



CELEBRATING ALBERTANS’ SERVICE, STRENGTH AND SPIRIT



Delivering the Speech from the Throne, Feb. 22, 2022

The pandemic has been challenging for us all, and I am very proud of the strength and community spirit that Albertans have continued to share with one another. Every day in this role, I have the honour of meeting inspiring leaders of all ages, sectors and walks of life. Their commitment to shaping strong and caring communities gives me energy and hope. This update on my vice-regal journey to date reflects on the people I have met over the past six months and the great service and citizenship that I have the privilege of celebrating in this role.

In addition to ceremonial and social activities like those listed here, my responsibilities as a Crown representative include core constitutional duties, such as delivering the Speech from the Throne to open a new Session of the Legislative Assembly, which I did for the first time in late February. Other duties included Swearing-in Cabinet members, granting Royal Assent and signing Orders-in-Council.



One of my most precious roles as the Queen’s representative is fostering reconciliation. This includes supporting our Indigenous communities as they face the heartbreaking recovery of residential school graves. It is

heartening to see my fellow Albertans embracing this essential process, including the strong participation we saw for National Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30. In recent months, I have been privileged to learn from Indigenous leaders of all ages, including: meeting with Elders and leaders at Calgary’s Aboriginal Friendship Centre, joining in the Edmonton film premiere of *Returning Home*, hosting a Conversation on Reconciliation, and having one-on-one conversations with Elders.

This year holds special significance for the Crown as we celebrate Her Majesty’s 70 years as Sovereign. My husband Zaheer and I unfurled Canada’s Platinum Jubilee Flag at Government House in Edmonton on February 6, and are looking forward to upcoming celebrations, which will feature ample opportunities to honour our Queen and to celebrate the best of our Canadian spirit.

Her Honour the Honourable Salma Lakhani
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



Police and Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony on the Legislature grounds Sept. 26, 2021

Honouring Service and Sacrifice

The past months have offered many opportunities to recognize the essential contributions of Albertans in uniform and all those who serve on the frontlines.

Remembrance

The Lieutenant Governor attended ceremonies and events throughout the fall months to honour the fallen, including the Police and Peace Officers Memorial, First Poppy Presentation, No Stone Left Alone Ceremony, Indigenous Veterans Remembrance Ceremony, a Field of Crosses starlight ceremony in Calgary and the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Kingsway Legion in Edmonton.

Her Honour appreciated opportunities to support Alberta’s men and women in uniform at Opening Ceremonies for the Edmonton Veterans Food Bank and the Regimental Awards and Banquet for the Alberta Association of Community Police Officers.



Field of Crosses Star of Nights Ceremony



Honouring our frontline heroes

Alberta’s frontline workers have gone above and beyond throughout the pandemic. A September visit to an Edmonton Vaccination Clinic was an opportunity to recognize and thank our health care heroes.

Recognizing Outstanding Albertans

In keeping with pandemic restrictions, Her Honour joined in small in-person and virtual ceremonies recognizing remarkable Albertans, including the: Order of St. John Investiture and Awards, Alberta Order of Excellence 2020/21 Investitures, Lt. Governor’s Leadership for Active Communities Awards, and Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards.



Alberta Order of Excellence 2021 Ceremony

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Her Honour took part in a wide range of community events, both virtually and in person over the past six months.

Celebrations hosted by Honourary patronage organizations included a Calgary reception with the Royal Overseas League and a virtual event for Institute for Stuttering Treatment and Research (ISTAR) participants to present speeches at the end of their program.

Events to celebrate diversity and pluralism included: a Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day flag raising ceremony, a celebration of Polish Settlement in Alberta, an on-air chat to mark the 1st anniversary of MyRadio580, Global Ismaili CIVIC Day 2021, a Diwali celebration, a Lunar New Year celebration, Black History Month celebrations and a digital anti-racism workshop hosted by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women and Edmonton Interfaith Centre.

Gatherings focused on recognizing community service included the Boys & Girls Club, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Edmonton virtual AGM, and United Way kick off and Red Feather events.

Celebrations of Canadian spirit, traditions and citizenship included: the ATCO Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Spruce Meadows, a virtual Institute for Canadian Citizenship Ceremony, and cheering Team Canada at the World Cup Qualifiers in Edmonton.



Canadian Citizenship Ceremony October 2021



Their Honours at the World Cup Qualifiers



Her Honour with OG Jonah at a Black History Month event

MEETING WITH ALBERTANS

Her Honour maintains a busy schedule of virtual and in-person meetings with a wide range of individuals and organizations and greatly appreciates every opportunity to learn about the important work taking place across the province. Recent activities include visits to: the Edmonton Mustard Seed, YESS Edmonton (Youth Empowerment and Support Services), the Stanley A. Milner Library, the Royal Alberta Museum, and a tour of the City of St. Albert. She also met with leaders from organizations such as the Homes for Heroes Foundation, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, Frontier College, and YMCA Northern Alberta. Calling or meeting with Alberta mayors to learn about their communities is an ongoing part of Her Honour’s regular schedule and she has connected with dozens since her tenure began.



Her Honour with Banff Mayor DiManno and Alberta Senator Laboucane-Benson



Lt. Governor and Dr. Lakhani in St. Albert



Touring Edmonton’s new Stanley A. Milner Library with CEO Pilar Martinez



During a trip to Banff, Her Honour met representatives from the Coaldale-based Alberta Birds of Prey Foundation, who guided her through a meeting with great horned owl “Gordon.”

Learning



Visits with Kitscoty School (top) and Our Lady of the Prairies

One of the Lieutenant Governor’s favorite activities is meeting with Alberta classrooms, through the School at the Legislature Program and visits arranged through her office. The visits have been virtual due to the pandemic, but Her Honour looks forward to meeting with classrooms in person one day soon. Recent visits included:

Southern Alberta: Brant Christian School in Lethbridge, Kitscoty School, and Nickel School in Calgary.

Central Alberta: Normandeau School in Red Deer, and Edmonton’s Steinhauer School, Grace Martin Elementary, A. Blair McPherson School, Balwin School, École Frère Antoine and Our Lady of the Prairies; and Ronald Harvey Elementary School in St. Albert.

Northern Alberta: Bonanza School and Good Shepherd School in Peace River.

Teachers interested in arranging a class visit can contact the office at ltgov@gov.ab.ca. While School at the Legislature is designed for Gr. 6, Her Honour welcomes meeting with students of all ages.

On November 14, Her Honour attended the Alberta School Boards Association’s Fall General Meeting and Awards, where the organization announced they will be developing a new Lieutenant Governor’s Award for students who have made significant progress in their learning journey. The Association will announce details in the coming months.



Alberta School Board Assn. event in Edmonton