



Activity Report

The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

April 2021–March 2022

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A note about the content of this report

This report presents the highlights of the Lieutenant Governor's public engagements from April 2021 to March 2022.

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



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.

Introduction



The Lieutenant Governor inspects troops from 32 Canadian Brigade Group (32CBG) on 11 December 2021 in Toronto, Ontario.

Foreword

At the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, our fiscal year began with feelings of sadness and sorrow, but also with determination, hope, and renewed purpose. We resolved to honour a great man and pay him tribute in the finest way we could: by following in his example of service, loyalty, and love.

On 9 April 2021, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the longest-serving royal consort in world history, died in Windsor Castle at the age of 99. His would not be the last passing that was deeply felt. Indeed, this past year, in Ontario, we said farewell to noble public servants and luminescent artists, fearless trailblazers, and bold scientists. But that April, I chose to view Prince Philip's death not as a presage of tragedy but as a sign of life extraordinarily lived, of what matters most: not what we possess, but whose lives we've touched.

His Royal Highness left behind a legacy of unfailing dedication to the cause of community, of building not for the benefit of oneself but for others, for generations long to come, for all of humanity.

It is this legacy that I heard admired and saw expressed by the people of Ontario in their own way. It was expressed by the nurse at Michael Garron Hospital battling through the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, by those who helped newcomers from Afghanistan searching for refuge, support, and the opportunity to build a new life, by student volunteers donating their time and learning new skills to lend a helping hand to those most in need. This was, unmistakably, another year of challenge. Yet it was also a year where we saw the very best of who we are. As Her Majesty has said, "When life seems hard, the



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

courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future.”¹

As lieutenant governor, I see it as my solemn duty to bear witness to that courage and struggle, and to share stories of it near and far. This report is meant to help me do just that—to reflect back to the citizens of Ontario, and indeed to many beyond our borders, our tales of perseverance and heartbreak, of dreams realized and those that fell short, of lessons learned through grit, determination, and strength.

Crucially, this is also a document of accountability. The people of Ontario deserve to know how this office serves people on a day-to-day basis and about the projects and initiatives we have chosen to prioritize. With the help of my staff, I undertook 605 public engagements from April 2021 to March 2022 (the fiscal year), and I could not have done so without the support of people and organizations who graciously welcomed me into their homes and places of worship, business, and culture. This past year, especially, I cherished travelling all across our beautiful province to meet face-to-face with citizens. I witnessed a remarkable generosity of spirit, a pride of place and, above all else, a drive to seize a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build their communities back stronger. To that end, as I had done since the very outset of the pandemic, I took time to call leaders in almost every sector to see how they were coping, what they were hearing, and how they were planning to build for a more resilient future.

Armed with the passion and insights of Ontarians, our office sought to continue expanding our constituency by using digital tools to reach people as never before. And I’m proud to say that we hosted an array of virtual events that allowed us to engage with record numbers of people, including a marquee all-day

virtual conference called *Shaping Sustainability* that brought together a diverse collection of prominent researchers, activists, performers, and civic and cultural leaders to discuss the future of sustainability and to lay groundwork for positive change.

In each connection that we forged, be it virtually or in-person, I recognized an eagerness to look forward, a desire to find new approaches and to bring them to bear on the major issues we face together, such as climate change, geopolitical conflict, and economic and social volatility. It’s a readiness that is well placed in the year 2022, when people throughout Canada and the Commonwealth are celebrating Her Majesty The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. On the 70th anniversary of her accession to the Throne, we have the chance to not only look back on all the ways our society has changed and prospered during her reign but also to reflect on and recommit to those values we hold most dear: democracy, service, and peace. For the remainder of the year, I look forward to standing alongside the people of Ontario in celebration, in renewed faith that—together—we can meet tomorrow’s challenges.

Who can forget the image of Her Majesty seated—alone—at St. George Chapel during the funeral service for her dearly beloved husband? So many of us connected with that photograph because it was so deeply human, because it spoke to our common condition and all that each of us, individually, had been asked to endure. And endure we did. Ontarians have proven that, no matter the obstacle, we will always fight for a brighter future for our children and a kinder, more just, and sustainable world. Let the good work continue!

¹ The Queen's 2008 Christmas Broadcast <https://www.royal.uk/christmas-broadcast-2008>

Her Honour



The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell is the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and is currently the second-longest serving lieutenant governor since Confederation. As the representative of Her Majesty The Queen, 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 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 teaching certificate from the University of Saskatchewan and a master of science in behavioural sciences from Utah State University. She is an officer of the Order of Canada, a member of the Order of Ontario, and the recipient of numerous distinctions and fellowships. She holds 12 honorary doctorates.

Her Honour and Hazel McCallion on her 101st birthday celebration on 15 February 2021.

By the Numbers (Facts and Figures)

CONSTITUTIONAL



In 2021-22, the Lieutenant Governor approved **1,892 orders-in-council** including **231 emergency orders** responding to the COVID-19 global pandemic:

88 proclamations
(22% increase from 2020-21)

724 regulations
(25% increase from 2020-21)

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

121 Great Seal letters patent under the *Mining Act*



The Lieutenant Governor granted Royal Assent **24 times** to a total of **70 bills**.

29 Deputy Minister appointments



16 Provincial Judges' appointments

49 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 2021-22, the Office provided:

70
special event messages

&

4,097
greetings



The Lieutenant Governor recorded **122 video messages** that were broadcast as part of events around Ontario.

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.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell @LGLizDowdeswell

The work of the Crown continues. Today I was pleased to preside over changes to the Executive Council in Ontario's first virtual cabinet shuffle.

Twitter – 18 June 2021: Ontario's first virtual cabinet shuffle

facebook

Elizabeth Dowdeswell is at Queen's Park

Today I met with the [OLIP Interns](#) in my suite at Queen's Park and was inspired by their knowledge and enthusiasm.

At a moment when democracy around the world is most fragile, taking the time to understand our systems and participate is the most powerful act one can make as an individual and as a society.

"Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible; but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary" – Reinhold Niebuhr [#speakingofdemocracy](#)

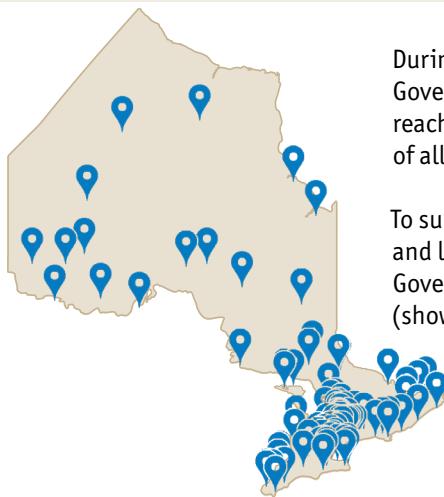
Facebook – 10 December 2021: Meeting with members from Ontario's Legislative Internship Program (OLIP)

lgontario

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Instagram – 11 November 2021: Remembrance Day in Scugog, Ontario

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS & GEOGRAPHIC REACH



During the fiscal year 2021-22, the Lieutenant Governor participated in **605 public engagements** reaching all corners of the province and Ontarians of all backgrounds and ages.

To support the municipal order of government and learning about local issues, the Lieutenant Governor visited **19 Ontario communities** (shown here).

Overall, throughout her mandate, the Lieutenant Governor has visited all

124 ridings
(also known as electoral districts) in Ontario, making:

87 official visits to municipalities & **25** visits to First Nations Communities

CROWN HONOURS AND LG AWARDS

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a number of awards programs to be delayed in 2021-22. However, the Lieutenant Governor was able to present several awards in person and virtually.

In 2021-22, Her Honour presented 7 provincial honours, including the James K. Bartleman Awards, the Pauline McGibbon Awards, the David C. Onley Awards, the Hilary M. Weston Awards, and the Lincoln M. Alexander Awards.

Lieutenant Governor made 8 in-person presentations of the SMV.
(See page 18 to learn more about these special medal presentations).



In 2021-22, Her Honour was additionally able to make special presentations of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (SMV), a federal honour. In total, the

Connecting with Ontarians

Introduction

In times of crisis, connections matter as never before: between a volunteer and someone in need, between a public servant and a concerned citizen, and among the friends and family upon whom we rely.

Throughout the 2021-22 fiscal year, the Lieutenant Governor continued connecting with Ontarians. Whether it was over the phone, face-to-face at a community event, or through a letter of support, Her Honour sought to build and celebrate the relationships that keep us strong and unified. Equally, she worked to help develop and facilitate platforms for connections among Ontarians who might not otherwise have the chance to come together. In these pursuits, four key themes emerged:

Community Engagement: in which Her Honour worked to help foster a sense of collective identity among the people of Ontario, encourage volunteer service, and promote awareness and action related to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Areas of Focus: in which Her Honour continued to use the themes of Sustainability, Ontario in the World, and Democracy to bring diverse groups together through both virtual meetings and in-person events at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite, to share made-in-Ontario insights and stories with the world, and to advance dialogue around issues crucial to the province's recovery.

Representing the Crown in Ontario: in which Her Honour fulfilled her responsibilities as Her Majesty's representative, both in public events and in her constitutional duties.

Commemoration: in which Her Honour helped pay tribute to the lives of exceptional Ontarians.

The following entries are a collection of events and initiatives that represent only some of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor's activities—but they serve as examples of the very best in Ontario culture, innovation, resilience, and spirit.

Events and Initiatives

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Lieutenant Governor in conversation with Imam Abd Alfatah Twakkal at the attack site on 6 June 2021.

#OurLondonFamily: Paying tribute after a terrorist attack in London, Ontario

Following the tragic terrorist attack in London, Ontario, on 6 June 2021 —in which four members of the Afzaal-Salman family were killed and another wounded— the Lieutenant Governor visited the community to express condolences on behalf of the people of Ontario. On 11 June, Her Honour met with Imam Abd Alfatah Twakkal and His Worship Ed Holder, Mayor of London, at the London Muslim Mosque and visited the attack site to show her solidarity with the Muslim community and pay her respects to the victims.

Throughout the year, the Lieutenant Governor took note of a 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 from marginalized communities and helping to share their concerns and stories.

Peacekeeper Day Ceremony and Wheel of Honour

On 9 August 2021, which was both International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and National Peacekeepers' Day, the Lieutenant Governor joined Indigenous and non-Indigenous peacekeeping veterans, Silver Cross families, and local elected officials and community members at Peacekeeper's Park in Angus, Ontario to honour the sacrifices made by Canadian veterans.

National Peacekeepers' Day was established in 2008, with the 9th of August chosen as its date of commemoration to recognize the greatest single loss of Canadian lives on a peacekeeping mission, which occurred in Syria in 1974.

Significantly, during the event, the Wheel of Honour was unveiled —a special memorial recognizing the contributions of Indigenous peacekeepers, which are often overlooked by mainstream history. The occasion was organized by the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeepers, the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Barrie South-Simcoe Métis Council.



Her Honour walks alongside Bob George after the Peacekeeper Day Ceremony on 9 August 2021.

Canada Day Celebrations

Every Canada Day, the Lieutenant Governor takes a special delight in celebrating Canada Day alongside Ontarians. In years past, Her Honour has attended community events where citizens have demonstrated their civic pride and Canadian spirit. However, this past July, with the COVID-19 pandemic forcing communities to cancel most in-person gatherings, Her Honour sought to help Ontarians recognize the occasion by recording video greetings for numerous municipalities across the province

and by delivering an extended video message—alongside Knowledge Keeper James Bird—about reconciliation, hope and the historic challenges that had been overcome. The video was shared on Her Honour’s social media channels and aired on TVO on 1 July.



"The challenges of this past year will never define this province. For the spirit and determination that you, the people, have shown will forever testify to the strength and character of our democracy."

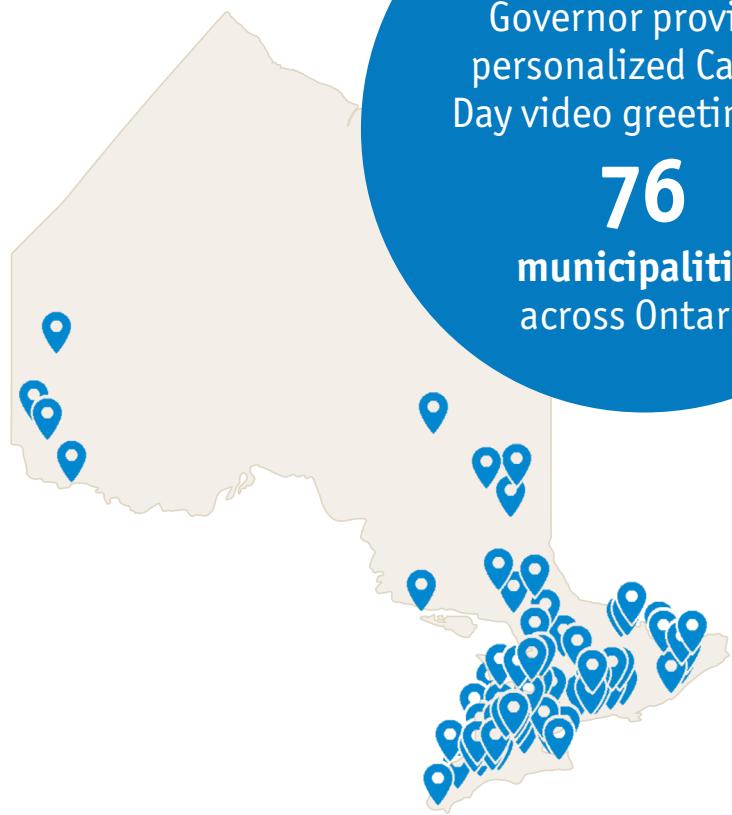
To Canada Video Message:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/p/CQyN4-7gxgf/>



Her Honour with Knowledge Keeper James Bird and members of the Queen's York Rangers during the taping of her Canada Day message on 6 June 2021.

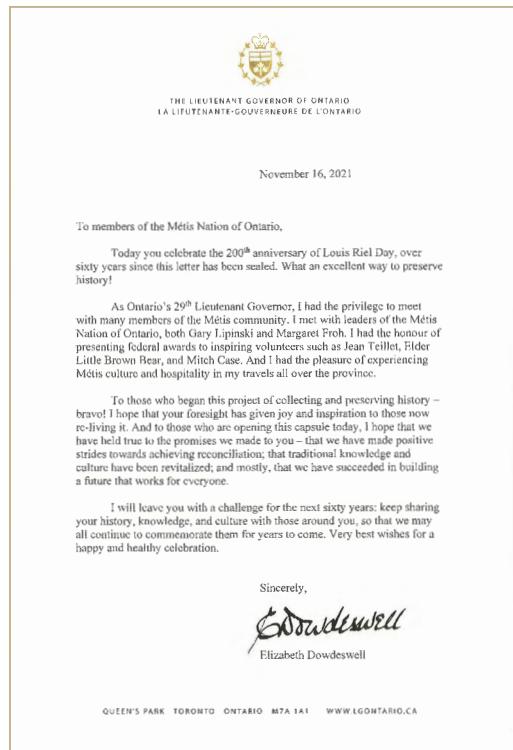
The Lieutenant Governor provided personalized Canada Day video greetings for
76 municipalities across Ontario.



Her Honour’s Canada Day video message was viewed by over
1200 Ontarians
via the office’s various social media platforms.

Métis Nation of Ontario's Legacy Preservation Project

On 16 November 2021, Her Honour joined the North Bay Métis Council to commemorate Louis Riel Day and to participate in the launch of the Métis Nation of Ontario's Legacy Preservation Project. During the event, a time capsule—holding gifts for future Métis generations—was buried. The capsule is scheduled to be unearthed in 2085, on the 200th anniversary of Louis Riel Day! The Lieutenant Governor was honoured to contribute a letter to the capsule. In her remarks, Her Honour congratulated organizers, contributors, and community members on the historically significant project and thanked the Council for their work to celebrate and honour Métis history.



The Lieutenant Governor offering remarks to community members during the Legacy Preservation Project event on 16 November 2021 just outside North Bay, Ontario.

"My friend, Margaret Froh, said in her introductory message to the project that Louis Riel urged his fellow Métis to 'cherish [their] inheritance ... to preserve it for the youth of the future.' So it is *only right* that Louis Riel Day has been chosen as both the beginning and end of this project.

For the day commemorates both a great tragedy in history—the anniversary of his execution—but it is also a moment to celebrate and honour Métis culture, and the ongoing progress that Métis people are making towards fulfilling his dream.

A dream that we find right at the heart of this endeavour, one steeped in traditional knowledge and that expresses a boundless faith in the future.

An example that we might all follow in our quest to build a more just, resilient, and stronger tomorrow."

Excerpt from the Lieutenant Governor's remarks at the MNO Legacy project on 16 November 2021.

Bravery Park

On 3 September 2021, Her Honour participated in the historic opening ceremony for Bravery Park before meeting with local veterans at the legion in Orangeville, Ontario.

The park—the first of its kind in Canada—is a story of community spirit, dedication, and love. The initiative was the brainchild of the family of Corporal Mathew McCully—who paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Afghanistan. Bravery Park honours the efforts of Canadian Forces to promote peace across the world. The space includes a statue; a memorial stone; a Medicine Wheel Garden recognizing the vital contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit soldiers in service to Canada; a playground, and various art installations. The ceremony took on added importance after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in the months prior to the event. In this context, Her Honour spoke to the efforts of Canadian soldiers to build communities and protect the rights of women and girls throughout the conflict and underlined the struggles that many veterans still face.

"And yet despite everything you sacrifice, I've yet to meet a soldier or veteran that considers themselves a hero. You say it was your job, what you were trained to do. But it is far more than that.

Many of us here today serve our communities, even our province, but you, you serve our country, and what a great country it is. You are Canada's heroes, and we are so very proud of you. This park honours you, your family, your sacrifices, your achievements, your bravery."

An excerpt from Ms. Shannon McGrady's remarks at Bravery Park's opening ceremony. Ms. McGrady's brother, Corporal Matthew McCully, was killed in action in Afghanistan 25 May 2007. Corporal McCully's family, along with the local Royal Canadian Legion and dozens of local volunteers, were the driving force behind the creation of Bravery Park.



The Lieutenant Governor pays her respects before the Bravery Park statue during an unveiling ceremony on 3 September 2021. This key feature of the park was designed by local artists Donna Pascoe and Peter Turrell with input from Canadian Soldiers.

■ Voices of Ontario

In line with Her Honour's abiding belief in the power of storytelling to build empathy and understanding, the Voices of Ontario initiative provides Ontarians with space to share their own stories. Through this series of short videos — featuring citizens, cultural leaders, volunteers, and public servants—the Lieutenant Governor's Office is able to lend its unique platform to elevate the insights, perspectives, and experiences of extraordinary Ontarians.

All videos are available to view on the Lieutenant Governor's website: <https://www.lgontario.ca/en/voices-of-ontario/>



LCol. James Stocker, Commanding Officer of the Queen's York Rangers on the Rangers work throughout the pandemic:

"For me personally, operating within Canada has a specific set of challenges but also a set of rewards ... you're helping Canadians in their hour of need, and at the end of the day, I think that's what most CAF personnel signed up for."



Sydney Hussett-Richardson on her receipt of the Lincoln Alexander Award:

"To me this award signifies the value of community work ... It also shows Ontario's commitment to ending racial disparities. And so, I hope that other youth can see that and take action and know the work they do is valuable."



Rochelle Byrne, Executive Director/Founder of a Greener Future, speaking on environmental stewardship and Earth Day 2022:

"A Greener Future is an environmental non-profit that I started back in 2014. I did a litter clean-up in my community, and I realized one clean-up was not enough. So, I kept going. And over the past seven years we've gathered a bunch of like-minded volunteers who want to see a cleaner healthier planet, and we've become a community of environmental stewards. To date we've picked up over 3.5 million pieces of litter together."



Emmanuel Adegboyega on his receipt of the Lincoln Alexander Award:

"I was inspired by knowing who Lincoln was and the great work he has done in the journey of advocacy and becoming the first Black lieutenant governor. That just leaves me inspired to keep doing the work I'm doing as a changemaker and as a leader in my community and beyond."

■ BIPOC Fellowship Launch

In 2021, Her Honour granted honorary patronage to the BIPOC Fellowship. This initiative supports BIPOC individuals working in the GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives, and museums) sector by providing mentorship and leadership opportunities. At a special launch event on 8 December 2021, the Lieutenant Governor thanked those who helped make the initiative a reality and paid tribute to Ontario's art and culture community for their unifying and soul-nourishing work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on the Lieutenant Governor's patronage and for a full list of patronage organizations, please visit page 28.

"Canada has been undergoing a reckoning with issues of race. Courageous voices have brought about a long-overdue realization: that systemic change is of paramount importance. Our institutions must be reconfigured and decolonized. As cultural institutions, galleries, libraries, arts spaces, and museums are known as accessible purveyors of education, and sources of the nourishment offered by art. They are a part of the healing process."

An excerpt from Her Honour's remarks at the BIPOC Fellowship launch event on 8 December 2021



The Lieutenant Governor delivers remarks at the BIPOC Fellowship launch event on 8 December 2021 in Toronto, Ontario.

■ Connecting with Ontario's Leaders



At the outset of the pandemic in March 2020, the Lieutenant Governor started making phone calls to a wide spectrum of leaders in virtually every major sector, including business, civil society, and government, to better understand how people were coping. This initiative continued throughout 2021-22. Indeed, with the challenges associated with the pandemic far from over, Her Honour asked leaders about the most important lessons they had learned and about those obstacles that remained. From these conversations, Her Honour has noted that many leaders share the belief that Ontario's recovery and ability to meet future crises will depend upon the type of holistic and long-term thinking that considers the needs of future generations and engenders resilience.

AREAS OF FOCUS

■ 50th anniversary of the United Nations Environment Programme



Letter from Former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and current Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell

Dear Ms. Andersen,

May I add my voice to those congratulating UNEP on its 50th anniversary this week. This is a living testament to the vision, dedication and commitment of secretariat staff, the guidance of diplomats and public servants and the persistence and energy of young people and civil society.

It was my distinct privilege, as one of UNEP's Executive Directors, to witness firsthand some of the organization's many stories of aspiration, challenge, and success. The early days of state of environment monitoring and reporting and the creation of a regime of international environmental law were followed by new commitments generated at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio: a framework of sustainable development and an ambitious agenda including international treaties on climate change, biodiversity and desertification. In response UNEP sought new allies and enhanced collaboration with sister organizations. It harnessed amazing human ingenuity, empowered civil society and sought to embrace a culture of accountability and achievement of results.

Meanwhile complex and wicked global problems remain while the pace of geopolitical, technological, and demographic change increases.

This week you will be talking about reversing the environmental degradation caused by plastics. You will examine the latest IPPC report on the threats and risks of climate change and no doubt you will be reminded of the devastating loss of biodiversity.

You meet at an opportune moment in history. We are living through the most remarkable global pandemic and have been forced to face our mutual vulnerabilities and interdependence. There have been insights and lessons learned that could assist us in tackling with urgency the existential crisis of climate change. The answers lie not just in building trust and confidence in science, but in thinking and acting systemically and holistically, in seeking common ground and social justice.

Unfortunately, this week we have also seen the violence of the gun and of the tongue and witnessed both the fragility and strength of our democracies. You have an opportunity to counter waves of pessimism by seeking resilience and human security in the best traditions of the United Nations.

I wish you well. Our common humanity needs the accumulated wisdom and experience of UNEP. Your courage and boldness are called upon as never before.

Most sincerely,
The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

In March 2022, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) celebrated its 50th anniversary.

As a former executive director of the programme, the Lieutenant Governor issued the following special message in recognition of this observation and the UNEP's important ongoing work.

Virtual Model City Hall with Youth

In an effort to underscore the importance of democracy, municipal government, and the power of youth engagement in politics, on 1 May 2021 Her Honour joined the 2021 Virtual Model City Hall. Also participating were representatives from every order of government for a group discussion with over 80 youth delegates on topics as challenging and diverse as low voter turnout amongst young people and the most effective strategies for citizens to make change.



Elizabeth Dowdeswell
@LGLizDowdeswell

Delighted to participate in [@mchhamilton](#) Model City Hall. Young people across Ontario are vital to building a future that reflects their values and needs. We cannot [#buildbackbetter](#) if everyone does not have a seat at the table.



Women in Public Life Panel Discussion

On 10 March 2022, the Lieutenant Governor joined the Ambassador of Switzerland in Canada, Salome Meyer, for a conversation—moderated by former Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Rosemary McCarney—about how women have shaped political discourse. The event, in part, recognized two significant observances for Canada and Switzerland, respectively: The 50th anniversaries of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada and of women's suffrage in Switzerland. After the event, Her Honour shared the following message on her social media channels: "Globally, we see women in Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Yemen making impossible choices every day. Let 2022 be the year we unite to support all women through good governance and strong democratic practices. Let us promise to not leave any girl or woman behind."



Elizabeth Dowdeswell
@LGLizDowdeswell

Last evening I joined Ambassador Meyer [@SwissEmbCanada](#) [@rosemaryMccarney](#) in a conversation about how women have shaped the political discourse over the past 50 years in and



50th anniversary of Environment and Climate Change Canada and 150th anniversary of the Meteorological Service of Canada

In 2021, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) celebrated 50 years of environmental action in Canada, while the Meteorological Service of Canada (MSC) marked 150 years of providing quality weather forecasting services and information to Canadians.

The Lieutenant Governor took time to recognize both milestones. On 1 May 2021, Her Honour released a video message in honour of MSC's 150th anniversary on her social media channels, in which she paid tribute to MSC's foundational contributions to international environmental policy and to the vital service of its many proud employees. On 10 June 2021, the Lieutenant Governor participated in a special virtual speaker's series event in which she reflected on both the ECCC and MSC milestones. Her Honour also shared personal reflections of her time serving as head of the MSC (then called the Atmospheric Environment Service) from 1989-92.

ECCC 50th ANNIVERSARY



Elizabeth Dowdeswell 
@LGLizDowdeswell

50 years of passion and professionalism, caring for the environment at home and abroad. Congratulations [@environmentca](#)!

Delighted to participate in the speaker series, recalling many fond memories and celebrating Canada's many achievements in Science, Technology and Diversity.



MSC 150TH ANNIVERSARY

"And a quarter of a century ago, as climate change was just starting to emerge in public consciousness, you were prescient in identifying authoritative data and science that informed both the public and decision-makers about the challenges and risks we face.

And you did so beyond our borders, illustrating so effectively our interdependence and mutual vulnerability."

Excerpt from the Lieutenant Governor's video message, released on her social media channels, in honour of the 150th anniversary of the Meteorological Service of Canada on 1 May 2021.

■ Shaping Sustainability Conference

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW:



Throughout her mandate, the Lieutenant Governor has sought opportunities to engage with Ontarians and support sustainability initiatives while raising awareness of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN's concept of sustainable development features three pillars: environmental stewardship, social cohesion, and inclusive economic prosperity. In July 2021, a one-day, virtual conference was held to highlight Ontarians championing sustainability and to bring together individuals, organizations, educational institutions, and government representatives from across the province.

The Shaping Sustainability in Ontario Conference consisted of five panel discussions, three TED Talks, and three performances and took place over the course of one day via a livestream. The audience included both provincial and federal employees, members of the public, and friends of the office.

INVITATION TEXT:

As the Lieutenant Governor's mandate reaches an incredible seven years, we invite you, on behalf of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, to a virtual capstone event taking place on July 28:

At the outset of her mandate, the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell wanted to take time to listen to Ontarians and to learn about the things that they collectively consider to be of greatest importance to their communities.

What she learned is that at our core, Ontarians are people who think sustainably.

- We care about our neighbours and communities and want to see these spaces thrive in the future.
- We want responsible environmental stewardship.
- We strive for social cohesion in our communities.
- We expect inclusive economic prosperity.

This event promises to be like no other, we are bringing together people from all corners of the province to discuss their experiences and perspectives in an open and apolitical way. We hope that you can join us and help spread the word.



Gimma Stacey Laforme
Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

Opening Speaker and Indigenous Acknowledgement

"Looking at sustainability takes wisdom and courage, and I commend you for this discussion today. Let truth emerge from the heart and the spirit."



Randell Adjei
First Poet Laureate of Ontario

Performance

"I think about sustainability as related to a seed. You have to plant a seed into the darkness of the soil; we need to plant that seed into the darkness of challenge and adversity. The seed needs to crack, to root itself into the darkness and break into the light."



Panel 1

Science and Sustainability

"We're afraid of being vulnerable in the western world. We need to go through a philosophical transition where we return to a humbler way of thinking. In this, there is room for science. But what's really important is how we use technology in science. Are we going to invent another atomic bomb or a more sustainable future?" *Mario Rigby, Eco Explorer*



The Honourable Bob Rae
Ambassador and Permanent Representative-Designate of Canada to the United Nations in New York

TED Talk

"The crisis we're now facing is the impacts of COVID. COVID is not a leveller or an equalizer; it is a revealer. It has revealed the depths of the inequalities."



Panel 2

Sustainability and the Arts

"Institutions have a chance to think about their roles as leaders and resources to help the community. Too often it becomes performative. We don't translate these moments into long-term and systemic change. Right now, things are not sustainable. With our heightened awareness we need to push for systemic change. The ecosystem needs change at all levels."

Karen Carter, founding Executive Director of Myseum of Toronto



Maayan Ziv
CEO/Founder, AccessNow

TED Talk

"I've come to understand the obstacles I face, barriers both visible and invisible. It's barriers that prevent me from reaching my full potential. This is what we call resilience 101. It's the environment around me that is disabling. If we change our lens in this way, we can achieve inclusive sustainability."



Panel 3

Grassroots-Led Sustainability

"This past year has reinforced my initial discovery in my first days as a social worker: that the single most effective way we can address the collective issues facing us all is good old civic muscle." *Mr. Daniele Zanotti, President & CEO of United Way Greater Toronto*



Panel 4

Sustainable Cities and Institutions

"I've discovered that citizenship is about belonging. How do we cultivate belonging?"

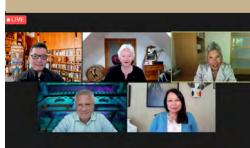
Albert Wong, Citizenship Judge



Sage Moses
Youth speaker

TED Talk

"97% of participants agree that OYEP [Outland Youth Employment Program] has put them on a positive path in life. To continue this positive path, I would encourage people to invest in this program. OYEP has changed many lives! I would love to see other Indigenous youth participate in these kinds of experiences."



Panel 5

Building Sustainable Businesses and Economies

"I have a dream: all the major companies in Ontario go out and search and work with the innovators in Ontario. There are thousands of innovators in Ontario working on solutions for their companies. If we could connect them, get them to work together, develop the market to grow, it could be astronomical. It's time we stop talking and start doing ... We need to start listening to customers and young people. You will be left behind as a company if you don't." *Annette Verschuren, OC, Chair and CEO, NRStor*

The Lieutenant Governor's Closing Message:

"We cannot afford to be mere observers in this time of crisis and challenge. We can all make a difference, and I hope that you will reach out to those you met and were inspired by today. Find ways to make space for genuine dialogue with others, to learn about perspectives unfamiliar to you, to share your story and to search for common ground. Break out of your silos, collaborate across disciplines and private agendas, and keep the conversation alive." *The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario*

OUTCOMES:

Over
1000
total live viewers
tuned into the event
livestream that was
offered in both
English and French

Participants:
31
4 Speakers
2 Performers
5 Moderators
20 Panelists

300
post-event viewers

Geographic representation by participants from across the province, including: The Greater Toronto Areas, Fort Frances, Thunder Bay, Manitoulin Island, London, Biigtigong Nishnaabeg First Nation, and Ottawa.

Special Recap Video:
https://youtu.be/PtnB_TW9jA0



REPRESENTING THE CROWN IN ONTARIO

Diplomatic Engagements

During the ongoing global COVID-19 crisis, cultivating and strengthening Ontario's ties with the world was important. With the necessity of physical distancing in place during some of the fiscal year, the Office worked to maintain Ontario's important

relationships with other nations by ensuring Her Honour could meet with members of the diplomatic community virtually, or in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite in a way that allowed for safe and socially distanced in-person meetings.

The Lieutenant Governor met in-person and virtually with **23 members of the diplomatic corps** throughout 2021-22, including:

5 Ambassadors,
1 High Commissioner, and
17 Consul Generals.



Consul General Idit Shamir

@ShamirIdit

I was privileged to pay a courtesy call on the Honourable [@LGLizDowdeswell](#) Lieutenant Governor, [#Ontario](#). Representative of Her Majesty The Queen [@RoyalFamily](#)

A wonderful surprise was to see Israeli author, Yuval Noah Harari's, quote in her office part of exhibition on [#democracy](#).



Courtesy Call with Ms. Idit Shamir, Consul General of Israel in Toronto —26 August 2021.



Elizabeth Dowdeswell

@LGLizDowdeswell

Pleased to welcome Mr. Oleksandr Shevchenko, Consul General of Ukraine at Toronto, to Queen's Park today.

As events in Ukraine continue to unfold, I was grateful to have the opportunity to reinforce the solidarity of Ontarians with the people of Ukraine.



Courtesy Call with Mr. Oleksandr Shevchenko, Consul General of Ukraine at Toronto — 30 March 2022.

Constitutional Activities: Speech from the Throne and Royal Assent

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE



The Lieutenant Governor read the Speech from the Throne, opening the 2nd session of the 42nd Parliament of Ontario on 4 October 2021.

The Speech from the Throne is written by the Government and sets out its plans for the forthcoming parliamentary session.

ROYAL ASSENT



The Lieutenant Governor grants Royal Assent to a bill on 21 March 2022. Royal Assent is the final step of the legislative process and is granted to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly.

The Lieutenant Governor granted Royal Assent 24 times to a total of 70 bills during the fiscal year. To learn more about Her Honour's constitutional responsibilities, please visit page 25.

The First National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

30 September 2021 marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day that honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families, and communities. The historic day was also impacted by the recent findings of unmarked graves and burial sites near residential schools across the country.



STATEMENT BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ON THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Today marks the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, fulfilling the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call to action #80.

Many of us across the province will be looking for ways to honour this day of remembrance and reflection.

Let us begin by extending our hands and ensuring that Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are able to come together in peace and goodwill. Let us seek opportunities to learn, through friendship centres, online resources, or conversations with friends and neighbours. Let us choose to act to end discrimination, to value the knowledge and stories of Indigenous people, and to recognize the pain caused by ignorance and prejudice.

As Lieutenant Governor, I have been welcomed warmly with generosity, and experienced vulnerable honesty, in meetings and visits with many Indigenous people during my term. I hold in high esteem the friendships earned and made with those young and old. Their resilience and courage inspire me to broaden the meaning of kinship and further my own work on reconciliation as the representative of Her Majesty The Queen in Ontario and on behalf of all who live here.

– The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

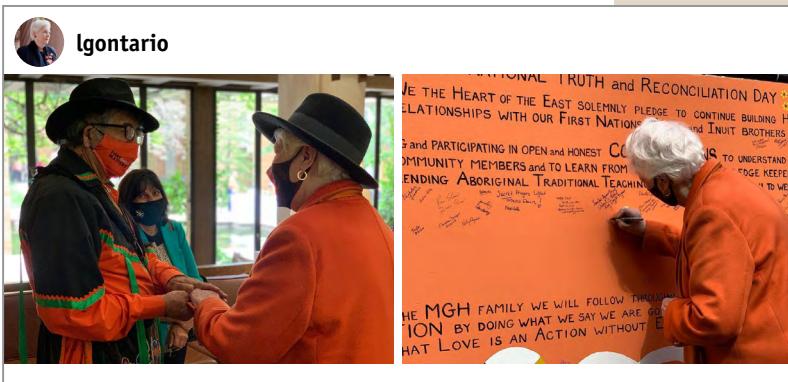
To acknowledge a moment of tremendous difficulty and pain for many Indigenous people, the Lieutenant Governor expressed her solidarity by joining with Indigenous leaders—including Elder Garry Sault, Gimma Stacey Laforme, and Knowledge Keeper James Bird—for a ceremony hosted in partnership with the Mississaugas of the Credit. Later that morning, Her Honour additionally participated in a similar event at Michael Garron Hospital.

“On this first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are gathering *together*.

Together, we acknowledge the far-reaching and devastating impacts of the residential school system. We mourn the children who were lost there. We lament the lasting wounds these schools created, the futures they stole.

Together, we grieve the harm done to Indigenous cultures by the neglect and oppression of voices, the suppression of languages.

Together, we recognize the essential nature of the work that was done by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. And as we do, we also understand that *Nothing. Ends. Here.*”



Left photo:

Her Honour and Elder Garry Sault share a moment after the Truth and Reconciliation Ceremony at Massey College on 30 September 2021 in Toronto, Ontario.

Right photo:

The Lieutenant Governor contributes to the Intention's Board, a space to share messages of support and solidarity for the Indigenous community, at Michael Garron Hospital during its special event to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on 30 September 2021 in Toronto, Ontario.

New Year's SMV Presentations

On 1 January 2022, Her Honour made a special presentation to three recipients of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (SMV). The SMV recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields and pays tribute to the dedication and commitment of volunteers. They embody the caring country we aspire to build.

The at-home presentations on New Year's Day were a product of gathering restrictions related to public health measures, but the endeavour was so successful that the office continued the initiative even after restrictions were lifted and made a total of eight SMV presentations in 2021-22.

Special Recap Video:

<https://twitter.com/LGLizDowdeswell/status/1477437725427052547>



The Medal for Volunteers consists of a silver circular medal that is 36 mm in diameter with a suspension ring. The obverse depicts a contemporary effigy of the Sovereign, circumscribed with the inscription in capital letters of the Canadian Royal Title and the word "CANADA," separated by two maple leaves.

RECIPIENTS



Name
Olga Lambert
Location
Ajax, Ontario

Citation
Olga Lambert is a passionate promoter of ethnocultural diversity in Canada, and has been engaged in organizing multiple multicultural music festivals in the GTA, such as Carassauga and Afrofest. Over the last 26 years, she has also volunteered with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, helping people with their income tax applications in both official languages.



Name
Major (Retired) Kanwal Sethi
Location
Richmond Hill, Ontario

Citation
Since 2003, Kanwal Sethi has been dedicated to the international military community at the Canadian Forces College. He has created the Sethi Inukshuk Award and is actively involved in the College's foundation and is the founder and organizer of the annual homecoming garden party celebration.



Name
Maduba Ahmad
Location
Mississauga, Ontario

Citation
For over a decade, Maduba Ahmad has been serving her faith community in leadership roles with several organizations, including Parliament of the World's Religions and MuslimFest. Her volunteer work has had a positive impact on youth morale and has contributed to improved budgeting and finances, as well as to increased community involvement and attendance.

■ Welcoming Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon

On 26 July 2021, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon was sworn in as the 30th governor general since Confederation and as Canada's first Indigenous governor general.

To help recognize this historic appointment, Her Honour called to congratulate Her Excellency in July 2021, met with her at Rideau Hall in September 2021, and helped to welcome Her Excellency to Queen's Park during her first official visit to Ontario on 31 March 2022.

"We talked about reconciliation, and I did talk about the need for healing in our country and to have a better understanding and a better relationship between Indigenous people and other Canadians."

Her Excellency speaking to CBC's Adrienne Arsenault after her audience with Her Majesty The Queen in March 2022.



Elizabeth Dowdeswell 

@LGLizDowdeswell

On behalf of the people of Ontario, I am delighted to welcome Her Excellency Mary Simon to the vice-regal family

May her appointment, as the 1st Indigenous Governor General, be a strong indicator of a future of reconciliation and inclusion for our country

Tunngasugit ᐃᓄᓇᓘᓐ



Elizabeth Dowdeswell 

@LGLizDowdeswell

Delighted to welcome Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon, 30th [@GGCanada](#) and His Excellency Whit Fraser as they begin their official visit to the capital of Ontario.

Atelihai!



■ Unveiling Indigenous artwork in the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario



lgontario

The Lieutenant Governor, Indigenous leaders, and past and present parliamentarians in the Chamber during a tour of the new artwork on 18 November 2021.

It is a rare occasion for the Lieutenant Governor to attend an event in the Legislative Chamber that is unrelated to the Crown's business. However, on 18 November 2021, upon the invitation of Speaker Ted Arnott, Her Honour was privileged to witness the historic unveiling in the Legislative Chamber of a wood carving, created by Indigenous artist Garrett Nahdee, alongside Indigenous leaders and parliamentarians past and present who helped to realize this initiative.



lgontario

A close-up photo of the new wood carvings, representing The Seven Grandfathers Teachings, in the Chamber by Indigenous artist Garrett Nahdee from the Walpole Island First Nation.

On her social media channels, the Lieutenant Governor shared the following message: "May this powerful and permanent testament to the Seven Grandfather Teachings guiding principles of Love, Wisdom, Truth, Humility, Respect, Courage and Honesty remind all who enter this space, that the impact of their decisions and work reaches far beyond our own lifetimes."

A close-up photo of the new wood carvings, representing The Seven Grandfathers Teachings, in the Chamber by Indigenous artist Garrett Nahdee from the Walpole Island First Nation.

Celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In 2022, Canada and Ontario are celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, marking her 70th anniversary on the Throne. This year marks a historic occasion to celebrate and pay tribute to Canada's longest-reigning sovereign and the first to celebrate a platinum jubilee.

On 6 February 2022, Her Honour recognized Accession Day—the anniversary of The Queen's accession to the throne upon the death of her father King George VI—by attending an Evensong service at the Cathedral Church of St. James and by participating in a unique Platinum Jubilee Flag raising virtual event hosted by the Monarchist League of Canada.

Throughout the remainder of the year, the Lieutenant Governor will be marking the Platinum Jubilee with a variety of events and visits to communities across the province.



The Lieutenant Governor reads a lesson from scripture during the Accession Day Evensong service at the Cathedral Church of St. James on 6 February 2022 in Toronto, Ontario.



**STATEMENT BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AT THE
START OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE YEAR**

6 February 2022

Today, across Ontario, Canada, and our Commonwealth, people are commemorating a truly historic anniversary — Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: 70 years of Her Majesty's service and dedication. This platinum jubilee pays tribute to a person whose life has been defined by service. Her Majesty's long reign reminds us that she has lived through history. Indeed, she has served through times of extraordinary trial and change, progress, and difficulty. She has been steadfast in duty, always with kindness and hope.

How timely is this moment of reflection? Over the past many months, the COVID-19 pandemic has, without question, tested Ontarians. We too, have been called upon to demonstrate resolve, character, and remarkable resilience.

As we recognize the continuity of Her Majesty's presence over seven decades, may it cause us to reflect on who we are and whom we aspire to be. What forces have brought people together to make the world a better place —to advance equality, science, diplomacy, and peace? What has held us back?

Throughout 2022, as we join communities large and small to celebrate the platinum jubilee, let us be inspired by that indomitable spirit, unwavering courage, and devotion to others that has always characterized Canada's Queen.

In the coming months, my office will be initiating events and opportunities for Ontarians to come together, whether in person or virtually. I invite you to watch our website, <https://www.lgontario.ca/en/queens-platinum-jubilee/>, for more information.

Dieu Sauve la Reine!
God save the Queen!



**Platinum Jubilee Flag Raising outside the
Lieutenant Governor's Suite on 6 February 2022**
<https://youtu.be/t9M3mhQu0x0>



COMMEMORATION

Honouring Lincoln Alexander

The 2021-2022 fiscal year offered opportunities to honour and celebrate the legacy of Ontario's 24th lieutenant governor—the Honourable Lincoln Alexander.

On 21 April 2021, the Lieutenant Governor contributed a video message to Toronto Metropolitan University's ceremony to rename their Faculty of Law to the Lincoln Alexander School of Law. And on 21 January 2022, Her Honour celebrated the 100th anniversary of Linc's birth by presiding over the Lincoln Alexander Awards. Additionally, the Lieutenant Governor offered remarks, along with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, at Toronto Metropolitan University's virtual Linc100 event.



Elizabeth Dowdeswell

@LGLizDowdeswell

On behalf of a grateful province, I congratulate Emmanuel Adegboyega, Sydney Hussett-Richardson, and Dina Efrem for the way you galvanize others to help stamp out racism and discrimination.

You are all very deserving winners of the Lincoln Alexander Awards.

#Lincoln100

"It is not enough to say that Linc transcended the vice-regal role, for it is more accurate, more necessary, to observe that he rewrote and redefined it. This was true of every job he undertook. Everywhere, anywhere he could, he blazed a new trail, and knocked down barriers wherever they stood.

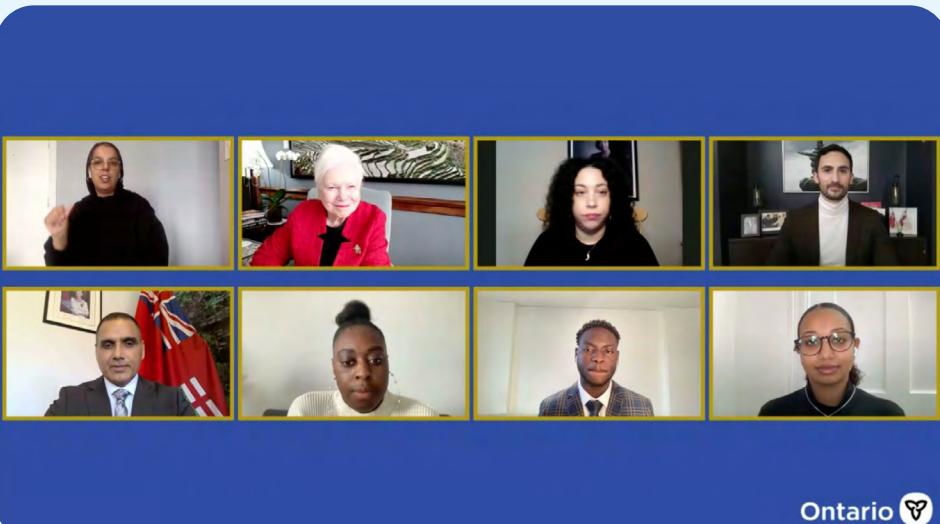
...

As the first Black Canadian to represent the crown in Canada, Linc not only symbolized progress and change, he fought for it —making it his priority to promote multiculturalism and the cause of racial justice through this office."

Excerpt from the Lieutenant Governor's remarks at the Lincoln Alexander Awards virtual ceremony on 21 January 2022.

 **The Honourable Lincoln Alexander's biography**

<https://www.lgontario.ca/en/lg/lincoln-alexander/>



Honouring Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

 **Ontario**



The Lieutenant Governor's personal story with His Royal Highness dates back many years. Captured here, Her Honour –then head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)– presents Prince Philip with an award, on behalf of UNEP, for his service to the environment and preserving the natural world.

"The final thought I wish to leave you with is what I believe to be Prince Philip's finest lesson, and that is: how he lived. With love and dedication. For his country. For his children. For our Queen. Long may we follow in his example."

Excerpt from the Lieutenant Governor's remarks at the Royal Commonwealth Society's virtual tribute event for Prince Philip on 1 May 2021.

On 9 April 2021, Prince Philip passed away. On behalf of the people of Ontario, Her Honour paid him tribute by attending a memorial service for the Duke at St. James Cathedral in Toronto in April and by participating in the Royal Commonwealth Society's virtual tribute event in May.

The Lieutenant Governor additionally shared messages of condolence on social media, honouring Prince Philip's legacy of service, connections with Ontario, and his proud support for the development of youth leadership through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference.



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO
LA LIEUTENAUTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

April 9, 2021

Your Majesty,

On behalf of the people of Ontario, I extend to Your Majesty, and to all the members of the Royal Family, my profound sympathies on the death of Your Majesty's beloved husband, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

During more than seven decades, His Royal Highness provided a very public example for Canadians, and indeed for people around the world, as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and role model.

Prince Philip's entire life was one of service, and I wish that Your Majesty may take strength and comfort from knowing that his many positive contributions will continue to be felt for generations to come.

I have the honour to remain, Madam,
Your Majesty's
most humble, loyal, and obedient servant,



Elizabeth Dowdeswell

Elizabeth Dowdeswell

Her Majesty The Queen

A message from the Lieutenant Governor to Her Majesty The Queen on the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh, on behalf of the people of Ontario.

Remembering the Life and Career of the Honourable Bill Davis

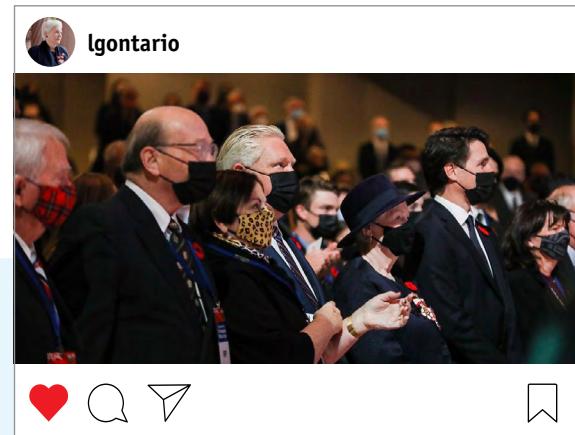
In August 2021, the Honourable William G. Davis, the 18th premier of Ontario and one of Canada's longest-serving premiers, passed away. Due to public health restrictions, the memorial service was held in November 2021. There, Her Honour joined representatives from all levels of government and mourners from across the country to honour the former Premier's remarkable legacy.



Elizabeth Dowdeswell  @LGLizDowdeswell

On behalf of the people of Ontario I offer my condolences to the family and colleagues of former Premier Bill Davis.

His long, esteemed career has left a vital legacy of service and vision that continues to impact the lives of Ontarians today.



Her Honour, alongside provincial and federal dignitaries at the funeral for the Honourable Bill Davis at Roy Thomson Hall on 4 November 2021 in Toronto, Ontario.

"When I became lieutenant governor of this province, I saw evidence of his [Premier Davis'] positive impact in so many places, in so many ways. I have seen it at community colleges, where the system he created has provided post-secondary education in otherwise underserved places, *laying a foundation for generations to come*. I have seen it in green spaces and along waterways, where the Ministry of the Environment he created made official our shared responsibility to care for the planet. I have seen it among businesses, where the doors to accessibility and inclusion were officially opened when Mr. Davis spearheaded an amendment to the human rights code, disallowing discrimination against those with disabilities."

Excerpt from the Lieutenant Governor's remarks at Premier Davis' memorial service on 4 November 2021.

Honouring the Life and Memory of Cory Trépanier

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario shared a special connection with the late artist and explorer Cory Trépanier. Her Honour has visited Mr. Trépanier's studio (in Caledon, Ontario) on multiple occasions and, in October 2018, the office was proud to host a special screening of his film *Intro the Arctic 3* at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite.

Sadly, Mr. Trépanier passed away in November 2021. Just a few weeks before his death, on 21 October 2021, the Lieutenant Governor attended a book launch for Mr. Trépanier's new book *Into the Arctic: Painting Canada's Changing North* (to which Her Honour contributed a foreword) and helped to present him with the Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier Medal from the Royal Canadian Geographic Society in recognition of his incredible contributions to Canadian geography and the arts.

The Lieutenant Governor additionally attended Mr. Trépanier's Celebration of Life and spoke to the assembled gathering of family, dignitaries, and admirers about his powerful legacy, before joining with community members on a memorial walk along Caledon's trailway to Mr. Trépanier's stone on the Calendon's Walk of Fame.

"Cory's legacy will be most alive, his light, his inspiration, most vivid, when we follow in his footsteps, when we push ourselves just a little further than what seems possible.

And so, I know that this will not be our last walk beside him.

That he'll be here with us. In the heart of this community. In the cold grey tundra of the North. In all souls, that strive to show others who they truly are, to describe the beauty they see around them, who know what is worth protecting and cherishing."

Excerpt from the Lieutenant Governor's remarks at Mr. Trépanier's Celebration of Life on 20 November 2021.



Her Honour and Mr. Trépanier enjoying a walk in the woods near Trépanier Originals Studio in Caledon, Ontario on 21 October 2021.

Operations

Constitutional Responsibilities

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

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

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

The Government (Premier and Cabinet ministers) is formally appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and advises on the use of the Crown's authority according to law and is accountable to the elected Legislative Assembly for its decisions and actions while in office. Provided the Government enjoys the "confidence" of the Legislative Assembly, its advice is invariably accepted and legitimized by the Crown. If the Government loses a confidence question raised in the Legislative Assembly, then it must either resign, making way for a new Government to be appointed, or submit to the will of citizens in a general election.

The Lieutenant Governor holds regular meetings with the Premier, during which she has the right to be consulted, to encourage and to warn on government matters. This past year, to ensure social distancing, the Lieutenant Governor and the Premier held several conversations virtually. 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 AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The Lieutenant Governor:

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



Her Honour and LCol Evelyn Kelly before a Royal Assent ceremony on 3 June 2021. LCol Kelly is one of the office's longest serving AdeCs and a cherished member of the Viceregal household.

-
- 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.

ADMINISTRATOR

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

Serving the Lieutenant Governor



The Office of the Lieutenant Governor. This same photo was used for the office 2021 Holiday Card with the message "It takes a team."

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor comprises a team of 10 full-time staff members and one part-time member.

In fall 2021, three of the office's senior-most members retired: Anthony Hylton, Chief of Staff and Private Secretary, who served the office for 24 years; Vania Cecchin, Executive Assistant, who served for 21 years; and Robert Adams, Chief Steward, who served for 19 years. Each left behind a remarkable legacy of service. That same fall, the office was pleased to welcome Sarah Truscott as the new Chief of Staff and Private Secretary, Colleen Waddell as the new Executive Assistant, and Susie Santana as the new Chief Steward.

In addition, a corps of **48 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, and local emergency services and first responders, including St John Ambulance.

In 2021-22, the office was pleased to welcome a new volunteer, Blondie Pang, and 11 new aides-de-camp:

- Superintendent Franca Campisi
- Superintendent Detective Dominic Chong, MOM
- Superintendent Veronica Eaton
- Inspector Joe Evans, CD
- Inspector Lisa Hewison
- Colonel Margaret Jacula, CD
- Lieutenant (Navy) Reverend Darren Milley
- Superintendent André Phelps, CD
- Staff Superintendent Lauren Pogue
- Captain Teresa Pitawanakwat
- Inspector Justin Vander Heyden

Honouring Ontarians

ONTARIO MEDALS AND AWARDS

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

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

This year, Her Honour was delighted to present many of these awards virtually to citizens who had made incredible contributions to Ontario both before and during the pandemic. In all cases, members of the public submit nominations to an honours advisory council, which provides the government with recommendations.

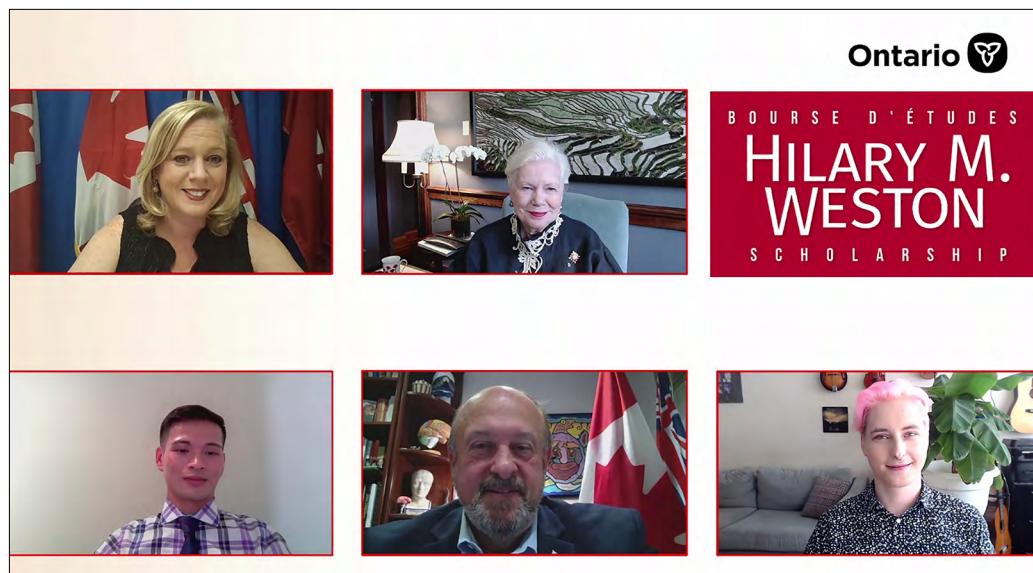
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARDS

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

Independent organizations have created awards in partnership with successive lieutenant governors to recognize achievements in fields of endeavour including:

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

This past year, the Lieutenant Governor presented many of these awards during virtual ceremonies.



Her Honour with the Honourable Lisa MacLeod (Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries) and Michael A. Tibollo (Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions) with the 2021 recipients of the Hilary M. Weston Scholarship: Calvin Richard Prowse and Tin Vo – on 13 September 2021. Each year, this scholarship is awarded to up to two graduate students enrolled in full-time social work programs at a publicly funded Ontario university to support their research in the mental health field.

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 47 organizations and nine initiatives:

- Aga Khan Museum
- Air Cadet League of Canada (Ontario Provincial Committee)
- Army Cadet League of Canada (Ontario)
- Artscape Foundation
- Canadian Centre for Ethics and Corporate Policy
- Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons
- Children's International Learning Centre
- CNIB (Ontario-Nunavut)
- Commissionaires Great Lakes
- Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall
- DAREarts
- The Duke of Edinburgh's 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
- Toronto Children's Chorus
- Travellers' Aid Society
- Variety Village
- Warriors' Day Parade Council
- Waterlution: A Water Learning Experience
- Women's Musical Club of Toronto

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

- Wounded Warriors Canada Highway of Heroes Bike Ride (August 2016)
- Greatness: The Great Lakes Project (launched in October 2016, ongoing)
- The Toronto School: Then, Now, Next (October 2016)
- Pollution Probe Gala (November 2016)
- 104th Grey Cup Festival (November 2016)
- UNCEDED: *Voices of the Land*, an initiative of the Douglas Cardinal Foundation for Indigenous Waldorf Education (May-November 2018)
- Canadian Business Frontiers (November 2018)
- Ontario Science Centre 50th anniversary celebrations (2019)
- BIPOC Fellowship (2021)

Financial Information

Provincial funds

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

Operating expenses: 2021-22

	Interim actuals
Salaries and wages	1,254,000
Employee benefits	118,600
Transportation and communication	52,100
Services	235,500
Supplies and equipment	87,500
Discretionary allowance	155,800
	\$1,903,500

Year ending March 31

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

Source: Estimates Briefing Book 2021-22. 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): 2021-22

	Interim actuals
Travel and accommodation	0
Hospitality	0
Operational and administrative expenses	60
	\$60

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 2021 to March 2022.

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