



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA MARCH TO AUGUST 2022 UPDATE

AN ONGOING JOURNEY OF GRATITUDE, LEARNING, AND CELEBRATION



Their Honours with Chief Wilton Littlechild and Helen Littlechild at the open air mass in Edmonton during the Pope's visit (July 26, 2022).

The July visit to Canada and 'pilgrimage of penance' by His Holiness Pope Francis was a significant moment. I was honoured to meet His Holiness, and spend time with Indigenous leaders and residential school survivors during events in Edmonton and Lac Ste Anne. I hope that this milestone brought healing and comfort to those who are suffering and I remain committed to walking alongside Indigenous communities through the ongoing process of healing and of building greater understanding among us all.



Meeting elders at Calgary's Aboriginal Friendship Centre.

My journey of learning includes a recent visit to the Kapawe'no First Nation in Grouard to meet with community members and explore the great work taking place there. Zaheer and I also toured the Indigenous People's Experience at Fort Edmonton, which offers a thought-provoking and engaging learning opportunity. On July 1, we were at Edmonton's Baitul Hadi Mosque for a celebration of fellowship welcoming people of all faiths and cultures, including Indigenous community members, and we took part in Calgary Stampede events with wonderful elements of Indigenous and cross-cultural learning. This spring I also helped celebrate the Newcomers Indigenous Education program offered by the Calgary Centre for Newcomers.

These are just a few of the thoughtful gestures of reconciliation and multicultural fellowship I have been most grateful to witness as Lieutenant Governor. I am constantly reminded that there is room for each of us – settlers and Indigenous people alike – to play an active role in sharing our respective strengths and in charting a path forward that brings us closer to the promise of what we can achieve and who we can be together as a people.

Shakhani

*The Honourable Salma Lakhani
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta*



Royal Canadian Artillery Band performs at a Platinum Jubilee garden party on the Government House grounds (June 4, 2022)

Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

June 2022 marked a momentous occasion – Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne. On June 4th, Her Honour hosted a public Garden Party on the grounds at Government House where there were performances from the Royal Canadian Artillery Band, Indigenous dancers and drummers from Maskwacis, and the Jivin' Belles, an a cappella trio. Guests enjoyed cake, lemonade, and special Platinum Jubilee pins and custom cookies (pictured right).



Her Honour cuts a celebratory Platinum Jubilee cake at the reception attended by community leaders and patronage groups.

Her Honour hosted a small Platinum Jubilee reception for patronage groups and community leaders on June 2nd. The gathering at Government House celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years as monarch with a Loyal Toast and cake to mark this significant milestone. Her Honour remarked: *"The Queen has shared her tremendous courage and strength with us through challenging times, encouraging us to contribute our best to the ongoing work of building our communities."*



Indigenous dancers and drummers from Maskwacis perform at the Platinum Jubilee Garden Party.



Her Honour presented Chief Justice Catherine Fraser with the Alberta Platinum Jubilee medal.

On July 29, Her Honour presented Chief Justice Catherine Fraser the Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal. This was the last official event for Chief Justice, after 30 extraordinary years in the role. Thank you for your valued service to the province of Alberta!

7000 Albertans will receive the Platinum Jubilee medal. For more information about this provincial medal program, please visit: <https://www.alberta.ca/queens-platinum-jubilee-medal.aspx>

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

This spring and summer, Her Honour was very busy attending community events across Alberta.

Celebrations hosted by Honourary patronage organizations included: the Lt. Governor of Alberta Arts Awards in Lac La Biche recognizing Emerging and Distinguished artists, Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards, Order of St. John Investiture, Churchill Society's annual dinner, Lifesaving Society's World Drowning Prevention Day, and Their Honours being inducted as Honourary Patrons of the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation.

Events to celebrate diversity and pluralism included: a flag raising ceremony for Alberta Francophonie Month, Flying Canoe Festival, Children of Islamic Nations annual dinner, Hong Kong Business Association spring festival gala, Heritage Days in Edmonton, and a special Iftar dinner hosted by Their Honours.

Gatherings focused on recognizing community service included: the RCMP Long Service awards, Junior Achievement Leading Ladies luncheon, Grand Highland Military Ball, Alberta Fire Chief's annual conference in Red Deer, Rotary District 5370 Conference, and Top 7 over 70 Gala in Calgary.

Celebrations of Canadian spirit, traditions and citizenship included: QE II Golden Jubilee Citizenship awards, and the ATCO Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Spruce Meadows. Their Honours also look in a full week of Calgary Stampede traditions, from the parade, to pancake breakfasts, to Pow Wow competitions and grandstand events.

Alberta's diverse and rich arts community allowed Her Honour to take in several events including: the Mosquers Film Festival, Alberta Ballet's "Phi", Shoe Project Performances in Calgary and Edmonton, a concert featuring Albertan Francophone musicians, the film launch about Dr. Ehor Gauk (*Mentoring Eternal Optimism*), National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations, and the World Music Week concert at Hawrelak Park.



LGAAA Emerging Artists with Her Honour at Portage College in Lac La Biche.



The 2022 Order of St. John Investiture ceremony at Government House marked the organization's 125th anniversary.



A June 19 performance of the Shoe Project celebrated the stories of immigrant women.



Her Honour with Ukrainian Dancers at the Stampede parade.

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 Africa Centre in Edmonton, to Edson for Rural Health Week, the Hesje Observatory at Miquelon Lake Research Station, and various events during the Papal visit.



Her Honour was presented with a ribbon skirt by O'Chiese First Nation Elder Theresa Strawberry (middle) created by Cree skirt designer Selena Moberly (left).



Her Honour at the Hesje Observatory located at the Augustana Miquelon Lake Research Station.



Their Honours met community volunteers welcoming Ukrainian refugees to Edmonton.



Their Honours touring the Galloway Station Museum & Travel Centre in Edson.

EDUCATION



Making sandwiches at City Hall with grades 1 & 2 students from Garneau School.



Her Honour meets with grade 6 students from St. Pius X during their School at the Legislature session.

Lieutenant Governor Lakhani thoroughly enjoys meeting students from classrooms all over Alberta. The School at the Legislature Program resumed to in-person sessions in the spring so Her Honour was able to share words of wisdom with the students in grade 6 who visited the Legislature Building. Students of schools that met with Her Honour included those from: Ronald Harvey, Lycee Louis Pasteur, Mary Hanley, Rideau Park, Muriel Martin, St. Pius X, Wabamun, Kensington, Father Leo Green, and Griesbach School.

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. The Edmonton City Hall School session invited Her Honour to make sandwiches with grades 1 & 2 students from Garneau School, and while on a trip to Calgary, Her Honour visited with students from Our Lady of Peace Jr. High. The U of A's U School program was something new Her Honour took part in this spring, talking to grade 4-9 students from Indigenous, rural, and socially vulnerable communities about pursuing post-secondary education.



Honouring Spirit award recipients at Government House with Lieutenant Governor Lakhani

On June 25, 12 Alberta students were recognized with 2022 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards from the Alberta School Board Association. Her Honour presented them alongside Education Minister LaGrange at the ceremony in Government House. Her Honour remarked: "I am so impressed by these 12 student recipients, who have shown exceptional leadership through their energy, positive attitude, and kindness. Each has shared the beauty and importance of their culture and remind us all of the power we each hold to inspire and encourage those around us."