



# UPDATE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ALBERTA

SEPTEMBER 2025 TO FEBRUARY 2026

## MESSAGE FROM LT. GOV. LAKHANI



The vice-regal family with their spouses and the Duchess of Edinburgh.

Each year, Canada's Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners gather to discuss challenges facing Crown representatives, the Crown's relationship with Canada's Indigenous people and the evolving relationship between the Crown and the provinces.

The conference takes place in a different province each year, and in 2025 it was Alberta's turn to play host. As Canada's longest-serving current Lieutenant Governor, I felt a special responsibility to ensure the conference would be worth the long trip to another province. I had three main goals: to make the newly appointed vice-regals feel welcome, to arrange a lineup of stimulating and informative speakers, and of course to plan outings that would show off Alberta's capital city to its best advantage. I am pleased to say that, thanks to the hard-working staff in my office, at Government House, and at and attractions throughout the city, the 2025 conference exceeded my hopes.

Proceedings concluded with an event at one of my favourite places in Alberta: the Aga Khan Garden, at the U of A Botanic Garden. The garden was designed to express the Aga Khan's vision of compassion and friendship. It gladdened me to see the conference living up to those values.

In the world we live in today, the Canadian ideals of peace, order and good government should never be taken for granted. During the course of the conference and as I said goodbye to the various delegates, I felt more confident than ever in Canada's strength, and more hopeful than ever about its future.

The Honourable Salma Lakhani  
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



Their Honours and their fellow vice-regal representatives at the Aga Khan Garden.

## HOPE AND UNITY: ALBERTA HOSTS THE 2025 VICE-REGAL CONFERENCE

The 2025 Vice-Regal Conference (September 7-10) got off to an especially memorable start, with Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Edinburgh attending the welcome reception at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald. The conference's theme of Hope and Unity carried through the three-day event, which included a series of discussions about Canada's Constitution and the role it lays out for the vice-regal representatives, as well as an informative outing to the Indigenous People's Experience at Fort Edmonton Park and an evening of socializing at the Aga Khan Garden. "As Lieutenant Governors and Commissioners," Her Honour said at one point, "it is our responsibility to project unity to the country at large. Like the country we belong to, we are stronger together."



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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: St. Teresa of Calcutta School, Thrive Elementary School (*top left*), George P. Nicholson School, Virginia Park School, A. Blair McPherson School, St. Bonaventure Catholic School, Florence Hallock School, Christ the King School, École Campbelltown (*middle left*), and Westbrook Elementary.



In November, she also visited Harry Ainlay School, where she spoke to a group of Ismaili students from Grades 7-12 about how the lessons from her faith have informed her life. On February 13, she held a special SATL session in honour of National Flag of Canada Day, during which she talked to a group of students from Broxton Park School about the symbolism of the Maple Leaf and how Canada's unmistakable red-and-white flag became a proud national icon. And on February 20, she spoke at the STEM Fellowship's national Big Data and AI Challenge, an annual event honouring students who have used AI and data science to address pressing social issues.

**Teachers interested in arranging a school visit can email the Office at [LtGov@gov.ab.ca](mailto:LtGov@gov.ab.ca).**



Her Honour addressed the Fall Convocation of Augustana University and the University of Alberta faculties of Engineering, Education, and Public Health in November, an occasion to recall her own university days and to congratulate the graduands on reaching this milestone in their educational careers.

In September, she attended the official opening of University Commons, a beautiful new gathering space for all members of the University of Alberta community. And finally, she attended the installation ceremonies of two new academic leaders: Honourable Gary Mar, the new chancellor of MacEwan University and Dr. Janis Goldie, the new president and CEO of the Alberta University of the Arts (*bottom left*).

## 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. In October, Her Honour opened the fall session of the Alberta Legislature by reading the Speech from the Throne (*below left and right*). As well, during a pair of ceremonies in January, she swore in Associate Minister Grant Hunter as the new Minister of Environment and Protected Areas and the Honourable Dawn Pentelchuk as the temporary Administrator.



# CELEBRATING AMAZING ALBERTANS

Her Honour appeared at several award ceremonies across the province to honour outstanding Albertans. Some of these awards are sponsored by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor itself, including the Alberta Order of Excellence, the highest civilian honour available to Albertans, which this year recognized Sine Chadi, Geoffrey Cumming, John Day, Brian and Stephanie Felesky, Nichole Neubauer, Lyn Radford, John Scott and Douglas Stollery (*bottom left*). In October, she presented Jens Lindemann, Rita McKeough and Elain Quilichini with Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artists Awards (*top right*); as well, she presented the Lieutenant Governor's Leadership for Active Communities Awards at an event organized by the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association. This year's recipients were Infinity Safety Awareness, City of Red Deer's Mayor Ken Johnston and Adrieau Goulet and Tom Naested.

In addition, Her Honour appeared at ceremonies for the Human Rights Awards (presented by the John Humphries Centre for Human Rights); the Glenrose Hospital Foundation's Courage Awards; the Alberta School Boards Association's annual awards to outstanding teachers and school board members; the Royal Lifesaving Society's annual lifesaving awards; the 2024-2025 Seniors Service Awards; 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 Indigenous communities in Alberta. She holds frequent meetings with Indigenous leaders and organizations to better understand and appreciate the initiatives they are involved in.

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, an especially important date on Her Honour's calendar. She used the occasion to express her solidarity with Indigenous people during Truth and Reconciliation ceremonies at NorQuest College, Bent Arrow Healing Society (*bottom left*) and the Alberta Legislature Grounds. She also met in September with Charlene Bearhead to discuss the newly opened Roots of Resilience Charter School, and in October with the staff and directors of Niginan Housing Ventures, and Indigenous-led nonprofit that addresses housing needs of Edmontonians with complex needs. She spoke at the opening ceremonies of the National Gathering of Elders in September (*bottom centre*), affirming her commitment to walking the path of "reconciliACTION." She also attended a sweat with Elder Theresa Strawberry (*bottom right*), visited NorQuest College's Wetaskiwin Campus, and welcomed delegates attending the International Indigenous Tourism Conference in Edmonton.



Alberta is home to countless festivals, galas, and celebrations, all of which allow Lt. Gov. Lakhani to connect with the province's diverse communities.

As is tradition, she rang in 2026 by inviting the public to Government House for the New Year's Levee (*top right*), during which she greeted hundreds of Albertans eager to spend a moment with Her Honour and pose for a photograph. Her Honour was also invited to take part in or speak at the following events: the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the World in Diversity Leadership Conference; the Mosquers Film Festival; the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Walk for Veterans; a breakfast to mark the International Day of the Girl; a reception for the Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta; a ceremony organized by RaricaNow to observe the Transgender Day of Remembrance; a commemoration ceremony to remember the victims of the Holodomor; an event at the Legislature marking International Day of Persons With Disabilities; a reception to show appreciation for donors to the 1000 Women program at NorQuest College; the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce's annual Chamber Ball; the Edmonton Interfaith Breakfast; the YWCA's Rose Breakfast; the launch of the Consul General of China's Spring Festival; the Rotary Club of Edmonton West's celebration of the organization's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary; a reception for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Windmill Microlending; and an event at the Legislature to welcome the Lunar New Year (*centre right*).

In February, Her Honour participated in several events connected with Black History Month, including an event at the Legislature; a ceremony organized by the Africans & African Descendants Friendship Club of St. Albert; a gathering organized by the UBORA Women's Initiative to celebrate "Creating Black Youth Excellence"; and a Black History Month symposium at NorQuest College.

The Lieutenant Governor is frequently invited to events honouring Canada's military, and she is always eager to express the province's gratitude for our men and women in service. Over the past six months, she appeared at a military parade marking the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain; the Military Family Resource Centre's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Yellow Ribbon Gala; and several ceremonies connected with No Stone Left Alone, which encourages youth to keep alive the memories of Canada's veterans. On Remembrance Day and the days leading up to it, Her Honour attended several ceremonies to honour Canadian soldiers, both living and dead.

She was also proud to lend her support to UBORA Women's Initiative's Lead-HER-Ship Summit, which provides leadership opportunities to young Black women. She kicked off December with one of her most festive duties: participating in the Christmas Light-Up ceremony on the Legislature Grounds. And finally, she strode onto the ice at Saiker's Acres to help start the "World's Longest Hockey Game," a benefit for cancer research (*bottom right*).



## FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP



As the highest-ranking individual in Alberta, Lt. Gov. Lakhani is often called upon to greet international dignitaries and welcome members of the Consular Corps for courtesy calls. Recent such visitors include a delegation of ambassadors from Iceland, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway (*above left*); the Ambassador of China, the Consul General of France, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Ambassador of Ireland (*above centre*). She also took part in the opening ceremony of the National Model UN and joined members of the Japanese diplomatic corps to celebrate the birthday of Emperor Naruhito (*above right*).



Her Honour being greeted at the Alberta Aviation Museum by Air Cadets and members of the 700 Wing RCAF Association to mark the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain.



Her Honour shares a moment with His Grace Stephen Hero, the newly installed eighth Catholic Archbishop of Edmonton.



Her Honour chats with a group of dancers at the City of St. Albert's proclamation of Black History Month.



The 2025 Poppy Campaign to raise funds for Canadian military veterans in need officially begins with Her Honour accepting the First Poppy.



Her Honour poses with the RCMP Pipes and Drums corps at the Burns Dinner, an annual event honouring the Scottish poet Robbie Burns.



Her Honour mingles with filmmakers at the Mosquers Film Festival, which spotlights Muslim moviemakers from around the world.