



UPDATE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA

SEPTEMBER 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024

MESSAGE FROM LT. GOV. LAKHANI

Each Lieutenant Governor has the opportunity to work with the Chief Herald to create a Coat of Arms that is representative of their beliefs and values. Recently I was honoured to receive mine after this process. I am so very pleased to be able to share with you my long-awaited Coat of Arms, with symbols that represent the many facets of my identity incorporated into the design.

As a nod to my African roots, the colours red, black, and gold, and the grey crowned cranes are reminiscent of the flag of Uganda, where I was born. The birds also symbolize love, fidelity, and longevity. The motto *Ubuntu* is a Bantu expression, meaning "I am because we are," highlighting the values of compassion and humanity which have guided me throughout my life. As a representation of the home I have created here in Alberta with my husband and daughters, you can see mountains, wild roses, and a pronghorn sitting atop the crest with a heart. The pronghorn is native to Alberta and possesses sharp sight and adaptability, while the heart signifies kindness, charity, and my sustained commitment to public service. This Coat of Arms is a melding of the chapters in my life that truly embodies my journey so far.



I hope to, even beyond my time in this role, continue to uphold the values and beliefs represented in this Coat of Arms. Serving as Lieutenant Governor is a genuine privilege, and I feel extremely fortunate to embrace this opportunity. Albertans are an immensely proud and hardworking group of people who so generously and thoughtfully contribute to society. As I continue to grow in my relationships with various communities and deepen my understanding of our province, I look forward to what this upcoming year holds for us all.

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The Honourable Salma Lakhani
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



Their Honours with the group of air and sea cadets who assisted at the New Year's Day Levee.

KICKING OFF 2024 AT THE LEVEE

It can be said that the annual signature event of every Lieutenant Governor across Canada is the New Year's Day Levee. On January 1st, Her Honour welcomed over 500 Albertans to Government House at this free event where guests of all ages went through a receiving line to exchange new year's greetings with Their Honours and the vice-regal escort, enjoyed live music and treats, and took in the wonderful art and architecture of the historical building. Members of the Military and Consular Corps were also invited to take part in this tradition. Her Honour is grateful to have a dedicated team of Aides-de-Camp and volunteers who made each and every guest feel welcome as they visited Alberta's ceremonial home.



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One of the Lieutenant Governor's pillars for her term is education, and she is an ardent supporter of learning in all forms, for people of every age.

Her Honour participates in the School at the Legislature (SATL) program, meeting with Grade 6 students as part of their studies on the Canadian system of government. Over the last six months, students from these schools got to meet and ask Her Honour questions: Florence Hallock School, École Frère Antoine (*top*), Holy Family School, St. Gerard, two classes from Soraya Hafez School, & St. Timothy.



On February 15th, Grade 5 & 6 classes from Holy Child School in Edmonton got to celebrate National Flag Day at SATL with Her Honour, complete with a Q&A session and some Canada flag cookies.

Virtual SATL visits are arranged for schools outside the capital region. Students from Kitscoty School, Nose Creek School & Khalsa School (Calgary) and Isabel Campbell School (Grande Prairie) got to meet and chat with Her Honour over video.

Schools that invited Her Honour to stop by in person to learn from students included New Myrnam School (*middle right*), Bishop Greschuk School, Lynnwood School (*middle left*), and Soraya Hafez for Read-in Week.

Teachers interested in arranging a school visit can email the Office at LTgov@gov.ab.ca

Lt. Gov. Lakhani equally enjoys conversing with the teachers who shape the young minds of tomorrow. In November, Her Honour hosted a special banquet at Government House for teachers from across the province who were attending the Alberta Teachers Institute on Parliamentary Democracy (*bottom*).



FULFILLING CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES

Vice-Regal representatives play an important role in maintaining Canada's constitutional traditions and continuity of government. As part of her ongoing constitutional duties, Her Honour continues to grant Royal Assent to bills brought forward by the Legislative Assembly and signs Orders in Council. She was busy this fall and winter with the Speech from the Throne opening the First Session of the 31st Legislature in October (*left*), attending events hosted by the Speaker - National Indigenous Veterans Day Remembrance Day Ceremony (*middle*), Louis Riel Commemorative Ceremony, & Black History Month Celebration - and also assisting Speaker Cooper with the Legislature Holiday Light-up (*right*) in December.





Her Honour is always thrilled to present awards to deserving citizens of all ages in a wide range of categories. Over the past six months, various award ceremonies took place across the province, including: LG of Alberta Arts Awards in Medicine Hat (*top*), Order of St. John Investiture, Royal Lifesaving Society Investiture of Lifesaving Honours, AB Newcomer Recognition Awards in Calgary, Alberta's Paramedics & Emergency Medical Services Awards in Red Deer, Recreation for Life Awards in Lake Louise (*bottom left*), Immigrant of Distinction Awards in Calgary, John Humphrey Centre for Peace & Human Rights annual awards (*bottom centre*), AB School Boards Association LG Student Awards, Alberta Order of Excellence Investiture, LG's Circle of Mental Health True Awards, and Stars of Alberta volunteer awards in Calgary (*bottom right*).



HONOURING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Lieutenant Governor is dedicated to engaging with and gaining insights from the diverse First Nations communities in Alberta. She consistently holds meetings with Indigenous leaders, groups, and organizations to understand and appreciate the impactful initiatives they are involved in.

From September 2023 to February 2024, Her Honour attended these events and ceremonies: kihcihkaw askî Sacred Site grand opening in Edmonton, the unveiling of the Reconciliation Garden at the Legislature grounds (*centre*), Truth & Reconciliation Day at Bent Arrow, Empowering Spirit event at Creating Hope Society (*left*), grand opening of the Aboriginal Friendship Centre's Elders Lodge in Calgary (*right*), the National Gathering of Elders, and the First Nations Educators Conference in Edmonton.



ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The fall and winter are very busy times for Her Honour, attending several festivals, galas, community celebrations, and conferences across Alberta.

Lt. Gov. Lakhani had the pleasure of attending: Alberta Days, Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day flag raising, British Days at Spruce Meadows (*top*), Ismaili CIVIC 'Root for Trees' tree planting, Daughter's Day, Sahakarini reception in Camrose, Jewish Seniors Centre luncheon, Wellington Retirement Residence Coronation tea in Medicine Hat, ARNET Board dinner, Toastmasters 50th anniversary celebration, Love for Humanity's 10th Community Outdoor Food Bank grand opening, Citizenship ceremony to commemorate Remembrance Day, dinner with the Ismaili Council of the Prairies and the MobSquad Holiday reception in Calgary, YWCA Rose Breakfast, serving lunch at Brightview Elementary school, Centenarian Celebration at Colonel Belcher (Calgary), 1000 Women – Inspiring Possibilities at NorQuest College, Governor General's Curling Club annual safari (*centre*), Jr. Achievement AB Business Hall of Fame gala, No Stone Left Alone gala, Lest we Forget...A Musical Tribute (Ft. Saskatchewan), Calgary Homeless Foundation's 25th Anniversary gala, ESO & CPO joint concert 'Alberta in Harmony', Broadway Across Canada's *Hadestown*, Alberta Art Gallery's Holly Ball, Government House's Christmas Tea, Alberta Ballet's *The Nutcracker*, Red Deer Polytechnic's 60th Anniversary Celebration with Chris Hadfield, the Edmonton Burns Club 102nd Anniversary dinner, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce's Chamber Ball, Ethnik Festival's Black History Month event, Black Chamber of Commerce's 2nd Black History Month dinner, and a Lunar New Year celebration hosted by the Calgary Chinese Cultural Centre.



Her Honour was a keynote speaker at: 4th Annual First Responders Suicide Awareness Conference, Women Empowerment Cross-Culture Conference, IPAC (Institute of Public Administration Canada) Edmonton & Calgary Lunch and Learn, Rohit's Baskets of Hope 2023, Ignite Change Global Conference: 75th Anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and a luncheon she hosted at Government House for the International Women's Forum.



Military and uniformed services events included: visiting South Alberta Light Horse Regiment in Medicine Hat, Police & Peace Officer Memorial Day, Commemorative Ceremony & Sign Unveiling for Cpl Stephen Gibson in Brooks, 100th Anniversary of the RCN Naval Reserve (Calgary), First Poppy presentation (Calgary), Cadet Coronation Ball (Calgary), No Stone Left Alone ceremony at Beechmount Cemetery, Remembrance Day ceremony (Sherwood Park), tour of Calgary Veterans Food Bank, visiting Military Museums (Calgary), BGen Graham's holiday reception, and Royal Canadian Artillery Band's annual Christmas concert.



Her Honour enjoys taking tours and learning about unique sites across Alberta. The past six months, she visited Dow Chemical (Ft. Saskatchewan), Neubauer Farms and Medalta Pottery Museum in Medicine Hat, the Alberta Old Building Art Exhibit (Kaasa Theatre), Edmonton Food Bank for a donation drop-off (*bottom*), the Red Woman House in Calgary, St. Andrew's Centre, Morning Star Rising Sun Lodge, and Ukraine's Kitchen in Edmonton - the first Ukrainian kitchen in Canada run entirely by newcomers who fled the war in Ukraine.

FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP



Lieutenant Governor Lakhani often welcomes members of the Consular Corps for courtesy calls and also greets international dignitaries as the highest ranking position in the province of Alberta. Recent courtesy calls included meeting the Ambassadors from Qatar, the Philippines (*right*), and Kosovo (*left*), and the Consul General of Vietnam. In November, Her Honour hosted a Consular Corps luncheon in Calgary (*centre*) to get to know those members representing countries all over the world who live and work in Alberta.