



UPDATE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA

MARCH 2025 TO AUGUST 2025

MESSAGE FROM LT. GOV. LAKHANI



Her Honour shows her colours at a Canada Day pancake breakfast.

It has been said that strength lies in differences, not in similarities. I recalled those words this Canada Day as I travelled from one wonderful event to another.

My husband Zaheer and I began the day bright and early at the Legislature Grounds, where the Ismaili Muslim Council for Edmonton was hosting their customary pancake breakfast. From there, we took a stroll around the Legislature Building and the Queen Elizabeth II Plaza, where families were enjoying live music and festivities. I had the pleasure of witnessing more than 50 newcomers take their citizenship oaths and be welcomed into our Canadian family. Finally, we attended the Council of India Society of Edmonton's Canada Day celebration, yet another showcase for the strength and spirit of our province's cultural communities.

Everywhere I went, I saw happy faces representing every ethnicity and families who could trace their origins to every conceivable region of the globe, but they all came together under the same familiar Canadian flag for a day of celebration, fellowship, joy and hope.

In my role as Alberta's Lieutenant Governor, I meet many international diplomats and officials, all of whom tell me that Canada is admired around the world as a model of building strength through diversity. As someone who was born in Africa and became a stateless refugee before finding a welcoming home in Canada, I wholeheartedly agree with them. During a time of increasing political and social divisiveness, I urge all Albertans to take the lessons of Canada Day to heart and keep them alive the rest of the year as well.

The Honourable Salma Lakhani
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



Her Honour and her fellow vice-regal representatives with King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS: KING CHARLES III AND THE G7 SUMMIT

Lt. Gov. Lakhani represented Alberta at two major events this spring. She travelled to Ottawa in May to be present at the Royal Visit of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Along with the other members of the vice-regal family, Her Honour was present on the floor of the Senate during the historic Speech From the Throne, and had an opportunity to speak with the King about their mutual love for Alberta. Then, in June, Her Honour helped Canada welcome several international visitors to the province during the G7 Summit, including World Bank president Ajay Banga (*top left*), Australian prime minister Anthony Albanese (*top right*), South Korean president Lee Jae Myung (*bottom left*) and South African president Cyril Ramaphosa (*bottom right*).



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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: Michael Strembitsky School, Anne Fitzgerald Catholic Elementary School, Soraya Hafez School and École Broxton Park School. Her Honour also paid enlightening in-person visits to Erskine School and Hillview School, where she congratulated Bridget Jessome on becoming a finalist for the Edmonton Public School Board's Edwin Parr Award for outstanding first-year teachers.

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



Her Honour was delighted to attend the Honouring Spirit Student Awards (*top*), where a dozen K-12 students were recognized for their inspiring and promising leadership. In June, she awarded nine young people the Alberta School Boards Association's 2025 Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Awards. She also participated in the closing of the Alberta Girls' Parliament, an educational simulation hosted by the Girl Guides of Canada.



In 2010, Her Honour was in attendance at the inaugural meeting that launched NorQuest College's "1000 Women" initiative, which began as an emergency fund for women students in times of need. The program's ambitions have now included building a childcare centre and providing bursaries for students. This year, she hosted the initiative's 15th anniversary at her office at the Legislature Building (*middle*). She was excited to speak at NorQuest's spring convocation, praising the college's efforts on behalf of all students who attend this fine institution.

It was nearly 50 years ago that Her Honour graduated from university, and she took great pleasure in speaking at graduation ceremonies at Concordia University (*bottom*) and the University of Alberta, urging the students to make learning and public service an ongoing part of their lives.

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. As well, during a ceremony in July, she swore in the newest additions to the provincial legislature: MLAs Gurtej Brar, Naheed Nenshi, and Tara Sawyer (*left*). In June, Her Honour inspected the impressive young members of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps during their Annual Ceremony Review in Calgary. At the Feu de Joie event in July at Spruce Meadows, she inspected military troops and got to know the military families also in attendance. She also attended this year's Consular Ball (*right*), where she commended the Edmonton Consular Corps for their work sustaining international trade and diplomatic relationships.



CELEBRATING AMAZING ALBERTANS

Her Honour appeared at award ceremonies across the province to honour outstanding Albertans, including: Tracy Robinson, recipient of the University of Alberta's 2025 Canadian Business Leader Award; the Emerald Awards, which honour achievements in environmental stewardship (*top right*); the "Top 20 Under 20" event sponsored by *Avenue Calgary*; the Consulting Engineers of Alberta Awards; the Ingenious+ Youth Awards; the EMS Exemplary Service Medal ceremony, honouring 48 Alberta paramedics (*bottom left*); and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Citizenship Medallion, which honoured 13 outstanding young Albertans.

In a series of ceremonies in Edmonton and Calgary, she presented King Charles III Coronation Medals to dozens of Albertans, including architect Vivian Manasc (*bottom right*), former Alberta Lieutenant Governor Donald Ethell, Spruce Meadows equestrian park founder Margaret Southern, former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada Anne McLellan, members of HIV Edmonton, the Lethbridge Police Service and the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.



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 understand and appreciate the initiatives they are involved in.

In March, Her Honour celebrated the 91st birthday of architect Douglas Cardinal at the Edmonton opening of *UNCEDED: Voices of the Land*, a major exhibition about Indigenous architects (*bottom left*). In May, she connected with Elders, Knowledge carriers and education leaders at the CASS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education gathering. Later in May, she also spoke at an event marking the 30th anniversary of the Aboriginal Head Start program. In June, she spent National Indigenous Peoples Day with the community at Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society (*bottom middle*).

In August, she was honoured to attend a ceremony where Blackfoot Elders gifted her with a Blackfoot name: *Iss'stoo'tsimaakii*, or "Eagle Plume Woman," in recognition of her efforts towards reconciliation (*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 the following events: Junior Achievement Northern Alberta’s “She Leads Brunch”; the 35th anniversary of the St. Albert Rotary Club and the 116th Rotary International Conference in Calgary; Glenrose Hospital Foundation’s Courage Gala; the Constituency Employee Learning and Development Seminar; the “Blankets of Love” display at the Alberta Legislature, which demonstrate the artistry of mental health patients across Canada; the 75th Grand Highland Military Ball; a celebration of la journée internationale de la Francophonie; the Edmonton Newcomer Centre’s Plum Blossom luncheon; St. John Ambulance Alberta’s investiture ceremony for the Order of St. John; the Aga Khan Foundation’s World Partnership Walk at the Legislature Grounds (*top right*); the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s June charity ball; the “Barn Burner” event celebrating HMCS Calgary’s 30th anniversary; Epcor and Explore Edmonton’s “We Are YEG” event; Taste of Edmonton; the parade celebrating the 125th anniversary of Lord Strathcona’s Horse regiment; and an event at the Legislature rotunda commemorating Black Ribbon Day.

In July, she attended Camp Everest, which was held at Camp He Ho Ha (“Health, Hope and Happiness”). Started by Wendy Beaudoin, this wonderful program provides opportunities for children with brain and spinal injuries to safely enjoy the outdoors and make new friends.

Her Honour attended many community events during the holy month of Ramadan, including an Iftar celebration organized by Edmonton mayor Amarjeet Sohi (*middle right*); and one in Calgary organized by the Ismaili Council for the Prairies.

The Calgary Stampede is one of Her Honour’s favourite events, and she joined hundreds of thousands of other Albertans to enjoy The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth. She donned her cowboy hat to cheer on the Calgary Stampede Parade (*bottom right*), and could also be seen at Explore Edmonton’s “YEG at the Stampede” networking event, a reception hosted by Stampede president Stuart O’Connor, and Stampede breakfasts hosted by the Genesis Centre and the Ismaili Council for the Prairies. She attended the kickoff to KDays’ “We Are YEG” event and the KDays Premier’s Breakfast. And if you were in Edmonton’s Strathcona neighbourhood in August, you might have seen Her Honour exploring the Fringe Festival grounds or lining up for a play.



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 greet international dignitaries. Recent courtesy calls included meeting the Ambassadors from Türkiye (*top left*), Ireland (*top middle*), and a delegation from the Japanese prefecture of Hokkaido (*top right*) to mark the 45th anniversary of their twinning with the province of Alberta. She also met with ambassadors from Italy and the consuls general of the Phillipines and the United States.



Honouring Eid, Easter, Passover and Vaisakhi by helping Sunny Phool and his team distribute food at their regular spot in the Garneau School parking lot in Edmonton



Her Honour with the brave women newcomers and refugees who shared their stories as part of The Shoe Project



Her Honour listening to veterans' stories at the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands at the South Alberta Light Horse Park



Her Honour congratulating the young entrepreneurs and innovators at the 2025 Ingenious+ Youth Awards ceremony



Her Honour with staffers and campers at Camp Everest



At Spruce Meadows Equestrian Park, presenting co-founder Margaret Southern with the King Charles III Coronation Medal