



Year in Review 2025–26

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario





Offering tobacco
to the water in
Georgian Bay

Land Acknowledgment

The Lieutenant Governor's Suite at Queen's Park is situated on the lands covered by Treaty 13, within the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and on the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples.

The Lieutenant Governor's work extends across the lands of Turtle Island now known as Ontario, territories that have been home to, and stewarded by, Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We recognize the enduring presence and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples across the province.

As a viceregal office, we honour the treaty relationships between the Crown and Indigenous peoples in Ontario. We are committed to amplifying Indigenous voices, fostering understanding, and creating opportunities for meaningful dialogue. The path toward reconciliation is ongoing, and we continue to walk it in partnership with Indigenous peoples.



Kitchi Gimaa Kwe En'kii'taawg'jin oodi Kitchi Gimaa kwe Mtig'waa'kiing gwen'aa'wang oo'den'naang tem'gad a'kiing shkon'ganning Mdaas'waag shi nswi, zhiwe Mississaugas Credit En'tam'gaab'wid'jig end'na'kii'yaat, miinwaa gwa zhiwe pa'ne naa gaa'bi dna'kii'yaat Naad'weg miinwaa Wendat bemaad'zid'jig.

Kitchi Gimaa Kwe En'kii'taawg'jin ezhi na'kiid pi'de'ni gwa zhiwe kina Ontario ezhi dba'kaa'deg, end'na'kiing, miinwaa Anishinaabeg gaa'bi'gna'wend'ma'waat kitchi gbe'ying pa'ne gwa. Nis'da'waab'daa'naa gwa yaa'waat miinwaa ezhi miig'we'yaat Anishinaabeg, Kitchi Giwe'di'nong enji'baa'jig, miinwaa Aab'too'ziinh'yig kina gwa ekoon'deg maanda dba'kaan.

A'wa Kitchi Gimaa Kwe'naang En'kii'taa'get njib'deg, ndoo mnaach'too'naa niwe zhi'bii'gaa'deg deb'we'taad'win Kitchi Gimaa'Kwe'naang miinwaa Anishinaabeg zhinda Ontario. Ndoo mshkoo'naa'naa gwa wii gzhii'weg Anishinaabe giig'doo'win, nsas'taadwin, miinwaa wii miig'weng zhi'se'win we'weni wii dbaaj'ma'taa'ding, miinwaa nwii aab'da'se'mi zgin'ke'naa'aang Anishinaabeg.



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 this report.

This report presents the highlights of the Honourable Edith Dumont's public engagements from April 2025 to March 2026.

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.
Year in Review 2025–26.

ISSN 2819-6686

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

lgontario.ca

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Foreword



This report is more than simply a summary of the past year's activities. It testifies to the vitality of this province and the power of its values—among them, the generosity, openness, and respect for diversity that allow us to live alongside one another in beautiful ways.

This past year, two milestone anniversaries reminded Ontarians of how our collective memory is shaped by symbols and traditions: the 50th anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian flag and the 30th anniversary of the official recognition of Black History Month in Canada. We celebrated

both with initiatives that brought people together across generations and from communities throughout Ontario.

Throughout the year, the work of my office focused on five themes that reflect Ontarians' aspirations and the responsibilities of the Crown in Ontario today:

The first is **Building Bridges Between Communities**. We look to foster connections among people and groups that cut across geographical regions, cultural backgrounds, generations, and fields of work and interest, highlighting the common ground we all share and nurturing a sense of belonging among Ontarians.

The second involves **Empowering Emerging Leaders**—especially women, young people, and others who face systemic barriers—by recognizing their potential and creating opportunities for intergenerational dialogue and inclusive collaboration.

The third theme is **Fostering Civic Engagement and Pride**. A strong democracy depends on civic participation; it is supported by volunteering and serving others to benefit the common good. Throughout the province, I have been pleased to recognize those who give generously of their time, mobilize those around them, and build community.

The fourth is **Championing Cultural Diplomacy**. Arts, sports, and cultural production (in its many various forms) can foster dialogue between people across borders and deepen our understanding of one another.

Finally, **Strengthening Crown/Indigenous Relations** remains essential. Through respectful engagement grounded in listening, partnership, and Indigenous leadership, I continue to walk the path of reconciliation alongside Indigenous Peoples.

What I take away most vividly about this past year is the impact of people coming together through warm welcomes, caring conversations, and gestures of solidarity.

This spirit is reflected in this year's cover, featuring a picture taken on my visit to Beausoleil First Nation to mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. This spontaneously captured moment expresses something that words often fail to do: the value of listening with open hearts and moving forward together.

The province that I have the honour to serve is innovative, and vibrant, and its spirit is reflected by the faces you will see throughout these pages.



The Honourable Edith Dumont
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario



By the Numbers

Mme Dumont participated in:

315	...within	...throughout	...reaching
Public engagements	36	74	>90,000
	Communities	Ridings	People

In 2025-26, Mme Dumont:

...granted Royal Ascent	...organised	...hosted
7	>100	>15,000
Times to bills	Events at Queen Park	Guests

Top

(L): Reception in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite for the 2026 Caribbean Canada Dialogue Leaders Conference

(R): Opening night of the Elora Festival

(R): Her Honour hosts a visit from students of Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau Elementary School at the Lieutenant Governor's Suite



Themes

Building Bridges Between Communities

Celebrating 50 Years: Shaping the Future Together

On Franco-Ontarian Day—September 25, 2025—Her Honour marked the 50th anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian flag by launching the province-wide initiative “Celebrating 50 Years: Shaping the Future Together!”



Led by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (OLGO) in partnership with the Alliance Culturelle de l'Ontario, and supported by the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Arts Council, and Groupe Média TFO, the initiative invited community groups to co-create artwork reflecting both their Franco-Ontarian heritage and their collective aspirations for the future.

Franco-Ontarian
Day at the University
of Sudbury

Reception for the launch of "Celebrating 50 Years: Shaping the Future Together!" at Place des Arts in Sudbury



Raising of the Franco-Ontarian flag at the University of Sudbury



The launch event took place in Sudbury, at Place des Arts, where Her Honour hosted a reception featuring a rich program of performances, including music, dance, storytelling, and live painting. Artists and community leaders from every corner of the province gathered to celebrate Ontario's Francophone culture.

The day started in a memorable way at the University of Sudbury, where the Franco-Ontarian flag (created by Laurentian University history professor Gaétan Gervais and political science student Michel Dupuis) was first raised in 1975. An early-morning Tintamarre (a boisterous street parade where participants honk horns and bang pots and pans) led to a flag-raising ceremony.

Over the following months, "Celebrating 50 Years" generated remarkable engagement, receiving expressions of interest from across Ontario. The artistic and community projects were selected by an independent jury to reflect the diversity of the Francophone population in Ontario. They will be showcased both physically and digitally, starting in the fall of 2026, with support from government, educational, and community partners.



Celebrating this anniversary encouraged Franco-Ontarians to reflect on the journey from the days when Francophone institutions were built in Ontario.

(L): Franco-Ontarian Day festivities

(R): With Caroline Mulroney, then minister of Francophone affairs, on Franco-Ontarian Day in Sudbury

Black History Month – 30th Anniversary in Canada

February 2026 marked the 30th anniversary of the adoption of Black History Month in Canada. To celebrate, the OLGO hosted two special events.

A three-day exhibition in the Music Room in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite highlighted the Black presence in Ontario, past and present. The displays were drawn from three larger exhibitions created by partners.



Reception for the launch of the Black History Month exhibition in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite

- *B'lack Then*, curated by the Canadian Music Archives, featured artifacts shedding light on the lesser-known stories of Black Canadian musicians.
- *Illuminate Black*, from the Archives of Ontario, showcased photographs that capture the rich and complex histories of Black communities across the province.
- *Black Diasporas Tkaronto*–Toronto, first displayed at the Museum of Toronto, featured a kiosk showing documentary short films exploring diverse Black experiences in the city.

(L): Cadets at the Black History Month panel discussion with Canadian Army Forces (CAF) members

Right

(top): Her Honour introduces the Black History Month panel discussion with CAF members

(bottom): Black History Month exhibition

On February 24, nearly 100 young cadets from air force, army, and navy squadrons gathered at the Suite to hear the inspiring stories of Black military leaders in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). Commander Paul Smith of HMCS (His Majesty's Canadian Ship) York moderated a discussion with panelists Sergeant Omar Allison, Master Warrant Officer Sophia Miller, and Master Warrant Officer Stephen Thomas, who spoke about their experiences and career trajectories. The gathering provided a space for dialogue about courage, commitment to one's country, and the challenges and changes shaping the CAF today.





With Rosemary Sadlier, who spearheaded the successful provincial and federal campaigns for official recognition of Black History Month



With the Honourable Jean Augustine, who put forward the motion in Parliament to recognize Black History Month

Commonwealth Day

In March 2026, Her Honour participated in the annual Commonwealth Day celebration hosted by the Royal Commonwealth Society at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church.

People from many nations and backgrounds gathered to show their solidarity and reflect on this year's Commonwealth Day theme, "Unlocking opportunities together for a prosperous Commonwealth." Noting the confluence of International Women's Day and Commonwealth Day in her remarks, Mme Dumont encouraged the gathering to consider what opportunities could be unlocked by achieving gender equality across the Commonwealth.

Royal
Commonwealth
Day interfaith service
at Yorkminster Park
Baptist Church



Empowering Emerging Leaders

Women's Networking Breakfast

At the 2025 Conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Mme Dumont hosted the Women's Networking Breakfast for the second year in a row.



Addressing the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)'s annual conference



AMO Women's Networking Breakfast with Yasmine Zemni (L) and Honorary Colonel Sandra Perron (R)

She invited two speakers: Honorary Colonel Sandra Perron, author of the bestselling memoir *Out Standing in the Field*, and Canadian Medical Association ambassador Yasmine Zemni. Together, they led a dynamic conversation. In her remarks, Her Honour spoke about the five elements of leadership that are most important to her:

- Bringing people together
- Fostering belonging
- Embracing the richness of differing views
- Being curious and engaging in dialogue
- Working towards the common good

Salon des femmes francophones entrepreneures sociales

In May 2025, the fourth—and first-ever in-person—edition of the Salon des femmes francophones entrepreneures sociales took place in the Suite.

Hosting alongside Mme Dumont were the organizations Impact-ON (a non-profit organization that promotes sustainable development among Franco-Ontarian communities) and the Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (a national research centre that supports Canadian women entrepreneurs). Through keynote addresses and facilitated discussion, the event explored how women can address some of the most pressing issues

Salon des femmes
francophones
entrepreneures
sociales



in entrepreneurship today, from business uncertainty and artificial intelligence to the realities of operating in a minority-language context, access to funding, and mental health.



Salon des femmes francophones entrepreneurs sociales

Young Leaders Meet the Duke of Edinburgh

His Royal Highness Prince Edward, the Duke of Edinburgh, visited Ontario in late June and early July 2025, and Her Honour welcomed him to the province by hosting two events inspired by his longstanding support for young people and youth-focused initiatives.

Dinner for recipients of the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh





The Duke of
Edinburgh with young
leaders in the Suite

The first was a reception that brought together established and early-career leaders from diverse sectors in the province—with a focus on public service, the military, and the arts. They met with His Royal Highness to discuss their work and made connections within and across their sectors. The second event was a dinner with recent recipients of the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers, who shared with His Royal Highness the initiatives they have founded and led, which tackle issues facing youth and diverse communities.

International Women's Day: Letters from Women Leaders

To celebrate International Women's Day in March 2026, the OLGCO organized a unique event called "With an Open Heart: Letters to Tomorrow's Leaders."



"With an Open Heart: Letters to Tomorrow's Leaders"



More than 50 women leaders from many different sectors—including policy, education, journalism, the law, the arts, and more—wrote open letters to young women, offering encouragement and words of wisdom. The letters were displayed in the Suite's state rooms, and their writers were invited to a reception where they met young women and allies for inspiring conversation.

Senator Farah Mohamed read her letter to the gathering, and Her Honour read an excerpt from her own letter. In her remarks, she praised the attendees for "helping to bring about a better tomorrow. A future in which the United Nations' 2026 theme for International Women's Day becomes a reality: 'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls.'"

Meeting Students Across Ontario

Throughout 2025–26, Her Honour spent time with hundreds of primary and secondary school students, encouraging them to reflect on the importance of civic engagement.

At the Jackman Faculty of Law's March Break program at the University of Toronto, she met with high school students who were exploring careers in the legal field. They discussed the lieutenant governor's role in Ontario's democracy.



(L): Jackman
Faculty of Law's
March Break
program

(R): Lisgar
Collegiate

At Lisgar Collegiate in Ottawa, students and Mme Dumont discussed issues related to the presence of women in the highest levels of Ontario's institutions.

In May 2025, in Oakville, Her Honour attended the launch of the Ship of Tolerance—an art project where primary school students' artwork about diversity and inclusion was stitched into the sail of a boat. She read aloud some messages she had received about the project from participants at McKinnon Public School, including this note from Grade 5 student Sumaiyah: "Having a community is like one hundred people with one dish and spoon. For everyone to be filled, you must share, communalize, and work together. Without this, you are like a lock with no key."

Championing Cultural Diplomacy

Ensemble / Together Exhibition

In June 2025, the OLGO launched the exhibition *Ensemble / Together*. A celebration of artistic expression rooted in place, history, and identity, the exhibition features paintings from the Archives of Ontario depicting the landscapes, people, and stories that shape our province.



At the launch event, Mme Dumont spoke about how art “encourages us to reflect on issues of culture, identity, and how we can move forward by acknowledging the richness of our differences, becoming closer as human beings, and dreaming and working together.”

Together/Ensemble
exhibition launch
in the Lieutenant
Governor's Suite

The exhibition encourages dialogue and acts as a gesture of cultural diplomacy. It has been viewed by visitors from around the world, including diplomats from many countries. The art gives a sense of Ontario's cultural diversity, as well as some of the values we hold dear, such as openness, curiosity, a respect for nature, and community.

A digital version of *Ensemble/Together* can be viewed at lgontario.ca/en/together.

Round-Table Discussions

Mme Dumont hosted two round-table discussions on the topic of cultural diplomacy in the Suite—one in English, in September 2025, and the next in French, in March 2026.

The first, "Cultural Diplomacy for Ontario: New Horizons," explored how cultural diplomacy is thriving across the province and internationally. Panelists Karen Thorne-Stone (president and CEO, Ontario Creates), Ige Egal (founder and CEO, Play for Dignity), and Sarah E.K. Smith (Canada Research Chair in art, culture, and global relations, Western University) spoke with moderator Sascha Priewe (director of collections and public programs at the Aga Khan Museum, co-founder of the North American Cultural Diplomacy Initiative). They

(L): With speakers at
"Cultural Diplomacy
for Ontario: New
Horizons"

(R): Speakers at
"Cultural Diplomacy
for Ontario: New
Horizons"





Speakers at
"Cultural Diplomacy:
Bridges Across the
Francophonie"



explored how cultural diplomacy comes to life not only through initiatives led by major institutions, but also through the everyday work of artists, cultural and sports organizations, municipalities, and creative enterprises.

The second workshop, "Cultural Diplomacy: Bridges Across the Francophonie," explored the Francophonie as both a marker of identity and a lever for cultural diplomacy. It featured a panel discussion between His Excellency Appolinaire Aya, ambassador of the Republic of Congo to Canada and president of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors in Canada; Xavier Brassard-Bédard (CEO of TFO); Marie-Christine Morin (then executive director, Fédération culturelle canadienne-française); and Jonathan Paquette (professor of political studies, University of Ottawa). The moderator was news anchor Heather Hiscox, former host of CBC Morning Live. The dialogue underscored the power of the French language to build bridges between peoples, cultures, and continents.

Together, the workshops sparked conversations that reaffirmed Ontarians' shared commitment to strengthening the cultural ties that deepen our understanding of one another and our communities.

Global Pluralism Award Reception

In November, Mme Dumont hosted a reception to celebrate the 2025 recipients of the Global Pluralism Award.

Global Pluralism
Awards reception



2025 Global
Pluralism Award
laureate Mohamed
Ahmed from the
Sudanese Youth
Network



The award is given biennially by the Global Centre for Pluralism, a charity funded by the Aga Khan Development Network and the Government of Canada. It recognizes people and organizations around the world working to protect human rights and foster diversity and inclusion. The laureates in attendance were based in Brazil, Colombia, Israel and Palestine, Mexico, Slovakia, Sudan, Switzerland, and southern Africa. The courage and determination they have all displayed provide a powerful reminder that civic action and cultural diplomacy, grounded in kindness and a commitment to the common good, can change the world.

Sommet Pan-canadien sur l'éducation artistique

The Fédération culturelle canadienne-française (FCCF) is a non-profit organization that promotes Canadian Francophone and Acadian arts and culture.



Pan-Canadian summit on artistic education

In March 2026, in Ottawa, Her Honour gave welcoming remarks at the FCCF's two-day national convention, the Sommet pancandien sur l'éducation artistique (Pan-Canadian summit on artistic education). Artists, arts administrators, and leaders from the education and non-profit sectors discussed ways to make arts education more accessible and better connected to Canada's culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Her Honour spoke about the importance of training the next generation of cultural diplomats: **"Every young person who learns to find their voice through the arts grows up knowing that they will have something unique to offer the world."**

Strengthening Crown/Indigenous Relations

Georgian Bay – Visits to First Nations Communities

To mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, Mme Dumont and His Honour Tony Viscardi travelled on the HMCS Margaret Brooke to First Nations communities along Georgian Bay.



(L): Their Honours on board the HMCS Margaret Brooke traveling to First Nations communities along Georgian Bay.

(R): With Darlene Johnston, Chief of the Chippewas of Nawash

(bottom): M'Chigeeng First Nation on Orange Shirt Day



Accompanied by members of the Royal Canadian Navy including Commander Teri Share and Sergeant Raymond Starks, who was acting as Indigenous liaison, they met with Indigenous leaders, stopped at cenotaphs to pay their respects to Indigenous veterans, and spent time with community members from all generations.



Beausoleil First Nation monument dedicated to those who attended residential schools

After a warm welcome in Sault Ste. Marie by members of the Batchewana and Garden River First Nations and the Royal Canadian Legion, Their Honours travelled to the communities of the M'Chigeeng, Beausoleil, and Chippewas of Nawash First Nations. They participated in smudging ceremonies and shared in traditional songs, drumming, dancing, and meals. These experiences represented a step forward in solidarity towards reconciliation and deepened relationships built on mutual respect.



Chippewas of Nawash First Nation

Her Honour delivered remarks at each visit. At M’Chigeeng, on Orange Shirt Day, she told the gathered community members, “I affirm my commitment to the pursuit of truth and the journey of reconciliation. This is a commitment that must be made and renewed not just one day a year, but each and every day.

“It is also a commitment that cannot remain abstract. Reconciliation is not reconciliation if it is not embodied through actions, through dialogue, and by building and sustaining relationships. It is in the everyday practice of respect, listening, and partnership that reconciliation becomes real.”

Treaty 9 Display

Each November, Treaties Recognition Week invites Ontarians to take the time to learn about, and reflect on, treaty rights and relationships.

In November 2025, the OLGO collaborated with Mushkegowuk Council, the Archives of Ontario, and Queen’s University Archives to display one of the original copies of Treaty 9 (the James Bay Treaty, which covers two-thirds of the land in Ontario) as well as the diary of Daniel George MacMartin, who served as treaty commissioner.

Treaty 9 display,
with Mushkegowuk
Council Deputy
Grand Chief South
Natasha Martin





Approximately 800 people, including tour groups, public servants, and students, viewed the treaty and spoke with Archives of Ontario staff members about its history and ramifications. At the launch event, Mme Dumont welcomed First Nations people who live in Treaty 9 territory, some of whose ancestors' names are recorded on the document. She said, **"May its display, in this building that holds the power of the Ontario government, serve as a way of honouring those ancestors ... and acknowledging their presence and participation in a dialogue that continues to shape the present."**

(L): A school group in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite during the Treaty 9 display

(R): The diary of Daniel George MacMartin

Junior Canadian Rangers

Junior Canadian Rangers (JCR) programs teach young people life skills, ranger skills (e.g., wilderness survival, helping people in emergencies), and traditional skills (drawn from the area's history and culture).



Junior Canadian Rangers' survival camp-building exercise

Junior Canadian
Rangers' survival
camp-building
exercise

In February 2026, Mme Dumont visited Horwood Lake Lodge, between Timmins and Chapleau, to meet young First Nations people participating in the JCR Timmins program. They were building a survival camp in the bush; Her Honour learned from them about the theory and practice of making sheltering huts using logs, boughs, and snow as insulation. At the end of the exercise, she handed out medals to the junior rangers who were judged to have built the best shelter.



Chapel Royal of the Mohawk

In June 2025, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, together with Her Honour, visited Christ Church, His Majesty's Chapel Royal of the Mohawk, in Tyendinaga.

With (L-R) Duke of
Edinburgh, Chief Don
Maracle, and Bishop
William G. Cliff



They were welcomed by Chief Donald Maracle of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation, who own the church, which is one of only three Chapels Royal in Canada. These chapels bolster the enduring relationship between the Crown and various First Nations communities, serving as important sites for cultural and historical preservation as well as gathering and dialogue. His Royal Highness is the first member of the Royal Family to visit the church since its designation as a Chapel Royal in 2004. During a prayer service honouring Mohawk veterans, he laid a wreath in memory of the fallen. He also signed a Bible that was gifted to the church by Queen Victoria. Her Honour and His Royal Highness spent time speaking with community members after the service.



His Majesty's
Royal Chapel of the
Mohawks

Fostering Civic Engagement and Pride

Citizenship Ceremony

On the day after Canada Day, Her Honour, together with Citizenship Judge Albert Wong, hosted a ceremony during which 36 people from Africa, Asia, Europe, and elsewhere in North America took the Oath of Citizenship. They had their photographs taken with Her Honour as well as the guest of honour, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Citizenship ceremony with The Duke of Edinburgh



Mme Dumont told the new Canadians, "Our country is made stronger and more compassionate by the stories, ideas, and perspectives of those who have arrived from everywhere around the globe. As we seek to build a more caring, more resilient society, your insights and your voices will be foundational."

Remembrance Day in Toronto

This year, Toronto marked the 100th anniversary of its cenotaph. Mme Dumont attended the Remembrance Day ceremony, which carried forward a proud and poignant tradition.



Remembrance Day
at the War Memorial
Cenotaph in Toronto



Veterans, serving members of the CAF, families, and community members gathered to honour those Torontonians and Ontarians who have given their lives in service of their country. Her Honour spoke to the gathering about how *"The poppies we wear connect us. They speak of a promise we make solemnly, and in solidarity: to build not only with bricks and mortar, concrete and glass, but also with care and compassion, openness and love. A city where everyone feels they belong. A country that stands as a beacon of unity, in a world where we share a commitment to peace."*

Official Visits

An important part of Her Honour's work as Lieutenant Governor is making official visits to municipalities across the province, to learn about important local initiatives and developments, and to hear from elected officials and citizens alike about their challenges, achievements, and aspirations.

Her Honour's official visit to the **County of Brant** began with a conversation with Mayor David Bailey and a group of student leaders, who made clear their compassion and determination to shape a better future. At the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, a National Historic Site that spreads awareness of Canadian women's history, Her Honour met with members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, whose continued dedication underscores the enduring value of civic participation and grassroots leadership. The visit concluded with a warm and welcoming community high tea.

Community high
tea in Brant





In **Chapleau**, Mme Dumont discovered a community that is proud of its roots as a railway town. Accompanied by Mayor Ryan Bignucolo, she visited the Civic Centre, the Fire Station, the Centennial Museum, the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Louis-Hémon Cultural Centre. She also met with Chief Cheryl St-Denis of Brunswick House First Nation together, they viewed an exhibition of Indigenous artworks at the Chapleau Hub—an events space in a decommissioned church. She was then invited by Chief Keith Corston of Chapleau Cree First Nation to meet participants in Creefest 2025 and to watch musicians perform a song dedicated to women in leadership.

In **Huntsville**, Her Honour was welcomed by Mayor Nancy Alcock; together, they participated in a smudging ceremony at the Reconciliation Rock monument with Mohawk matriarch Joyce Crone and walked through Kent and River Mill Parks, where Indigenous canoe murals evoke each of the Seven Grandfather Teachings. She visited the art gallery at the Algonquin Theatre with its Group of Seven murals and outdoor sculptures, rode the historic Portage Flyer Train and toured the Steam Museum at Muskoka Heritage Place, and discovered how Huntsville is planning for the future at the offices of the Downtown Huntsville Business Improvement Area, the Chamber of Commerce, and Explore Huntsville. Along the way, she had the pleasure of meeting residents and families enjoying the beautiful summer day.

(top): Chapleau Hub with Chief Cheryl St-Denis of Brunswick House First Nation (to Her Honour's left) and Mayor Ryan Bignucolo (to Her Honour's right)

Bottom

(L): Canoe Mural Project at Mill River Park in Huntsville

(R): In Huntsville with members of the Huntsville downtown BIA



(L): In Sudbury with Mayor Paul Lefebvre
(R): In Kingston with Mayor Bryan Paterson and Kevin Gibbs, Director of Heritage Services

Her Honour was warmly welcomed at **Kingston's** historic City Hall by Mayor Bryan Paterson and city councillors, who told her about local issues and priorities. She met with enthusiastic cadets at the Royal Military College of Canada, and with engaged students and staff at the École secondaire catholique Sainte-Marie-Rivier and École secondaire publique Mille-Îles. The day concluded with a powerful roundtable discussion hosted by the charity Youth Diversion, whose leaders displayed their commitment to helping at-risk youth and fostering community wellbeing.

In **Sudbury**, Mme Dumont met with the dedicated teams at the Sudbury Women's Centre and the Victoria Women's Centre for insightful discussions about their commitment to preventing gender-based violence and nurturing community wellbeing. Together with Mayor Paul Lefebvre, she connected with more than 60 community leaders; she also visited students at l'École publique Jeanne-Sauvé and St. Francis Catholic Elementary School and engaged in meaningful conversations about Indigenous education.



In **Timmins**, along with Mayor Michelle Boileau, Her Honour dove into the region's rich heritage at the Timmins Museum and visited the Centre culturel La Ronde, where Francophone culture comes to life through the arts and vibrant social activities. They visited the headquarters of the charity Quilts for Survivors, which welcomes volunteers from across Canada to make quilts that provide comfort and encourage healing among survivors of residential schools. Mme Dumont learned about how their space has become a community hub where Indigenous and non-Indigenous people gather to repair relationships, one stitch at a time.

During Francophonie Week, Her Honour visited **Sturgeon Falls in West Nipissing**, one of the most bilingual communities in Ontario, and a place whose inhabitants are deeply proud of the region's Nibisiing Anishinaabeg, Francophone, and Anglophone heritage. She met with Mayor Kathleen Thorne Rochon, Nipissing First Nation Chief Cathy Stevens, and a group of women leaders, as well as with students at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Elementary School, Northern Secondary School, l'école secondaire catholique Franco-Cité, and l'école secondaire publique Nipissing Ouest, all of which incorporate Nibisiing Anishinaabeg teachings. She also toured the West Nipissing Community Health Centre and attended a festive dinner celebrating the area's Franco-Ontarian community.

Top

(L): Quilts for Survivors in Timmins
(R): Hollinger Open Pit Lookout in Timmins with (L) Timmins Director of Cultural Services Karen Bachmann and (R) Mayor Michelle Boileau

Bottom

(L): Festive Franco-Ontarian dinner at Club Richelieu in Sturgeon Falls
(R): Sturgeon Falls with Mayor Kathleen Thorne Rochon

Viceregal Duties

Canada is a constitutional monarchy whose sovereign and head of state is the reigning monarch, His Majesty King Charles III. It is also a parliamentary democracy. In our system of government, the state, commonly called the Crown, holds power on behalf of the people and lends it to the federal and provincial governments.

As lieutenant governor of Ontario, the Honourable Edith Dumont represents His Majesty in the province. Her role involves constitutional, ceremonial, and community duties.

Constitutional Duties

The Lieutenant Governor exercises the powers of the Crown, which derive from Canada's written constitution and laws and are exercised in accordance with constitutional convention (expected practices and norms). A lieutenant governor's constitutional duties include:

- Ensuring that Ontario always has a premier who commands the confidence of the Legislative Assembly
- Appointing members of the executive council (cabinet ministers) on the advice of the premier
- Summoning, proroguing, and dissolving the legislature on the advice of the premier
- Reading the Speech from the Throne at the beginning of a parliamentary session
- Granting Royal Assent, the final step of the legislative process, to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly
- Ordering provincial elections on the advice of the cabinet, in accordance with the Election Act
- Approving government business such as regulations and public appointments by signing orders in council on the advice of the cabinet

Speech from the Throne

In April 2025, Mme Dumont delivered the Speech from the Throne to open Ontario's 44th Parliament.

This time-honoured ceremony is fundamental to the workings of Ontario's parliamentary system and steeped in a rich historic tradition. The speech sets out the government's goals and priorities for the new parliamentary session. It is written by the government and read aloud by the lieutenant governor in the Legislative Chamber, where it is heard by new and returning Members of Provincial Parliament and their guests—and by people across the province online.

By tradition, the lieutenant governor ascends to the Speaker's dais and sits on the Speaker's chair (the "throne"). She is delivered a ceremonial copy of the speech by the chief aide-de-camp, who takes it from the government house leader.

She reads the speech in her capacity as representative of the King in the province. Subsequently, all rise for the singing of "O Canada," and then the lieutenant governor is escorted from the chamber before legislative business begins—maintaining her position outside of politics.



Delivering the Speech from the Throne in the Legislative Chamber

Bills and Orders in Council

As lieutenant governor, Mme Dumont completes the final step of the legislative process by granting Royal Assent to transform bills passed by the Legislative Assembly into acts, which are the primary source of law in Ontario.

Most often, Royal Assent is granted in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite, where Mme Dumont receives the clerk (and/or the speaker) and MPPs, and signs official documents. Royal Assent is also occasionally granted in the Legislative Chamber during parliamentary proceedings.

Mme Dumont also signs documents on the advice of the Cabinet. Orders in council (OICs) formalize decisions that by law or royal prerogative are made by the "Lieutenant Governor in Council," a term used when a lieutenant governor acts on, and with the advice of, the cabinet. Decisions formalized by OICs include the appointment of individuals to public positions; the creation of agencies, boards, and commissions; and the in-force date of legislation (set by OICs known as "commencement orders"). Some OICs, such as those dealing with the affairs of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, are issued with formal proclamation documents.

Additionally, the lieutenant governor signs regulations, which are laws made under the authority of an act. Regulations are considered "delegated legislation," as the authority to make them is delegated by the Legislature to the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Regulations deal with topics related to the act under which they are made.

Granting Royal Assent
in the Music Room



Meetings with the Premier

As is customary for lieutenant governors in Ontario, Mme Dumont held regular and confidential meetings with the Premier. These meetings reflect the longstanding tradition in the United Kingdom whereby the sovereign meets with the prime minister.

Over the course of 2025–26, the Lieutenant Governor signed:

1,824

Orders in Council,
including commencement
orders

2

Proclamations

317

Regulations



181

**Great Seal letters and
lease letters** (patent issued
under the Public Lands Act)
to lease Crown Land on the
advice of the Ministry of
Natural Resources

301

Great Seal letters
(patent issued under the
Mining Act) to give mining
rights on the advice of the
Ministry of Energy and Mines



On the advice of the Cabinet, Mme Dumont signed orders to appoint:

26

Deputy Ministers

39

Provincial Judges



45

**Justices of the
Peace**

8

Associate Judges

1

**Regional Senior
Judge**

Ceremonial Duties

The Lieutenant Governor's ceremonial duties involve acting in an official capacity as head of state in the following ways:

- Presiding over awards ceremonies related to Ontario's honours system and presenting recipients with their awards
- Representing the Crown at events related to the monarchy (e.g., accession ceremonies, celebrations of coronations and royal anniversaries) and greeting members of the Royal Family on their visits to Ontario
- Meeting with members of the diplomatic and consular corps in Ontario as well as visiting heads of government and state from other countries
- Recognizing the service of members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)
- Fulfilling certain national viceregal duties when the Governor General is unavailable (e.g., investing Ontarians into the Order of Canada).

Royal Visit

In May 2025, Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla made their first official visit to Canada since His Majesty's accession to the throne in 2022.

With Their Majesties and members of the viceregal family from across Canada





Her Honour welcomed Their Majesties to Ottawa alongside Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada; the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada; and Indigenous leaders. She participated in official engagements during Their Majesties' visit, including a reception for Canada's lieutenant governors and territorial commissioners, and she attended the state opening of the 45th Parliament of Canada, where His Majesty read the Speech from the Throne.

(L): Their Majesties arrive in Ottawa

(R): His Majesty plants a tree at Rideau Hall

Recognizing Service and Excellence

The Lieutenant Governor presents official honours and awards that are granted on the recommendations of various committees established by the Government of Ontario.

(L): With the 2025 recipients of the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers



Mme Dumont presided over the presentation of the following awards in 2025–26:

- Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers – April 2025
- Ontario Medal for Paramedic Bravery – May 2025
- Order of Ontario – June 2025
- Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery – November 2025
- Ontario Medal for Police Bravery – November 2025

(middle): Presenting a King Charles III Coronation Medal to wheelchair basketball athlete Garrett Ostepchuk

(R): With the 2025 investees into the Order of Ontario

In September 2025, Mme Dumont presented the following awards created to honour the legacies of her predecessors:

- James Bartleman Indigenous Youth Creative Writing Award
- David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility
- Hilary M. Weston Scholarship (for graduate-level social work students who specialize in mental health)
- Lincoln M. Alexander Award (for young leaders fighting to eradicate racial discrimination)

In addition, Mme Dumont had the opportunity to recognize hundreds of Ontarians through the following awards programs:

- Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards (with the Ontario Heritage Trust) – April 2025
- Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Canada – April 2025
- Ingenious+ Regional Awards (with the Rideau Hall Foundation) – May 2025
- Lieutenant Governor's Distinguished Service Award (with the Royal Ontario Museum) – May 2025
- Order of St. John Investiture (with the Ontario Council of St. John Ambulance) – June 2025
- Lieutenant Governor's Cup (with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair) – November 2025
- Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration (with the Institute of Public Administration of Canada) – December 2025
- Commonwealth Honour Awards (with the Royal Life Saving Society) – December 2025
- Lieutenant Governor's Award for Marketing Excellence in Ontario (with the Economic Developers Council of Ontario) – February 2026
- John Charles Polanyi Prize – March 2026

In December, Her Honour presented the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers to a group of Ontario recipients on behalf of Her Excellency Mary Simon.

King Charles III Coronation Medals

The King Charles III Coronation Medal was created to mark His Majesty's Coronation as King of Canada, and to honour 30,000 Canadians who have made a significant positive impact on their communities and on our country. The medal program was administered by the Chancellery of Honours at Rideau Hall.

Mme Dumont was asked to present 491 medals, and the OLGO collaborated with community organizations throughout the province to identify potential recipients from across communities and sectors, and to highlight Ontario's breadth and diversity of talent and leadership. Her Honour's presentations started in October 2024 and continued through the summer of 2025.

Medal ceremonies in the 2025–26 fiscal year included private presentations as well as ceremonies with the Institute for the Study of the Crown in Canada; the Mon Sheong Foundation, which promotes Chinese culture and heritage in Canada; the Speaker of the House; and the Secretary of the Cabinet, with whom Her Honour presented medals to leaders in areas such as healthcare, the nonprofit sector, and the public service.

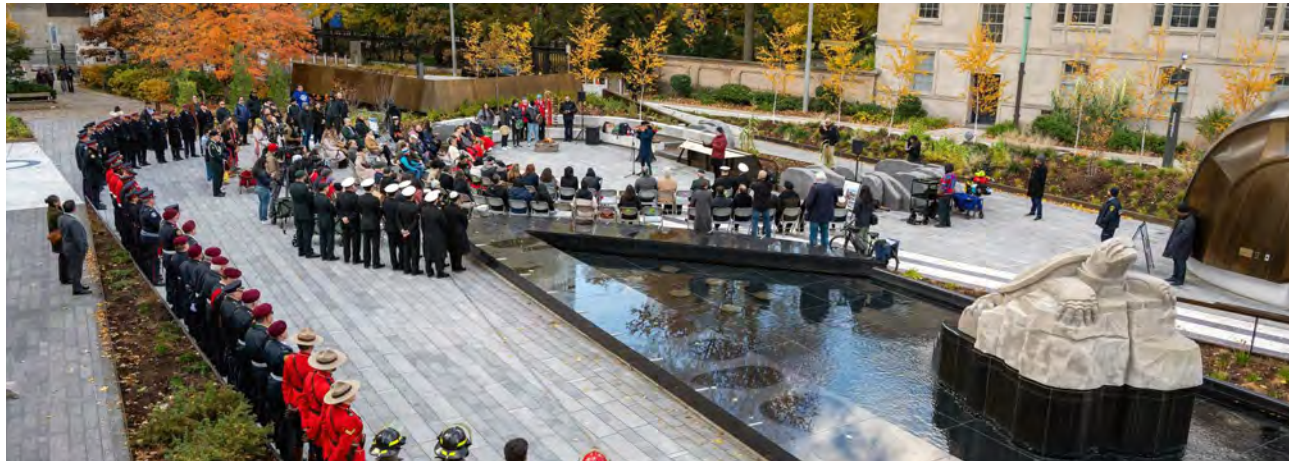


With the
Coronation Girls
and documentarian
Douglas Arrowsmith

At the end of the medal program, Her Honour presided over two additional, special ceremonies at Queen's Park, on behalf of Rideau Hall. The first honoured Olympians and Paralympians who represented Canada in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. The second honoured the group affectionately known as the "Coronation Girls"—women from across the country who, as teenagers in 1953, had been chosen to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London, England. Over 70 years later, seven of the Ontarian Coronation Girls reunited to commemorate a new chapter in Canada's constitutional monarchy. They were recognized not only for their lifetime of community involvement but also for the role they continue to play in communicating the importance of the Crown to future generations.

Canadian Armed Forces

Indigenous Veterans
Day at the Spirit
Garden in Toronto



As the Queen's York
Rangers' Colonel of
the Regiment, Her
Honour is briefed
on 4th Division's
summer exercises in
Pembroke, Ontario



(L): Graduation
ceremony in
Meaford for the
Grey Wolf program
for Indigenous CAF
recruits



(R): Launch of the
Royal Canadian
Legion's National
Poppy Campaign in
Toronto with General
Richard Rohmer





Launch of the children's book *Aviation Nation* at the National Air Force Museum of Canada in Astra



(L): Marking the 80th anniversary of victory in Europe at Queen's Park



Right
(top): Launch of the children's book *Aviation Nation* at the National Air Force Museum of Canada in Astra
(bottom): His Honour Tony Viscardi at the Veterans Affairs Canada ceremony for the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands in Toronto

(L): Launch of the exhibition *The Military Portraiture of Gertrude Kearns* at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto

(R): Welcoming General Jennie Carignan, chief of the defence staff, to the Lieutenant Governor's Suite



Diplomatic Engagements

In 2025–26, to cultivate and strengthen Ontario's ties with other nations, the OLGO welcomed dignitaries from 17 countries across 5 continents to the Suite to meet with Mme Dumont.

She met with 38 diplomats and visiting dignitaries, including:

- 7 ambassadors – from the Dominican Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay
- 17 consuls and honorary consuls general from the following countries:
 - Commonwealth of Australia
 - Republic of Cuba
 - Federal Republic of Germany
 - Republic of Guatemala
 - Republic of Indonesia
 - Ireland
 - Italian Republic
 - Jamaica

- Japan
- Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- United Mexican States
- Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Republic of Panama
- Republic of the Philippines
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
- United Arab Emirates
- Oriental Republic of Uruguay
- 4 vice-consuls general, deputy vice-consuls general, and honorary vice-consuls general – from the Republic of Austria, the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Indonesia, Ireland, and the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
- 1 minister – from the Italian Republic
- 7 parliamentarians from the United Kingdom who were members of the United Kingdom Education Select Parliamentary Committee

Mme Dumont was also pleased to welcome His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan V to Ontario on his inaugural visit to Canada in March 2026.



Greeting His Highness Prince Shah Rahim Al-Hussaini Aga Khan V on his first official visit to Canada

Consular Corps Events

(L): Celebrating the 80th anniversary of victory in Europe at the Canadian Tulip Festival in Ottawa

(R): St. Patrick's Day reception hosted by the Irish consulate



(L): Bastille Day celebration hosted by Bertrand Pous, consul general of France in Toronto, and his spouse, Sigrid Pous

(R): Margriet Vonno, ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Canada, speaks about the liberation of the Netherlands at the Imperial War Museum



Community Duties

The Lieutenant Governor encourages civic engagement, collective kindness, and pride and seeks to foster a sense of belonging among communities and community members throughout Ontario. Related duties include:

- Conducting engagements in municipalities and Indigenous communities throughout the province to learn about the aspirations, priorities, and local initiatives of people living in Ontario
- In a non-partisan, non-policy prescriptive way, advocating for meaningful causes, and convening Ontarians to support them
- Presenting community awards for service and excellence
- Supporting and promoting diversity, equity, culture, and heritage
- Granting viceregal patronage to lend support and recognition to charitable and nonprofit organizations and related initiatives that make contributions to civil society

The Lieutenant Governor promotes active citizenship by meeting with volunteers and those engaged in public service. Making use of her ability to convene people from all walks of life, she encourages information sharing and partnerships to benefit the public good. She engages with young Ontarians by visiting schools, meeting with youth groups involved in their community, and joining participants in model parliament programs.

(L): Welcoming participants in the Timmins-based Omushkego Six Seasons Youth Program to the Suite

(R): Toronto Children's Chorus Songs of the Season concert at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto



Opening night of the Elora Festival



(L): Planting tobacco with knowledge keeper James Bird at the Platinum Jubilee Garden outside the Suite



(R): With artist Jeremy Dutcher at the Toronto Symphony Orchestra's Summer Solstice party, celebrating Pride and National Indigenous Peoples Day

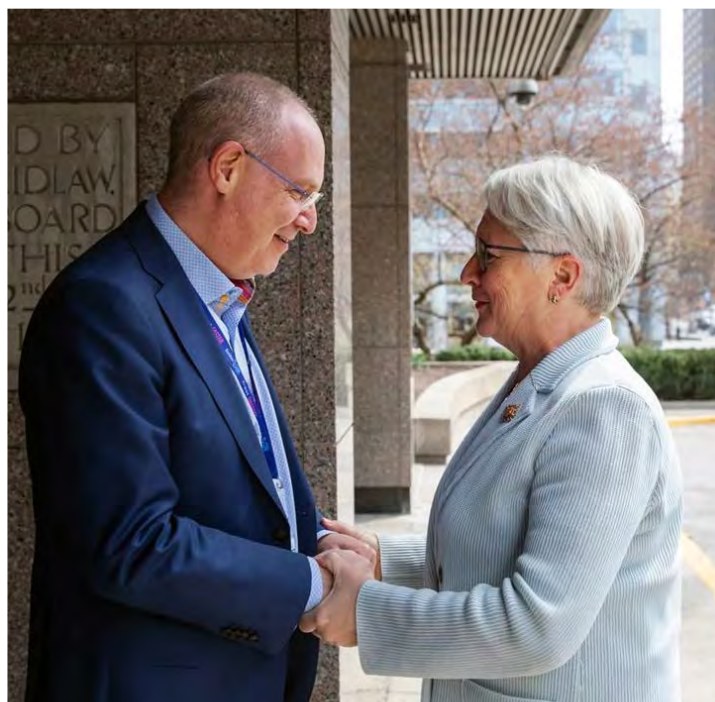


Reception in the Suite for the 2026 Caribbean Canada Dialogue Leaders Conference





STEM Fellowship
High School Big Data
Challenge regional
finals



(L): Centre of
Excellence for
Black Academic
Achievement at
Winston Churchill
Collegiate Institute in
Toronto

(R): Congratulating
Ronald Cohn,
president and CEO
of the Hospital for
Sick Children, on
the hospital's 150th
anniversary



2025 Pauline
McGibbon Prize
ceremony, with
recipient Sophie
Moynan and Simon
Foster, board chair
of the Ontario Arts
Council



Centre Pauline-Charron, recreation centre for older Francophone adults, in Ottawa



(L): Outside the 200-year-old courthouse and jail building at L'Original

(R): Indigenomics on Bay 2025 conference hosted by the Global Centre of Indigenomics (Indigenous economics)





Opening ceremony of the Special Olympics Ontario Summer Games in Brantford



Indigenous winter solstice celebration and feast at Massey College in Toronto



Opening ceremony for the 2026 Ontario Winter Games in Orillia

Viceregal Patronage

During 2025–26, Mme Dumont was the viceregal patron of three special initiatives:

- Celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Franco-Ontarian flag (organized by the Francophone Assembly of Ontario, the French-Canadian Association of Ontario – Sudbury Chapter, and the University of Sudbury)
- Science Meets Parliament – Ontario
- STEM Fellowship’s Ontario Provincial Digital Citizenship High School Graduation Award and Finals

She was also the viceregal patron of 28 organizations:

- Aga Khan Museum
- Air Cadet League of Canada – Ontario Chapter
- Army Cadet League of Canada – Ontario Chapter
- Applaud – People in the Public Service
- Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons
- Canadian Parents for French
- Commissionaires Great Lakes
- Concerts in Care
- DeafBlind Ontario
- Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award Canada
- Friends of HMCS Haida
- Haven Toronto
- Institute for Advancements in Mental Health
- Imperial Order of Daughters of the Empire – Ontario Chapter
- Massey College
- Mon Sheong Foundation
- Ontario Historical Society
- Ontario Society of Artists
- Royal Canadian Institute for Science
- Royal Canadian Military Institute
- Royal Commonwealth Society of Toronto
- Royal Life Saving Society – Ontario Branch
- Royal Ontario Museum
- Royal Over-Seas League – Ontario Chapter
- St. George’s Society of Toronto
- Toronto Children’s Chorus
- Variety – the Children’s Charity
- Women’s Musical Club of Toronto

Viceregal Traditions and Initiatives

King's Plate

First held in 1860, the King's Plate (formerly the Queen's Plate) is North America's longest-running annual horse race. It was founded after Sir Casimir Gzowski (later to be acting lieutenant governor in 1896–97) petitioned Queen Victoria to grant a plate for a race.



The 166th King's Plate,
at the Woodbine
Racetrack in Toronto



Every year, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario represents the reigning monarch as guest of honour. She arrives in a landau, escorted by the Governor General's Horse Guards, and watches the race from the Royal Box, before presenting the winner with a trophy. This year's recipient was Mansetti, ridden by 20-year-old Pietro Moran, the third-youngest winning jockey in the Plate's history. The race's organizers made a charitable donation in Her Honour's name to Quilts for Survivors.

New Year's Levee

In North America, the custom of the New Year's Levee dates to the mid-17th century in New France; it was taken up as a viceregal tradition by governors general and lieutenant governors throughout Canada.

New Year's Levee
in Bradford West
Gwillimbury



Originally, lieutenant governors would welcome members of the military and their families to their official residences to celebrate the new year; in the present day, the Lieutenant Governor welcomes all visitors either to the Suite at Queen's Park or to an event she co-hosts at an Ontario municipality.

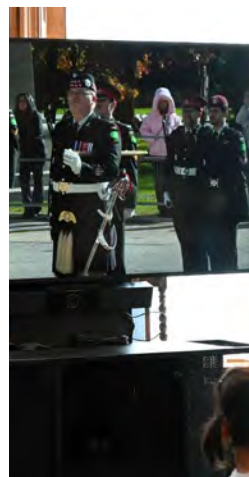
The 2026 New Year's Levee was held at Bradford West Gwillimbury, where Her Honour co-hosted with Mayor James Leduc. At the joyful community gathering, attendees celebrated the connections and traditions that bring Ontarians together.

Doors Open

Doors Open Toronto is an annual event that started in 2000, and in which the OLGO has participated since 2006.



Doors Open Toronto
2025 in the Suite



Members of the public are invited to visit the state rooms and view exhibitions. In May 2025, 4,451 visitors were welcomed to the Lieutenant Governor's Suite by staff members, volunteers, and aides-de-camp, who played a key role by imparting their knowledge of history and protocol and encouraging visitors' curiosity.

Ontario Legislative Pages and Ontario Legislature Interns

Every year, the Lieutenant Governor welcomes participants in the Ontario Legislative Page program and the Ontario Legislature Internship program to the Suite.



Pages are students in Grade 7 and 8 from throughout Ontario who have been selected to serve for two to four weeks, providing support to parliamentarians in the legislative chamber and learning about Ontario's system of government.

The Legislative Interns are university graduates from across Canada who each provide staff assistance to two MPPs across party lines.

Her Honour tells the participants of both programs about her role, answers questions, and engages in lively discussions about the workings of Ontario's democracy.

Variety Village Games

The Lieutenant Governor's Games at Variety Village are a daylong annual sporting event for youth of all abilities, organized by the children's charity Variety; they were created by the Honourable John Black Aird in 1983 to encourage inclusion.



The 38th annual Lieutenant Governor Games at Variety Village



On February 27, 2026, the 38th annual Games welcomed over 500 participants from 25 schools. Her Honour officially opened the Games and joined in some of the adaptive activities such as sitting volleyball and adapted baseball.

Queen's York Rangers

As Lieutenant Governor, Mme Dumont is ex officio the Colonel of the Regiment of the Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment). This position originated in 2011 during the mandate of the Honourable David C. Onley; it furthers a historic connection dating back to the days of the first lieutenant governor, John Graves Simcoe, who was commander of the regiment's predecessor, the Queen's Rangers, in the late 1700s.



(L): John Graves Simcoe's sword on display

(R): Queen's York Rangers change-of-command ceremony at the John Graves Simcoe Armoury in Aurora

In May 2025, Her Honour presided over the Queen's York Rangers' change-of-command ceremony at the John Graves Simcoe Armoury in Aurora. There, she passed the Commanding Officer's sword from Lieutenant-Colonel Matt Lennox to Lieutenant-Colonel Gerardo Almendrades and delivered congratulatory remarks that honoured the legacy of the regiment.

To celebrate John Graves Simcoe's birthday, on February 25, 2026, the OLGO displayed a sword that belonged to him in the lobby of the Suite. Staff from the Archives of Ontario greeted visitors and spoke about the provenance and uses of the dress sword, which was made in Germany and bears a pattern dating to 1796.

In Memory of the Honourable Hilary Weston (1942–2025)

As the 26th lieutenant governor of Ontario, and the first of the new millennium, Mrs. Weston continually dedicated herself to finding new ways of making the role more contemporary, more accessible, and more relevant to citizens of Ontario.

Mrs. Weston shone a light on the compassion of Ontarians from all walks of life. One of her most notable legacy achievements was the creation of the Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Awards, which honour the otherwise unsung heroes dedicated to serving their communities.

Mrs. Weston made a commitment to celebrate volunteers, youth, and women. Throughout her appointment, she visited many women's shelters and hospices for people in palliative care across Ontario.

Her dedication to social issues continued well beyond her term in office; Mrs. Weston maintained a relationship with organizations she had visited as lieutenant governor, such as Abbeyfield House Society, the Hospice Association of Ontario, and the Yonge Street Mission.

A longtime patron of the arts and culture, she initiated a series of exhibitions of contemporary Ontario art in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite. She also travelled to mark major holidays and historical milestones in local communities.

Mrs. Weston was regularly inspired by the generosity of spirit of everyday Ontarians and sought to foster that shared sense of humanity far and wide, in every one of her engagements. Her legacy will remain alive in our collective memory, imbued with deep appreciation and gratitude.



About the Office

Note from the Chief of Staff and Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

This past year has been one of creativity and progress for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. We have challenged ourselves to adopt and embrace new approaches for events and outreach while reinforcing the stability and continuity provided by the Crown.

It is important for us to be able to respond to the ways our province evolves. From 2021 through the first quarter of 2026 alone, Ontario's population grew by approximately 2 million. With growth has come continued diversification; at the same time, technology has been reshaping the ways people connect and interact with one another and the world around them.

Such changes create new possibilities for community engagement, and this past fiscal year, we have expanded the reach of the office through more ambitious programming. We have collaborated with partners from the civil service, academia, and the nonprofit sector to devise and run events that welcome broad ranges of attendees, both physically and virtually, and initiatives that gather community participants throughout Ontario. All the while, we have worked to advance Her Honour's mandate themes, which are introduced in this report.

We have leaned into Her Honour's description of the Lieutenant Governor's Suite as "a place for all Ontarians" by hosting more events at Queen's Park. We have also relaunched and revitalized the LGOntario website to provide a platform that is even more accessible and informative.



Their Honours
at Queen's Park
with the corps of
aides-de-camp

Such efforts have required time and dedication, as does our ongoing support for Her Honour as she carries out her constitutional and ceremonial duties. I am very grateful to the staff for their diligence and adaptability as we have worked to increase the capacity and modernize the operations of the OLGO. Having joined the office in November, I want to especially acknowledge the committed leadership of Deputy Chief of Staff and Director, Communications and Strategic Initiatives Patrick Ouellet, who guided the office through a period of transition as interim private secretary and chief of staff.

As an office, we can be proud of what we have achieved in 2025–26. We look forward to maintaining our momentum in the years to come.

Sabine Soumare

Sabine Soumare
Chief of Staff and Private Secretary to the
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

Roles and Responsibilities

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (OLGO) assists the lieutenant governor in fulfilling her viceregal duties by providing support and expertise in administration, strategic planning, communications, and events management.

The OLGO comprises a dedicated team of staff supported by a corps of volunteers and aides-de-camp, who in 2025–26 contributed thousands of hours of service.

Volunteers greet and guide visitors during in-Suite events; they offer information and answer questions about the Suite and the duties of a lieutenant governor. Aides-de-camp are current or retired uniformed service members who accompany and assist lieutenant governors during events.

The position of aide-de-camp is honorary, and those appointed serve on a volunteer basis. Aides-de-camp are selected from the CAF, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, regional and municipal police services, local emergency services, and first responders, including St. John Ambulance.

The Office's activities are made possible by various streams of service:

- Building and delivering programming in collaboration with partner organizations, municipal governments, and community groups
- Providing communication support including coordination of media appearances, press releases, editorial and writing services, social media, and the website
- Organizing the participation of aides-de-camp and volunteers in support of events

Communicating with Ontarians

Annually, the communications team provides hundreds of special event messages on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor to non-profit organizations, as well as congratulatory greetings to Ontarians celebrating milestone birthdays and wedding anniversaries. The Lieutenant Governor also records video messages to be broadcast as part of events around Ontario.

The Lieutenant Governor maintains an active social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, in order to amplify Ontarians’ diverse stories and important initiatives.

In 2025-26, the OLGO produced:

>880
Social Media
Posts

94
Special Event
Messages

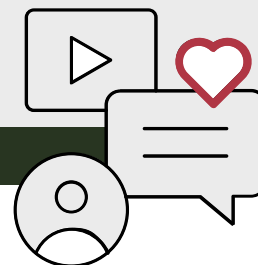
35
Video Messages



185
Retirement Letters
for members of the
Canadian Armed Forces

1,828
Greetings to
Ontarians,
marking milestone
birthdays & anniversaries

220
Responses
to public inquiry
requests

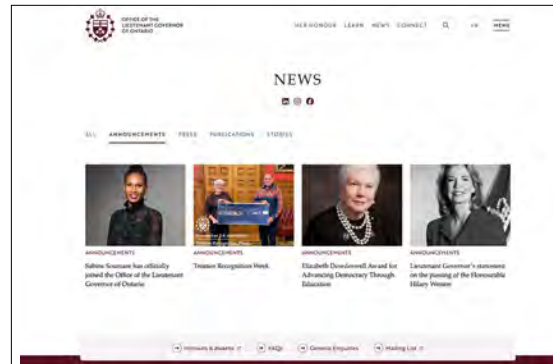
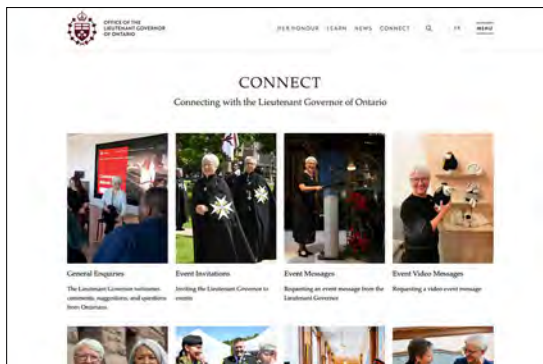
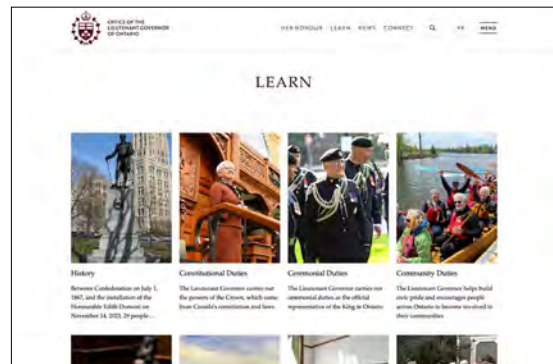
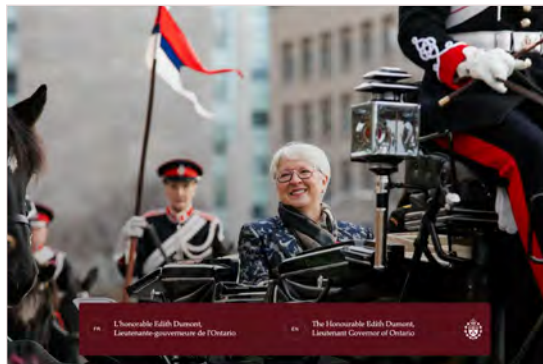


Redesigned Website

On January 30, 2026, the OLGO launched a fully redesigned website, which highlights the Lieutenant Governor's constitutional and ceremonial duties while keeping visitors informed about initiatives and events that promote civic engagement throughout the province.

The redesign offers clearer page layouts, streamlined menus, and a mobile-friendly user experience.

Images from the
OLGO's new website



The website now features:

- Educational resources on the Crown, civic literacy, and the province's constitutional framework
- Highlights and reflections from recent events and activities
- The website will soon feature profiles and stories from communities across Ontario, highlighting individuals and organizations making a positive impact

www.lgontario.ca

Financial Information

Provincial Funds

The Government of Ontario provides the principal means of financial support for lieutenant governors' activity programs.

Operating Expenses	2025-26
Salaries and wages	\$ 1,920,208
Employee benefits	\$ 207,552
Transportation and communication	\$ 24,526
Services	\$ 301,017
Supplies and equipment	\$ 42,902
Discretionary allowance	\$ 155,800
	\$ 2,652,004

Year ended March 31.

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

Source: 2025-26 Integrated Financial Information System Records, Ontario.

Federal Funds

The Department of Canadian Heritage provides lieutenant governors with funds for the purpose of defraying operating expenses.

Lieutenant Governors' Annual Grant (Department of Canadian Heritage)	2025-26
Travel and accommodation expenditures	\$ 83,316.99
Hospitality	\$ 38,561.82
Operational and administrative	\$ 87,052.38
	\$ 208,931.19

Year ended March 31.

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



Year in Review 2025–26

Office of the
Lieutenant Governor
of Ontario