges that women everywhere face in their careers and in their lives.

This year on IWD, Her Honour hosted a breakfast to celebrate the contributions of female MPPs in Ontario. The event was an opportunity to honour the remarkable work of these women and to acknowledge their efforts as role models in their communities.

The breakfast was an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions about the progress made towards gender equality and the challenges still remaining in achieving full parity. As Her Honour stated in her remarks, “when we have a genuine dialogue, when we come together as people whose experiences and ideas are valued and listened to, lasting change can be sparked.”

Constitutional Role



Her Honour at the Speech from the Throne Ceremony, August 2022.

Responsible Government & Our Democracy

In the face of growing threats to democracies around the world, the Lieutenant Governor takes her constitutional duties seriously to help ensure the health of our democracy in Ontario. In 2022-23, Her Honour exercised nearly all the constitutional responsibilities of a Lieutenant Governor. Notable events included the signing of a proclamation to dissolve the 42nd Parliament of Ontario, the signing of election writs for the 124 ridings in the province, swearing in the new Executive Council of Ontario (Cabinet), delivering the Speech from the Throne to open the 43rd Parliament of Ontario, and presiding over Royal Assent for 21 bills.

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, 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. As with all communications between the Lieutenant Governor and the Government, these meetings remain confidential to promote an open and productive exchange of views.

Powers & 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 King and Governor General with regard to Parliament and the federal government. The Lieutenant Governor:

- Ensures that Ontario always has a Premier who is able to command the confidence of the Legislative Assembly
- Appoints members of the Executive Council (Cabinet ministers) on the advice of the Premier
- Summons, prorogues, and dissolves the Legislature on the advice of the Premier
- Reads the Speech from the Throne at the beginning of a parliamentary session



- Grants Royal Assent, the final step of the legislative process, to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly
- Orders elections to the Legislative Assembly on the advice of Cabinet, in accordance with the Election Act
- Approves government business, such as regulations and public appointments, by signing Orders-in-Council on the advice of Cabinet

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

Left
The Lieutenant Governor gives remarks at the swearing in of the Executive Council outside of Queen's Park in June 2022.

Right (Top)
The Lieutenant Governor and Greg Essensa, Chief Electoral Officer, sign the writs for the Hamilton Centre by-election in February 2023.

Right (Bottom)
Her Honour prepares to grant Royal Assent in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in September 2022.

Representing the Crown in Ontario

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

In 2022-23, as we continued to face multiple global crises, Her Honour and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor prioritized diplomatic engagements in order to cultivate and strengthen Ontario's ties with other nations. Her Honour had many opportunities to meet with diplomats and visiting dignitaries.

The Lieutenant Governor met with **24 diplomats and visiting dignitaries**, including:

6	Ambassadors	1	Chief Representative
3	High Commissioners	1	Minister of State
10	Consuls General	3	Members of Royal Families



The Lieutenant Governor hosts Her Excellency, Immaculate Wambua, High Commissioner of Kenya to Canada, and Sunir Chandaria, Honorary Consul of Kenya in Toronto, at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in April 2022.



Her Honour addressing the Nordic Council of Ministers at the opening of "Nordic Bridges", a year-long cultural exchange hosted by the Harbourfront Centre in May 2022.

The Lieutenant Governor hosts His Royal Highness Prince Guillaume, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in June 2022.



Her Honour welcomes a delegation of Ambassadors of Francophone countries to Queen's Park in October 2022.



Connecting with Ontarians

Platinum Jubilee



Platinum Jubilee
emblem.

In 2022, Queen Elizabeth II became the first monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee in the history of the Commonwealth, marking 70 remarkable years of service.

Her Honour celebrated this momentous occasion with Ontarians at dozens of events across the province. At flag raisings, tree plantings, high teas, garden parties, galas, and events to recognize volunteers, the Lieutenant Governor was delighted to help communities across Ontario celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime event. Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee – 70 years of her service and steadfast devotion to the people of Canada, and the first ever Platinum Jubilee in our history – is uniting people around the world. Here in Ontario, too, it is bringing people together. Today, we celebrate this milestone. It is an opportunity to reflect on our values and – significantly – to celebrate who we are."

Over the past seven decades, Ontario has grown into a prosperous, diverse, and welcoming place: From four million citizens to over 14 million, to a hub of education, industry, and culture. Her Majesty has been alongside us – every step of the way. And she remains with us today, in this moment of both challenge and opportunity."

– Excerpt from Her Honour's remarks at Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting in Carleton Place, July 2, 2022.

Platinum Jubilee Timeline 2022

[Click on the events to read more](#)

FEB	6	Platinum Jubilee Flag Raising with the Monarchist League Accession Sunday Service
MAR	13	Commonwealth Sunday Church Service
	14	Commonwealth Day
MAY	18	Royal Tour
	21	Amherstburg Tree Planting Ceremony
	27	St. George Society Spring Gala
	28	Warkworth Lilac Festival Bangladesh Centre and Community Services Platinum Jubilee Celebration
JUN	2	Majestic Inspirations: 70 Hats for 70 Years Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Lighting at Casa Loma
	3	York Club Dinner in Honour of the Platinum Jubilee
	4	Niagara-on-the-Lake Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting
	5	City of Toronto Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting The Lieutenant Governor's Platinum Jubilee Garden Party
	21	Platinum Jubilee Garden Official Ground-breaking
	26	Royal Canadian Legion City of Hamilton District Track & Field Championships and Platinum Jubilee Celebration
	30	Petawawa Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
JUL	1	Canada Day in the Village of Merrickville Woford Unveiling of Prescott Platinum Jubilee Garden
	3	Carleton Place Tree Planting
	15	Red Lake Norseman Festival and Platinum Jubilee Celebration
	22	North Grenville Platinum Jubilee Flag Raising
AUG	5	Cricket and the Crown Event Waterdown Platinum Jubilee High Tea Visit to Platinum Jubilee Treaty Forest Installation in Hamilton
	6	Seguin Township Platinum Jubilee Celebration
	13	Port Hope Arts Festival and Platinum Jubilee Celebration
	20	Stratford Platinum Jubilee Celebration
	25	Meaford Platinum Jubilee Volunteer Celebration
SEP	25	Fergus Legion Platinum Jubilee High Tea
	30	Platinum Jubilee Garden Unveiling at Queen's Park
OCT	14	McMichael Royal Oak Tree Planting



Platinum Jubilee Tweet Highlights

AMHERSTBURG



Elizabeth Dowdeswell ✓
@LGLizDowdeswell

Starting the [#PlatinumJubilee](#) celebrations with a bang! My thanks the Provincial Marine Re-Enactors and [@Aburg_TownHall](#) for the explosive festivities! [@VisitAmherstbrg](#)



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S GARDEN PARTY



Elizabeth Dowdeswell ✓
@LGLizDowdeswell

This afternoon, I was delighted to host Ontarians of all ages [@AgaKhanMuseum](#) to celebrate the [#PlatinumJubilee](#). What a delight to be joined by so many in the best garden party attire, as we celebrate a lifetime of dedicated service, unwavering commitment and unyielding grace.



PETAWAWA



Elizabeth Dowdeswell ✓
@LGLizDowdeswell

Pleased to join Mayor Bob Sweet to mark the [@TownofPetawawa](#) silver anniversary by breaking ground on the town's new welcome station. My thanks to the entire community for the warm welcome as we celebrated Her Majesty the Queen's [#PlatinumJubilee](#)



HAMILTON



Elizabeth Dowdeswell ✓
@LGLizDowdeswell

This afternoon I joined student organizers at Joe Sam's Leisure Park in [@cityofhamilton](#) to tour the installation of a new [#PlatinumJubilee](#) Treaty Forest. (continued)



Royal Tour



The Lieutenant Governor in conversation with the then-Prince Charles during his visit to Ottawa in May 2022.



Her Honour and the then-Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla, read to students at Assumption Elementary School in Ottawa in May 2022.

In May 2022, Her Honour was delighted to welcome the then-Prince of Wales, His Royal Highness Prince Charles, and the then-Duchess of Cornwall Camilla, to Canada, when they visited Ottawa as part of their Platinum Jubilee Tour. Their visit was significant, as it was the last visit the Prince of Wales made to Ontario before ascending to the throne as our new King.

Her Honour joined in welcoming His Royal Highness to Ontario and attending various events, including a visit to Assumption Elementary School. During the school visit, the Duchess of Cornwall had the opportunity to engage with students and participate in the classroom, focusing on literacy.

Another significant event during the tour involved a meeting with representatives from the 30 Birds Foundation, including young women who have resettled in Canada after fleeing conflict in Afghanistan. His Royal Highness engaged in a discussion on employment and sustainability with participants in a Prince's Trust Canada skill development program for veterans and youth.

The Lieutenant Governor was honoured to be a part of the Royal Tour.

The Crown-Indigenous Relationship

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION & UNVEILING OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE GARDEN

On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the Lieutenant Governor spoke at a ceremony at Massey College, home of the Chapel Royal known as the Gi-Chi-Twaa Gimaa Nini Mississauga Anishinaabek AName Amik (The King's Anishinaabek Sacred Place).

Later in the afternoon, the Lieutenant Governor unveiled a Platinum Jubilee Garden on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly with Speaker Ted Arnott, Premier Doug Ford, Elder Carolyn King, and Gimaa Stacey Laforme.

The garden honours Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years of service and has a thematic focus on the enduring treaty relationship between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples. It features the first plaque on the grounds of Queen's Park to recognize Treaty 13 territory and to include an Indigenous language, Anishinaabemowin.

The garden has tobacco plants grown from seeds from the Chapel Royal Tobacco Beds and also includes yellow, green, and blue plants that symbolize the shining sun, the growing grass, and the flowing river, and together, the everlasting nature of treaties. It is bordered by Moccasin Identifiers that recognize the four major First Nations groups in Ontario.

The Lieutenant Governor's Office is grateful for the guidance we received from Elder Carolyn King, who was an essential partner in this project.



Unveiling of the Platinum Jubilee Garden at Queen's Park in September 2022.



Plaque in front of the Platinum Jubilee Garden at Queen's Park, featuring words in English, Anishinaabemowin, and French.

MEETING WITH THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVES, AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS



Her Honour with the Archbishop of Canterbury in May 2022.

In May 2022, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, held a meeting with residential school survivors in Brantford and invited Her Honour to participate in the historic gathering hosted by the Anglican Church of Canada. The meeting was aimed at discussing the ongoing reconciliation efforts between Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Canadians.

Her Honour was privileged to participate in the meeting and to hear first-hand the stories of the residential school survivors and their families. She also recognized the importance of having the representative of the Crown in Ontario listen to the experiences, as part of the continued efforts to address the intergenerational trauma experienced by Indigenous Peoples.

REPORT LAUNCH FOR THE LG'S SUMMER LITERACY CAMPS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



Emily Turner, a counsellor at one of the summer reading camps, spoke about the transformational experience she had in February 2023.

At Queen's Park, Her Honour hosted the launch of the 2022 report on the Lieutenant Governor's Summer Literacy Camps in Partnership with Indigenous Communities.

This program, which was the idea of the Honourable James Bartleman, 27th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, is administered by United For Literacy. Last year, this initiative reached 785 youth in 24 First Nations in northern Ontario. The 2022 report highlighted how 1,660 books were distributed to campers, in addition to 1,620 kits for at-home learning.

Her Honour had the opportunity to see the remarkable benefits of these camps first-hand during visits to Fort Albany First Nation, Cat Lake First Nation, and Webequie First Nation in previous years.

MAANJIDOWIN: THE GATHERING

In May 2022, Her Honour attended and gave remarks at the sculpture unveiling of "Maanjidowin: The Gathering" at Billy Bishop Airport.

The sculpture was created by David General and commissioned by PortsToronto. It emphasizes Indigenous culture and serves as an important symbol of reconciliation between Indigenous communities and settlers in Ontario. It is a representation of the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinaabe.

For the 2.8 million people who annually fly in and out of the airport, it is also a powerful reminder of the importance of recognizing Indigenous contributions to Ontario's society and promotes the urgently important ideals of reconciliation and cultural unity.



Her Honour attends the unveiling of First Nations sculpture at Billy Bishop Airport in May 2022.

DEBWEGIN: TRUTH OF THE LAND



Her Honour with Gimaa Stacey Laforme, May 2022.

In May 2022, Her Honour was invited to offer remarks at Debwewin: Truth of the Land. This event featured performances from Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists. It was presented by the Town of Oakville, in partnership with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Oakville Community Foundation. The event was part of Oakville's continuing efforts to honour Indigenous culture and history.

"Debwewin" means "truth" in Anishinaabemowin, and it is one of the Seven Grandfather Teachings. The ongoing [Debwewin Project](#) raises questions about Oakville's truths and invites the community to become part of a truth and reconciliation journey towards mutually respectful relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

MÉTIS NATION AGM

In August 2022, Her Honour was invited to give remarks at the 29th Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly. The MNO is an important representative body for Métis people in Ontario, promoting and protecting Métis culture, heritage, and rights.

The Lieutenant Governor's attendance at the Assembly acknowledged the significant contributions of the Métis community in Ontario and underscored the importance of Indigenous reconciliation in the province.

Her Honour's address emphasized the importance of working together towards social justice and inclusion for all Ontarians. She expressed gratitude for the contributions of the Métis community to Ontario's culture and highlighted the importance of recognizing the unique needs and perspectives of the Métis people. Her Honour was the first Lieutenant Governor to be invited to address the MNO Assembly since the Honourable James Bartleman in 2006.



The Lieutenant Governor with Margaret Froh, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Arts

LAUNCH OF BREATH. HEART. SPIRIT.



The launch of "Breath. Heart. Spirit." in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in October 2022.



Some of the art from the "Breath. Heart. Spirit." exhibition in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor hosted the opening of the "Breath. Heart. Spirit." art exhibition in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite on October 18, 2022. The exhibit features over 100 artists and was the final exhibition of a celebratory year for the Ontario Society of Artists (OSA), marking their 150th anniversary. The launch was attended by Her Honour, as well as a number of the artists whose works were on display, and celebrated the important role that art can play in inspiring people to connect with their innermost selves and with their communities.

On display throughout 2023, the exhibition features a diverse range of artistic styles and media, including paintings, sculptures, and mixed media works. The artists' unique perspectives and expressions of creativity provide a rich tapestry of emotions, ideas, and inspirations for viewers to explore.

At the launch, Her Honour noted that art has the power to bring people together, inspire creativity, and foster a greater appreciation for diversity and inclusion. "Breath. Heart. Spirit." is an exceptional exhibition that demonstrates the tremendous creative talent of Ontario's artists.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS ACROSS ONTARIO

The Lieutenant Governor is a patron of the arts and supported numerous institutions and festivals as they returned to their regular in-person programming. From the Luminato Festival in Toronto to the Live Music Festival in Kemptonville to the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Her Honour was proud to support several efforts that showcased the creativity, diversity, and incredible talent found in Ontario.

At the Stratford Festival, Her Honour spoke at the Meighen Forum as part of a panel discussing the important role the arts play in our democracy. The Toronto Arts Awards Lunch returned fully in-person, and the Lieutenant Governor was invited to address members of the arts community. Her Honour also curated and narrated a free tour of public art for ArtworxTO, a City of Toronto initiative.

At Queen's Park, Her Honour hosted a reception to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Music Club of Toronto.



Her Honour speaks at the Stratford Festival's Meighen Forum on "Staging Democracy" in August 2022.

Sport

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S GAMES

2023 marked Variety Village's 35th Annual Lieutenant Governor's Games. The event took place in February and saw over 500 athletes with disabilities from across Ontario compete in a variety of sports.

Her Honour delivered remarks during the opening ceremony, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and accessibility in sports and society. She also rang the bell alongside the Honourable Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport in Ontario, to officially open the Games.

During the closing ceremony, Her Honour presented medals to the athletes, recognizing their hard work and dedication to their sport.

The Variety Village Lieutenant Governor's Games provide an important platform for athletes with disabilities to showcase their skills and compete at a high level, and Her Honour continues to be a proud supporter, promoting inclusivity and accessibility for all Ontarians.



Her Honour with athletes at the 35th Annual Lieutenant Governor's Games in Toronto in February 2023.

CANADA SUMMER GAMES



Athletes, coaches, volunteers, and spectators gather at the opening ceremony of the Canada Summer Games in St. Catharines in August 2022.

In August 2022, Her Honour attended the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Niagara Region, the largest multi-sport event in the country. The Lieutenant Governor addressed the thousands in attendance, highlighting the importance of sports and physical activity in promoting healthy lifestyles and building strong communities.

PARASPORT GAMES



The Lieutenant Governor takes a photo with mascot Pachi the Porcupine at the 2023 Parasport Games in Durham Region in February 2023.

In February 2023, Her Honour helped open the Parasport Games in Durham Region. With over 1,000 attendees, the Games certainly lived up to their "Be the Roar" tagline.

Her Honour met with athletes, coaches, and volunteers, and spoke about the importance of promoting inclusivity and accessibility in all aspects of society. She also took the opportunity to remember her predecessor, the Honourable David C. Onley, who passed away the month prior to the Games, recalling the Summer Parasport Summit ten years earlier, when he summed up what Parasport is about by saying that it is, "One of the most powerful ways to let people see just what those who live with disabilities are capable of doing."

Around the Province

NORTHERN TOUR

The Lieutenant Governor travelled over 1,000 kilometres around northern Ontario to recognize notable volunteers, celebrate local communities, and engage with people in Thunder Bay, Dryden, the Kenora District, and Red Lake.

The visit began in Thunder Bay, where Her Honour met with community leaders. The Lieutenant Governor later presented the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers to Pam Ward.

In Dryden, Her Honour met with then-Mayor Greg Wilson to hear about the experiences of this northern city.

In the Kenora District, the Lieutenant Governor visited the International Institute for Sustainable Development's Experimental Lakes Area and met with scientists who are doing world-leading research into freshwater ecosystems.

The Lieutenant Governor then travelled to the end of Highway 105 to visit the Municipality of Red Lake, where she spoke at the opening of the Norseman Festival, hosted a Platinum Jubilee reception with Mayor Fred Mota, attended a northern fish fry dinner with community members, learned more about the local economy at the Evolution Gold Mine, and participated in a moving roundtable discussion with the Red Lake Truth and Reconciliation Committee.



Her Honour and Dr. Matthew McCandless, Executive Director, IISD-ELA, at an experimental lake in the Kenora District in July 2022.



Her Honour and Mayor Fred Mota inside the Evolution Gold Mine in Red Lake in July 2022.

LONDON ROUNDTABLE ON ISLAMOPHOBIA



Her Honour with community members at the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration in London in April 2022.

In April 2022, Her Honour returned to London to meet again with Imam Abd Alfatah Twakkal and other leaders in the Muslim community. It was, nearly a year after the 2021 terrorist attack in which four members of the Afzaal-Salman family were killed and one was injured. At a local non-profit, the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration, Her Honour joined Mayor Ed Holder for a meeting with community members to hear about their experiences with Islamophobia in Ontario.

Throughout the year, the Lieutenant Governor continued to take note of the rise in prejudice, discrimination, racism, and Islamophobia. Wherever possible, Her Honour strived to help shine a light on these issues by meeting with members and leaders of marginalized communities and helping to share their concerns and stories.

THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

Throughout the year, Her Honour recognized the service of the Canadian Armed Forces by participating in multiple military ceremonies and events around the province.

On May 1, 2022, Her Honour served as the Inspecting Officer at the Governor General's Horse Guards' Trooping of the Standard. Her Honour addressed the parade and commended the Regiment for 200 years of service.



Her Honour inspecting a quarter guard at Garrison Petawawa in June 2022.

On May 14, 2022, the Lieutenant Governor joined Her Excellency Mary Simon, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, for a ceremony with the Queen's York Rangers. Her Excellency presented the Regiment with their new Guidon, which included five new battle honours. Her Honour, as the Colonel-of-the-Regiment of the Queen's York Rangers, presided over the Change of Command Ceremony between outgoing Commanding Officer LCol James Stocker and incoming Commanding Officer LCol Matthew Lennox.

On September 24, 2022, Her Honour served as the Inspecting Officer and presented the new Guidon to the Windsor Regiment, which included battle honours for the Regiment's service in Afghanistan.

On June 30, 2022, Her Honour visited Garrison Petawawa, where she inspected a quarter guard, met with the Garrison Command Team, and spent time with former members of Operation UNIFIER who had recently returned from Ukraine.

2023 marked the 100th anniversary of HMCS York and the Royal Canadian Naval Reserves. Her Honour was pleased to be able to celebrate both organizations at the 204th Toronto Garrison Ball, an annual social event for the military community and its supporters.



Top

Her Honour presents the Commanding Officer's Sword to LCol Matthew Lennox of the Queen's York Rangers in May 2022.

Bottom

Her Honour arrives at the 204th Garrison Ball in February 2023.

"Whether you have been working in nursing homes during lockdown, supporting firefighters, helping the survivors of floods find shelter, training Ukrainian army staff, or serving in NATO's defence of the Baltic republics, your contributions have been indispensable to Canadian and international security and resilience."

– Excerpt from Her Honour's remarks at the Garrison Ball, February 11, 2023.

HIGH SCHOOL BIG DATA CHALLENGE

The STEM Fellowship National High School Big Data Challenge is a program that enables high school students to strengthen critical thinking and problem-solving skills, while gaining familiarity with data science. Her Honour was delighted to have been invited to give the opening remarks at their event in February 2023.

In her address, Her Honour expressed gratitude to the STEM Fellowship for their commitment to providing opportunities for young Ontario students to explore STEM fields and to develop skills that will prepare them for future success. She encouraged participants to continue pursuing their passions, noting the important role that they will play in shaping Ontario's future.

Throughout the event, Her Honour engaged with the students and offered words of encouragement as they presented their findings. It was inspiring to see the enthusiasm and creativity of these young innovators and their work, a testament to the ingenuity and talent of Ontario's youth.



Her Honour in conversation with students at the National High School Big Data Challenge in Toronto in February 2023.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S CANADIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN MOOSONEE AND MOOSE FACTORY

In June 2022, Her Honour joined a group of participants from the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference (GGCLC) for a two-day visit to Moosonee and Moose Factory, where they spent time with community members. At the water treatment plant, the hospital, and Northern Lights Secondary School, the group learned more about the experiences of Indigenous Peoples in northern Ontario. The GGCLC is a unique two-week experience for emerging leaders in Canada.

Back at Queen's Park, Her Honour hosted another group of GGCLC participants for a roundtable focused on democracy in Canada.



Her Honour and GGCLC participants at Northern Lights Secondary School in June 2022.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

Her Honour was delighted to celebrate 100 years of Ontario's rich agricultural heritage at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November.

Her Honour toured the fairgrounds and met with farmers, industry leaders, and young agricultural enthusiasts, highlighting the importance of supporting Ontario's agricultural sector and promoting sustainable practices to ensure a prosperous and resilient future for the province.

For a century, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair has played a valuable role in offering Ontarians opportunities to learn about Canada's rich and diverse agricultural landscape, its equestrian excellence, as well as the scientific and technological innovation behind food's journey from farm to fork.



Her Honour at the 100th annual Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto in November 2022.

ONTARIO POLICE COLLEGE GRADUATION



The Lieutenant Governor attends the Ontario Police College graduation in Aylmer in March 2023.

"Looking out at this graduating cohort, I am inspired to see so many of you here, and such a diverse representation of people, from every region of our province.

Each one of you has your own story of how you got here – a story you share with the loved ones and friends who join you today.

Perhaps you have wanted to be a police officer since you were a child. Perhaps you are switching careers in search of a different and rewarding experience.

Perhaps you have been inspired by constables you know.

But one thing you all have in common is that you have made a decision to make a difference."

– Excerpt from Her Honour's remarks at the Police College Graduation, March 30, 2023.

In March 2023, Her Honour attended the Ontario Police College graduation ceremony, where she gave remarks and participated in the graduation parade for over 400 cadets.

The event was a momentous occasion, and Her Honour was proud to recognize the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of the graduating class of recruits.

Her Honour has maintained strong ties to the policing community throughout her mandate. In her remarks, she praised the courage, professionalism, and contributions of officers across the province, who serve as an inspiration to us all.

New Year's Levee

This year, Her Honour was happy to provide continuity by welcoming Ontarians back to the Lieutenant Governor's Suite for a long-standing tradition: the New Year's Levee.

A time-honoured custom, dating back to the 18th century, the festive event saw hundreds of Ontarians of diverse backgrounds gather together to share in refreshments, listen to live music, and engage with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

Her Honour was grateful to be able to meet with Ontarians in person, after so many years apart due to the pandemic, and also to have the opportunity to thank so many of them personally for their countless contributions throughout the year.



Her Honour meets a family visiting the Lieutenant Governor's Suite for the New Year's Levee in January 2023.

Operations



Her Honour with ten aides-de-camp at the Platinum Jubilee Garden Party in June 2022.

Serving the Lieutenant Governor

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor comprises a team of 12 full-time staff members and one part-time member. In addition, a corps of 52 aides-de-camp and 14 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, local emergency services, and first responders, including St. John Ambulance.

Viceregal Patronage

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

To date, Ms. Dowdeswell has granted patronage to 49 organizations:

- Aga Khan Museum
- Air Cadet League of Canada (Ontario Provincial Committee)
- Army Cadet League of Canada (Ontario)
- Artscape Foundation
- BIPOC Fellowship
- Canadian Centre for Ethics and Corporate Policy
- Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons
- Children's International Learning Centre
- CNIB (Ontario-Nunavut)
- Commissionaires Great Lakes
- Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Ontario)
- Friends of HMCS Haida
- Haven Toronto (formerly The Good Neighbours' Club)
- Concerts in Care (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
- Massey College
- Monarchist League of Canada
- Mon Sheong Foundation
- Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations
- Ontario Historical Society
- Ontario Society of Artists
- Pathways to Education Canada
- Provincial Council of Women of Ontario
- Quarter Century Club
- Royal Canadian Humane Association
- Royal Canadian Institute for the Advancement of Science
- Royal Canadian Legion (Ontario Command)
- Royal Canadian Military Institute
- Royal Canadian Sea Cadets/Navy League Cadets
- Royal Commonwealth Society
- Royal Niagara Military Institute
- Royal Ontario Museum
- Institute for Advancements in Mental Health
- Scouts Canada
- Textile Museum of Canada
- Thrive Youth Development Canada
- Toronto Children's Chorus
- Travellers' Aid Society
- Variety Village
- Warriors' Day Parade Council
- Waterlution: A Water Learning Experience
- Women's Musical Club of Toronto

In addition, Ms. Dowdeswell has granted patronage to the following nine special initiatives:

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

Financial Information

Provincial funds

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

Operating expenses: 2022-23

	Interim actuals
Salaries and Wages	1,387,335
Employee Benefits	161,650
Transportation and Communication	52,100
Services	206,310
Supplies and Equipment	84,605
Discretionary Allowance	155,800
	\$2,047,800

Year ending March 31

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

Source: Estimates Briefing Book 2022-23. Treasury Board Secretariat.

Federal funds

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

Lieutenant Governors' Annual Grant (Department of Canadian Heritage): 2022-23

	Interim actuals
Travel and accommodation	1,670
Hospitality	7,674
Operational and administrative expenses	12,564
	\$21,908

Year ending March 31

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

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

The Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell took office in September 2014 as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. This report presents the highlights of her public engagements from April 2022 to March 2023.

An electronic copy of this report is available online at lgontario.ca. Follow **LGLizDowdeswell** on Twitter and Facebook.