



UPDATE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA

MARCH TO AUGUST 2026

MESSAGE FROM LT. GOV. LAKHANI



The summer of 2026 marked an important milestone as the province commemorated the 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 6, starting with a memorable June gathering in Fort Battleford, Saskatchewan. It is essential that all of us who call this beautiful country home recognize that we are all Treaty people. Treaty relations remain an essential part of the Crown in Canada, and it is both my privilege and duty to honour this commitment.



Her Honour with the new Canadians who took their oath of citizenship during a ceremony in Calgary on August 13..

As the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, I frequently accept invitations to speak at university convocations and awards presentations honouring volunteers and human rights champions. But I especially enjoy the opportunity to attend citizenship ceremonies.

These ceremonies are always emotional: they are the culmination of a long process that often takes years to complete. Along with marriage and childbirth, it is an event that fundamentally changes your life and your identity. Whatever nationality you were born into, now you are a Canadian. But we do not ask you to leave your old identity behind—on the contrary, the health of our democracy relies on the regular introduction of fresh ideas and perspectives which enrich and even challenge our current way of doing things. Newcomers: I welcome you all to your new home.

Shakhani
The Honourable Salma Lakhani
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



Her Excellency Louise Arbour during her June investiture ceremony in Ottawa.

LOUISE ARBOUR BECOMES HEAD OF CANADA'S VICE-REGAL FAMILY

On June 8, Her Honour was in Ottawa, along with her vice-regal counterparts from across the country, to attend the ceremony installing Her Excellency The Right Honourable Louise Arbour as the 31st Governor General of Canada. Her new position caps an extraordinary career of public service, which includes distinguished stints as a justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

During her installation speech, Her Excellency praised her predecessor, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, and pledged to honour her commitment to education, human rights, and Indigenous reconciliation—all principles that Her Honour has also championed. Her Honour offered the new Governor General warm congratulations: "May your tenure be marked by wisdom, integrity, and a deep commitment to serving all Canadians."



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One of the pillars of Her Honour's tenure has been 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 all year round, 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 interview Her Honour: St. Paul Elementary, Holy Child School (*top left*), Rainbow Lake School, Westglen School, Mary Hanley Catholic Elementary, Grace Martin School, Kitscoty School, and Elmer G. Gish School, where one talented young student presented Her Honour with a copy of *Friends, Not Foes!*, an anti-bullying picture book that draws upon her own experiences with racial discrimination. She also received a pair of visits from groups of kids attending Grade 9 classes at Grandview Heights (*centre left*).

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



Her Honour recognized the work of several outstanding young people in the classroom as well as the community: in July, she presented Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Citizenship Medallions to ten post-secondary students who have had a notably positive impact upon their school or community; and in May, nine students who have demonstrated perseverance and strength of character in their academic pursuits received ASBA Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Awards.

Her Honour expressed her belief in the power of education during her remarks at the University of Alberta's Winter Convocation and the spring commencement ceremony at Old Scona Academic High School. In April, she delivered the keynote address at a conference of the Alberta Teachers Institute and in May, she sat down with the presidents of comprehensive community colleges from across the province to discuss the future of education in Alberta and challenges that might await students, teachers and administrators alike (*bottom left*).



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 grants Royal Assent to bills brought forward by the Legislative Assembly and signs Orders in Council. Her Honour also presided over the swearing-in of two new Cabinet members in May (*bottom left*), and spoke during an event that same month to commemorate the official portraits of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, which now hang at the QEII Building in Edmonton (*bottom right*). She was especially pleased to bring greetings during the Alberta Day celebrations at the Legislature Grounds on August 30.



CELEBRATING AMAZING ALBERTANS

Her Honour appeared at several award ceremonies across the province to honour outstanding Albertans. Some of these awards are supported by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, including the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards (*bottom left*), which this year recognized 11 emerging artists in fields ranging from visual arts to puppetry to hip-hop and R&B music. She also presented the University of Alberta's Canadian Business Leader Award to Gord Johnston, the longtime Stantec executive who got his start as a graduate of the U of A's Faculty of Engineering, and participated in ceremonies for the TRUE Awards, the Calgary Police Service's Chief's Awards, the AGM of the Edmonton Food Bank, the Ingenious+ Awards, the YWCA's Women of Distinction, and the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, as well as the investiture and award ceremony of the Order of St. John and an event presenting Exemplary Service Medals to paramedics who have reached career milestones.

Her Honour attended the kickoff of National Volunteer Week, the St. Albert Salvation Army's BRAVE event, and the Glenrose Hospital Foundations' Courage Gala, and joined the Right Honourable Louise Arbour at the Special Olympics Summer Games in Medicine Hat. In March, she attended a dinner at the University of Alberta awarding an honorary degree to the pioneering computer scientist Dr. Richard Sutton (*top right*), and in June she appeared at a career retrospective in honour of Pilar Martinez, the outgoing CEO of the Edmonton Public Library. In August, she presented the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers to Cornelis de Boon (*bottom right*) in recognition of his longstanding support of Albertans in need.



HONOURING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Lieutenant Governor is dedicated to engaging with and gaining insights from the diverse Indigenous communities in Alberta. She holds frequent meetings with Indigenous leaders and organizations to better understand and appreciate the initiatives they are involved in.

During the last six months, Her Honour attended a Red Dress Day event at NorQuest College (*bottom left*), a National Indigenous People's Day celebrations at Bent Arrow (*bottom centre*), as well as several events to mark the 150th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 6 at Edmonton City Hall, Enoch Cree Nation (*bottom right*), and Fort Battleford, SK. Her interest in education was on display during her appearance at the Alberta School Boards Association's Indigenous Student Awards and again at a large gathering of educators and administrators in April to discuss various approaches towards putting the principles of reconciliation into action in Alberta's school system.



Alberta is home to countless festivals, galas, and celebrations, all of which allow Lt. Gov. Lakhani to connect with the province's many diverse communities.

Her Honour has close connections with Alberta's ethnic communities, and over the last six months she attended the Indo-Canadian Women's Association's event for International Women's Day, the Vaisakhi ceremony at the Alberta Legislature Building, the Journey of the Horse exhibit about early Chinese immigrants to Canada as part of Asian Heritage Month, the Newcomer Centre's Plum Blossom Lunch (*top right*) and a celebration of the Centre's 45th anniversary, as well as hosting an Iftar dinner in conjunction with the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities and the Edmonton Food Bank. (She also attended the City of Edmonton's own Iftar event the following night.) Her Honour is also a passionate supporter of *The Shoe Project*, an annual theatrical presentation that empowers women to share their stories of immigrating to Canada, and attended several performances and promotional events (*centre right*).

That was far from the only event amplifying women's voices that Her Honour attended since March: she also spoke at the SHE Leads brunch, the 60th anniversary luncheon of the Edmonton Women's Medical Club, and the International Women's Forum "Canada Connects" conference, and delivered a keynote address to at an event organized by Cooperators' Enterprise Women's Employee Resources Group. She also visited Jessie's House to meet the staff of the Jessica Martel Memorial Foundation, which provides resources to victims of domestic violence.

Her schedule also found room to host an event marking the centennial anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion and make appearances at the HIV Edmonton gala, the Canadian Association of Police Governance banquet, the Rotary Club of Edmonton's 70th anniversary dinner, the Grand Highland Military Ball, the Glenrose Hospital Foundation's Courage Gala, Military Family Day at Spruce Meadows, the ECMC's "Compassion in Action" blood drive, and the Cold Lake Air Show.

And of course, she donned her cowboy hat and spent a few days at the Calgary Stampede, enjoying the parade and various pancake breakfasts and receptions. She visited one of her favourite annual events, Edmonton's Heritage Festival, and cheered on Team Canada as they took on Uzbekistan in one of the exhibition soccer games held as part of the buildup to the FIFA World Cup (*bottom right*).



FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP



As the highest-ranking individual in Alberta, Lt. Gov. Lakhani is often called upon to greet international dignitaries and welcome members of the Consular Corps for courtesy calls. Recent such ambassadorial visitors include Andrii Plakhotniuk (Ukraine), Genevieve Tuts (EU, *top left*), Jean Claude Kugener (Luxembourg), Ki-mo Lim (South Korea), and Muhsin Syihab (Indonesia), as well as Prof. Dora Francisca Edu-Buandoh, the High Commissioner of Ghana (*top centre*). She also expressed her gratitude towards Canada's diplomatic corps during the Edmonton Consular Corps Ball (*top right*).



Her Honour enjoys a sunny Canada Day morning at the annual pancake breakfast on the Legislature Grounds.



Her Honour greets His Highness the Aga Khan upon his arrival in Calgary for his first visit to Western Canada.



Her Honour helps mark the 75th anniversary of the 533 Sabre Squadron of Air Cadets in St. Albert.



Her Honour enjoys Military Family Day at Spruce Meadows. The event included a rousing Feu de Joie and the Queen Elizabeth II Cup equestrian competition.



Her Honour visits the Vietnamese Cultural Society's exhibit "Where We Came From (and where we go from here)". about the Vietnamese immigrant experience.



Their Honours cheer on the competitors at a gymnastics competition at the Special Olympics in Medicine Hat.