



UPDATE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA

SEPTEMBER 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2025

MESSAGE FROM LT. GOV. LAKHANI



Her Honour at the Alberta Immigrant Impact Awards

Alberta is home to a rich diversity of cultural and ethnic organizations, and in my role as Lieutenant Governor, I am invited to attend award ceremony dinners and cultural celebrations hosted by many of them. Some of my most pleasant memories from the last six months are associated with these events, from the Diwali celebration, to the ringing in of the Chinese Lunar New Year, to a delicious “Oplatek” dinner prepared by the Canadian Polish Congress Alberta Society.

Despite the variety of cultures represented at these gatherings, everyone I speak to shares the same deep sense of pride in being Canadian. Invariably, every group has expressed the same desire for unity, even in an age that seems increasingly characterized by discord. I see an Alberta that still believes there is more that unites us than divides us.

Yes, the values that bind us need to be vigilantly protected. Just like the strong thread that holds together the individual and separate beads of a rosary, it is our collective respect for our common values that binds us. Those values include our respect for human rights, and our sense of collective responsibility for those who are disadvantaged economically or in any other respect.

In many of my speeches, I have made reference to the African concept of “Ubuntu,” or “I am because we are,” an expression that alludes to our communal responsibility to look after the weakest among us. In lifting up those in need of support, we strengthen all of us. Let us remain united in our commitments to the Canadian values that have made us the envy of the world. To quote the words of the Right Honourable David Johnston: “In a world that has lost its moorings, Canada can be the anchor.”

Shakhani

The Honourable Salma Lakhani
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



Their Honours with the 2024 inductees into the Alberta Order of Excellence.

ALBERTA’S BEST AND BRIGHTEST: THE ALBERTA ORDER OF EXCELLENCE

Eight distinguished Albertans were inducted into the Alberta Order of Excellence during a ceremony at Government House in October 2024. Don Begg, Will Ferguson, Robert Foster, Catherine Fraser, Stephen Mandel, Kim Ruether, Nancy Southern and Garnette Sutherland were all on hand to receive their honours and the thanks of the Lieutenant Governor for their contributions to the province. “Their willingness,” she said in her speech, “to use their talents and influence to combat injustice, fight disease, support the arts and foster prosperity reminds us that life’s greatest rewards come from focusing less on ourselves and more on helping our fellow Albertans to learn, grow and succeed.”



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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 interview Her Honour at her official suite or at the SATL classroom across the plaza from the Legislature Building: Eleanor Hall School, St. Teresa of Calcutta School, Ecole Frere Antoine School, Blair McPherson School, Kitscoty School, Greenfield School, St. Martin Catholic Elementary, Florence School, Hallock School, George P. Nicholson School, Isabel Campbell School, St. Benedict Elementary, St. Paul School, and Dovercourt School.



The visit with the students from Dovercourt coincided with the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Canadian maple leaf flag and to mark the occasion, the students created a "Living Flag" (middle).

Her Honour was also invited to stop by in person to learn from students at several schools, including Glenora School, Sister Alphonse School, Brightview School, and St. Albert Catholic High School. She also travelled north to meet the staff and students at Mistassiniy School in Wabasca (bottom).



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

Lt. Gov. Lakhani has a Bachelor of Science degree, and so was eager to attend the BRAIN Conference on Neuroscience at Augustana College's Camrose campus, as well as the National High School Data Analysis and AI Challenge for Sustainable Development, encouraging the next generation of scientists.

Her Honour also takes an interest in promoting post-secondary education, attending the 100th anniversary of the University of Alberta's Department of Medicine, and the convocation ceremonies at Bow Valley College and the University of Alberta.

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. In October, Her Honour welcomed Mary Simon, the Governor General of Canada, to Government House as part of her official visit to Alberta (below left). While there, Her Honour and the Governor General participated in a morning meeting on economic reconciliation. Later that afternoon, Her Honour was present as the Governor General invested seven remarkable Albertans--Jodi Abbott, Michael Massey, Beverly Lemire, Glen Baker, Louis Francescutti, Javaid Naqvi, and Vickie Baracos--into the Order of Canada (below right).



CELEBRATING AMAZING ALBERTANS

Her Honour is always thrilled to present awards to deserving citizens of all ages in a wide range of categories.

In a series of ceremonies in Edmonton and Calgary, she presented King Charles III Coronation Medals (*right*) to dozens of Albertans ranging from former premiers to behind-the-scenes volunteers whose work enormously benefits their community.

Over the past six months, various award ceremonies took place across the province, including: the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights Awards; the Order of St. John; the Order of St. George; the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards; the Alberta Immigrant Impact Awards; the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association Awards; the Heritage Calgary Awards (*bottom left*); the Canadian Forces Liaison Council Award; and the Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards (*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 holds frequent meetings with Indigenous leaders and organizations to understand and appreciate the initiatives they are involved in.

Between September and February, Her Honour attended these events and ceremonies: Truth and Reconciliation Day ceremonies at Bent Arrow and the Alberta Legislature Grounds, Indigenous Veterans Day (*bottom left*), the IKWC First Nations Educators Conference, the Native Counselling Services of Alberta's annual banquet, a meeting with Indigenous leaders at Government House, and a visit to the Aboriginal Friendship Centre's Elder's Lodge and One Stop Crossing in Bragg Creek (*bottom middle*).

The Lieutenant Governor also met with academics and Indigenous leaders Josephine Naicker and Dr. Teena Starlight in October to discuss the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, and possible paths to recognize noteworthy members of the Indigenous community (*bottom right*).



ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Alberta is home to countless festivals, galas, celebrations, and conferences, which provide an excellent way for Lt. Gov. Lakhani to connect with the province's diverse communities.

Lt. Gov. Lakhani was invited to take part in or speak at: Canadians for a Civil Society's 2024 Daughter's Day event; the launch of the Alberta Lung Association's 85th Holiday Campaign; the unveiling of NorQuest College's "Wall of Fame"; the annual award ceremony for the Royal Lifesaving Society; the book launch for *Exposing Exploitation*, Andrea Heinz and Kathy King's about abuse within the commercial sex industry; the Glenrose Hospital Foundation's "Courage Awards"; a Diwali celebration sponsored by MLA Muhammad Yaseen (*top right*); the 2024 Baskets of Hope benefit for WIN House; a reception for the Royal Over-Seas League; a luncheon to mark National Philanthropy Day; the 40th anniversary gala for the Festival of Trees; a ceremony at the Alberta Legislature in honour of International Day of Persons with Disabilities; the YWCA Rose Breakfast; the Canadian Polish Congress Alberta Society's Oplatek dinner; the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce's annual Chamber Ball; the opening ceremonies of the Ethnik Festival; and a ceremony commemorating Black History Month at the Alberta Legislature.



In October, Her Honour travelled to Jasper to meet with and hear the stories of members of the community whose lives and home had been affected by the devastating wildfire outbreak, as well as the firefighters and other first responders who bravely leapt into action to mitigate the effects of the tragedy (*middle right*).



The holiday season was a busy time for the Lieutenant Governor, who participated in the Legislature Light-Up event, attended the Boyle Street Education Centre's holiday dinner, and welcomed in the Lunar New Year during an extravaganza at West Edmonton Mall. Her Honour also hosted her own traditional holiday events: a holiday open house at her residence, and the New Year's Levee at Government House--an event that is always one of the most anticipated, best-attended and cheeriest dates on her calendar (*bottom right*).



Her Honour hosted events at Government House and the Queen Elizabeth II Building including the annual Government House Christmas tea, a celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Sir Winston Churchill Society, the Canadian Regional Parliamentarian Seminar, and a ceremony recognizing recipients of True Awards, which are administered by the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction.

Military and uniformed services events included: the First Poppy presentation, the No Stone Left Alone ceremony and the fundraising "Dance to Remember" event, the Field of Crosses/Night of Lights, the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Alberta Legislature, a visit to officers at Metawa Armoury, and a visit to the Veterans' Food Bank, where Her Honour shared coffee with a group of veterans and contributed items for the food bank.

FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP



As the highest-ranking individual in Alberta, Lieutenant Governor Lakhani is often called upon to welcome members of the Consular Corps for courtesy calls and also greets international dignitaries. Recent courtesy calls included meeting the Ambassadors from Germany and Spain, and the consuls general of Hungary, Switzerland (*right*), the Czech Republic, the Philippines, the Netherlands, and Japan. In September, she hosted a reception for Kim Jin Tae, the governor of Gangwon, Korea (*left*). The Lieutenant Governor also celebrated British Day with the British Consulate General, attended a Spring Festival reception with the Chinese consul general, and joined the birthday celebration for the Empress of Japan (*middle*).



Their Honours with Margaret Atwood at her talk on Democracy, Public Education and the Common Good



Her Honour hosting the Christmas Tea at Government House



With the recipients of the John Humphrey Centre's 2024 Human Rights Awards



Presenting King Charles III Coronation Medals at MacDougall Centre



26th Annual Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day



At the Christmas Tree Light-Up at the Alberta Legislature