



UPDATE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA SEPTEMBER 2022 TO FEBRUARY 2023

MARKING A WATERSHED MOMENT IN CANADIAN HISTORY



Queen Elizabeth II at Government House in Edmonton during the 2005 Royal Tour to mark the Alberta Centennial.

September 8, 2022 was a watershed moment in our history, as Canadians joined with people around the world in marking the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Queen Elizabeth lived a life of selfless service, standing as a model of strength and stability, and navigating decades of challenge and change with compassion, grace and dignity. Although our world transformed in countless ways over the course of her reign, she never lost sight of her duties or her principles. We also know that she had a fondness for our province and country, and that special connection was reflected in the outpouring of memories, tributes and expressions of gratitude that we offered following her death.

Remembrance in Alberta took many forms. Countless people signed books of condolence in person and online, touching memorial ceremonies took place on the steps of the Legislature and at Anglican churches in Edmonton and Calgary, and the Edmonton Federal Building on the Legislature grounds was renamed the Queen Elizabeth II Building in her honour. Platinum Jubilee Medal ceremonies also continued across Alberta in tribute to her extraordinary legacy.

As part of her 2005 address to the Legislature during the Royal Tour to mark Alberta's Centennial, Queen Elizabeth said, "I want the Crown in Canada to represent everything that is best and most admired in the Canadian ideal. I will continue to do my best to make it so during my lifetime, and I hope you will all continue to give me your help in this task...as together we continue to build a country that remains the envy of the world." Albertans from every corner of the province, and from all walks of life, helped to make this ideal a reality through the decades, and we can all take comfort in knowing that the journey continues with His Majesty King Charles III.

I am deeply honoured to serve as His Majesty's representative in Alberta, and to be a part of the essential, ongoing role that the Crown plays in our system of government and our country as a whole. While His Majesty became Monarch immediately upon the death of Queen Elizabeth, the official Coronation ceremony and related festivities will take place in early May. I know that Albertans will embrace this opportunity to celebrate the King and the continuity of a tradition that sits at the heart of who we are as Canadians.

Shakhani

*The Honourable Salma Lakhani
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta*



Alberta held a memorial for Queen Elizabeth II at the Legislature on September 19.

Platinum Jubilee Medals and Community Events

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Platinum Jubilee Medal initiatives and ceremonies continued across Alberta in tribute to her extraordinary legacy.

The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal was presented to 7000 Albertans over the course of the program, in recognition of exemplary citizenship and dedicated service in a wide range of fields of endeavour.

Lieutenant Governor Lakhani hosted numerous medal presentation ceremonies in Edmonton and Calgary and had the pleasure of taking part in ceremonies hosted by: YW Calgary, the Indian Society of Calgary, Treaty 6 Chiefs, the Order of St. John, the Edmonton Centre for Newcomers, the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, the Canada West Foundation, the Alberta Order of Excellence members, RCMP K Division, Calgary Police Service, and numerous members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Her Honour also took part in Platinum Jubilee tree planting events with Royal Canadian Air Cadets at Carewest Colonel Belcher in Calgary and students from Glenora School in Edmonton; celebrated Queen Elizabeth's legacy with Cadets from across Alberta at a Tri Service Cadet Platinum Jubilee Ball in Calgary; and learned from young Canadians at Queen Elizabeth Scholars Symposium in Edmonton hosted by the Right Honourable David Johnston and the Rideau Hall Foundation.



The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) was presented to 7000 deserving Albertans during the Jubilee year.



Her Honour hosted many Platinum Jubilee Medal ceremonies at Government House in Edmonton and McDougall Centre in Calgary



Students at Glenora School in Edmonton plant a tree in honour of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee.



Her Honour learns from presenters at the Queen Elizabeth Scholars Symposium on October 24, 2022.

ALBERTANS GIVING BACK

As the world continued to return to in-person events and celebrations, Lieutenant Governor Lakhani enjoyed many opportunities to recognize those who share their time and talents in the service of others.

Award and milestone celebrations over the past six months included: a 40th anniversary celebration with the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association, the John Humphrey Centre's Human Rights Awards, the annual Lifesaving Society Investiture, the Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame investiture ceremony, the Alberta Order of Excellence investiture ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor's Circle on Mental Health and Addiction True Awards, the first annual South Asian Inspiration Awards in Calgary, and Edmonton's annual Daughter's Day celebration.



Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association on September 29, 2022.



Her Honour cuts a ribbon at the Love With Humanity opening celebration in Calgary.



Her Honour and True Award recipients on October 27, 2022.

Her Honour was also pleased to take part in numerous community events to learn about and celebrate grassroots initiatives led by hardworking and caring Alberta volunteers. Examples include: the annual summer opening of Calgary's Love with Humanity outdoor programs, a Ride For A Woman event in Edmonton, a tea in support of the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre, a reception in support of SOS Children's Village, and the University Hospital's annual Festival of Trees.

EDUCATION



Meeting with students from St. Kateri School.



Read-in Week at St. Mark's on October 7, 2022.

The Lieutenant Governor is an ardent supporter of education in all forms, and for people at every age and at every point of their life's journey.

Her Honour participates in the School at the Legislature program, meeting with Grade 6 classes as part of their studies on the Canadian system of government. Recent visits included: École Frère Antoine, Anne Fitzgerald, St. Kateri, St. John Bosco, and Tipaskan Schools from Edmonton; Eleanor Hall School from Clyde; École des Quatre-Vents from Peace River; and Richard S. Fowler Junior High from St. Albert. Her Honour also enjoyed virtual visits with classes from Davidson Creek Elementary in Sherwood Park and Prince of Wales School in Calgary, and stopped by in person to learn from students at Youngstown School in Edmonton. She visited Steinhauer and St. Mark's Schools for Read-In Week.

Teachers interested in arranging a class visit can contact the office at ltgov@gov.ab.ca.

Other education events over the past six months included: attending the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta annual Lois Hole Dinner and the Alberta School Boards Association Fall General meeting and Awards; taking part in a Humanities 101 class at Wings of Providence and a Walls to Bridges Graduation Ceremony at the Edmonton Institution; and installing new Presidents at St. Mary's University and Red Deer Polytechnic, and the new Chancellor at the University of Calgary.

Her Honour also was on hand for a celebration to mark a new agreement between the University of Alberta and Aga Khan University, and met with teachers from across the province for the Alberta Teachers Institute on Parliamentary Democracy.



St. John Bosco students helped created a living flag to celebrate National Flag of Canada Day on February 15, 2023.

HONOURING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Lieutenant Governor is deeply committed to meeting with and learning from all First People. She regularly meets with Indigenous leaders, groups, and organizations to hear about the work they are doing.

Her Honour also took part in a number of special events with Indigenous community members, including: the announcement of a new Reconciliation Garden at the Alberta Legislature, the City of Calgary's Truth and Reconciliation Orange Shirt Day Event, the Every Child Matters Traditional Powwow Hosted by Siksika Health Services, and the Metis Nation of Alberta's Louis Riel Day commemoration at the Legislature Building.



Meeting with women who are leading the Creating Hope Society, October 13, 2022.



Their Honours at an Orange Shirt Day event in Calgary on September 30, 2022.



Attending the Metis Nation of Alberta's Louis Riel Commemoration on November 16, 2022.

REMEMBERING FALLEN HEROES

The Lieutenant Governor attends events with the military and Alberta’s uniformed services on a regular basis, including for annual Remembrance week events and ceremonies.

On September 25, 2022, Her Honour attended the annual Alberta Police and Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony on the grounds of the Alberta Legislature.

Remembrance week events included receiving the first poppy from the AB NWT Legion Command on October 27 to officially kick-off Alberta activities. Her Honour also attended the annual No Stone Left Alone ceremony at Beechmount Cemetery in Edmonton, the Aboriginal Veterans Remembrance Ceremony at the Legislature, the Field of Crosses Night of Lights in Calgary, and a Remembrance Day ceremony held at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.



Placing poppies on veterans’ graves at the No Stone Left Alone ceremony on November 7.



The Lieutenant Governor with Royal Canadian Sea Cadet members on Remembrance Day.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS



Members of the Vice-Regal Escort joined Their Honours in greeting guests at the New Year’s Day Levee at Government House.

With the greater return to in-person events, Her Honour had the tremendous pleasure of hosting her first New Year’s Day levee. Guests of all ages took the time to say happy new year, take in wonderful art and architecture of Government House, and enjoy music and treats.

Other community celebrations through the fall included: Alberta Days activities, a reception with the Alberta Association of Former MLAs, an event for Transgender Day of Remembrance, and the annual lighting of the Menorah on the grounds of the Legislature to mark the start of Hanukkah.

Events in early 2023 have included: a screening of *Thrown Into Canada: the Settlement of Asian Refugees from Uganda*, Lunar New Year celebrations, Black History Month events, and the Edmonton Opera’s Valentine Gala.

CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES



Inspecting the guard during ceremonies to mark the Opening of Session at the Alberta Legislature on November 29, 2022.

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 swore-in Danielle Smith as the 19th Premier of Alberta on October 11 and swore-in the new members of Cabinet on October 24. She also read the Speech from the Throne to open the Legislature Session, granted Royal Assent to bills brought forward by the Assembly, signed Orders in Council, and took part in the unveiling of the Legislature portrait of former Premier Rachel Notley on December 8.

FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

Her Honour often welcomes members of the Consular Corps for courtesy calls and also greets international dignitaries visiting Alberta.

On September 28, 2022, the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to welcome Princess Zahra Aga Khan to Edmonton to mark the opening of the new Diwan in the Aga Khan Garden at the University of Alberta Botanical Garden. The Princess also attended a luncheon in her honour at Government House.

Her Honour attended a special evening on February 17, 2023 to mark the birthday of His Highness the Emperor of Japan, hosted by the Consul General of Japan in Calgary and attended by a wide range of community leaders. She also enjoyed courtesy calls with the Ambassador of El Salvador, the British Consul General, the Ambassador of the United States to Canada and US Consul General, and the Honourary Consul of Sweden.



Her Honour with Princess Zahra Aga Khan at the University of Alberta Botanical Garden.



Their Honours at the Emperor of Japan’s Birthday celebration in Calgary on February 17, 2023.



Her Honour with His Excellency David Cohen and US Consul General Holly Waeger Monster.