



REFLECTIONS ON A NEW JOURNEY

A YEAR OF LEARNING, INSPIRATION, AND HOPE



It has been a year since I had the tremendous honour of becoming Alberta's 19th Lieutenant Governor. When I took the oath of office on August 26, 2020 there were many unknowns ahead for Albertans as we were just beginning to navigate the pandemic.

Twelve months later, we are still working together to overcome the challenges brought by COVID, but we are in a far more promising position thanks to the welcome development of life-saving vaccines and the gradual reopening of many aspects of daily life.

My goal throughout this first year in office has been to meet with as many of my fellow Albertans as possible and to learn about the gifts that they share with our communities. I have worked to achieve this through a wide range of virtual gatherings as well as in-person events, when safe to do so. Every day has given me great inspiration, valued learning and optimism for the future.

I am deeply committed to bringing Albertans of all regions and walks of life along with me on my journey as the Queen's representative and to celebrate the contributions of the remarkable, hardworking citizens that I meet along the way.

While it would be impossible to capture every meeting, celebration and learning opportunity, I would like to offer this snapshot of people I have met over the past year. I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has shared their time, thoughts and concerns with me and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to learn from each of you.

I look forward to the second year of my term with considerable hope, thanks in large part to the countless remarkable Albertans that I have had the honour to meet over the past 12 months.

*Her Honour the Honourable Salma Lakhani,
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta*



Mr. Rocky Morin of Enoch Cree Nation performs the Honour Song at the Installation on Aug 26

Honouring Indigenous voices, celebrating pluralism and diversity

One of the great joys of this role has been learning from Indigenous community members from across Alberta. I have met with leaders such as Grand Chief Billy Morin, and Grand Chief Vernon Watchmaker and with elders including Roy and Judy Louis, who are knowledge keepers for my office.

My husband Zaheer and I took part in a wonderful gathering at the headwaters of the Battle River which deepened our appreciation of Indigenous culture, and I have been deeply touched by the experiences and perspective of the young Indigenous people who have shared their experiences as part of the Roots of Resilience, Her Unwavering Voice and Future Voices of Equity and Justice online seminars.



Heritage Day celebrations in Edmonton

I have been greatly inspired by all the wonderful celebrations of inclusion, multiculturalism and pluralism that I have taken part in throughout the year, from virtual gatherings to mark events such as the Lunar New Year, Black History Month,



Hindu Heritage Month in Edmonton

Francophonie Month, Pride Month, Philippines Heritage Month, Hindu Heritage Month and Heritage Day in Edmonton, to name just a few.

I have also learned from diverse voices through online events such as the Global Talent Conference and World Diversity in Leadership conference, which are focused on opening doors for new Canadians and people of colour, and though events such as National Multiculturalism Day celebrations.

I have been grateful for every opportunity to meet with and, where safe, to tour a good many Alberta organizations dedicated to fostering understanding, wellness and opportunity for refugees and for new Canadians. It is truly heartening to see the great number of people in our province who are working to foster acceptance, understanding and greater opportunity for all members of our communities.

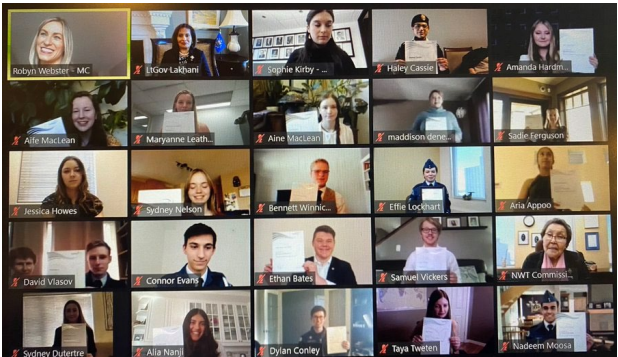
LEARNING FROM YOUNG ALBERTANS

Although my post secondary education is in Clinical Biochemistry, I am truly a teacher at heart and I have savoured each and every one of my online meetings during school year with young students through the Alberta Legislative Assembly’s School at the Legislature program.

I also met with numerous classrooms led by teachers who took part in the Assembly’s Teachers Institute, hosted a National Flag Day online event for elementary students and took part in Read in Week and the Edmonton Public School Board’s Diversity Day program.

While these programs are technically designed to help young Albertans learn about civics and our Canadian system of government, I find that I learn just as much from them during our Q and A sessions, and I relish seeing the open and inquisitive spirit that they bring to our meetings!

Other opportunities to be inspired by young people across Alberta included learning from future agricultural leaders at the 4-H Alberta Summer Synergy celebration in Olds, and awards celebrations such as online Duke of Edinburgh Silver Awards Ceremony and the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Citizenship Medal presentation.



Participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver Ceremony in April 2021



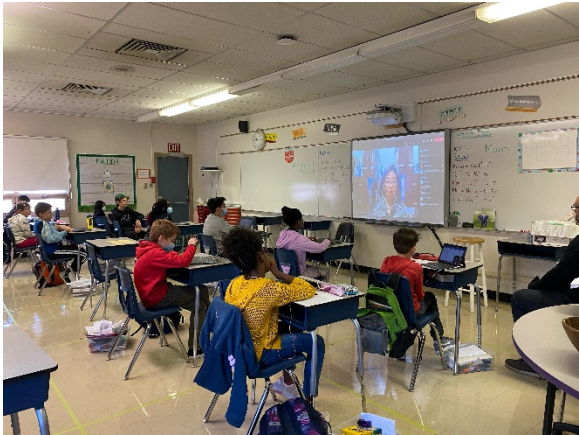
Young 4-H leaders show Zaheer and I the ropes of sheep rearing at the Summer Synergy in Olds

NO TWO DAYS ARE ALIKE

When I meet with students, they often ask me to describe a typical day as Lieutenant Governor. The answer is that there is no such thing. I have learned that every day is different and each one brings a new insight about our province and its amazing people. While my core constitutional duties, such as granting Royal Assent to bills, signing Orders in Council and swearing in Cabinet members, are fixed and have changed little through the decades, the other elements of my job adapt to the needs and the focuses of my fellow Albertans. I will continue to listen to what people have to say and to seek opportunities to learn from people in every sector and from every corner of our beautiful province.



Tour of Bow Valley College in Calgary



2020 Read-in Week virtual session with students



First Poppy Ceremony for 2020



NorQuest College President Installation

Recognizing our grassroots and community heroes



Volunteers at the Calgary Centre for Newcomers

I have always believed in the extraordinary power of grassroots volunteerism and leadership and, through the decades, I have seen the great dedication and service offered by leaders of all walks of life and political stripes.

I have revelled in every opportunity this year to meet virtually and in person with the leaders of a wide range of organizations, from small grassroots community volunteer groups...to service agency and educational institution leaders...to mayors from every corner of the province.

The pandemic has made their challenging work that much more complex but they are steadfast in their dedication. I have been deeply moved by the energy, innovation and teamwork that they offer each and every day and I have nothing but the highest regard for the work they are doing to keep the doors open and support flowing from vital programs such as food banks, women’s shelters, children’s service agencies, health care organizations, military service groups and community service groups.

Although in person ceremonies were limited this year, there were still many opportunities to celebrate our community heroes, at events such as the: Lifesaving Society Investiture, Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards, YWCA Lethbridge Women of Distinction awards, Police and Peace Officer Memorial Day ceremony, First Poppy Presentation and Field of Crosses ceremonies for Remembrance Day, and numerous Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteer presentations over the course of the year, to name but a few.



Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers presentation