

# The Order of Canada

They Desire a Better Country



How to Nominate





## Who Inspires You?

Do you know someone who has made a difference to your community or our country? A role model whose achievements stand above the rest? Or someone whose unflagging dedication has transformed their field, our nation or the world?

From local citizens to people with national and international reputations, all Canadians are eligible to be appointed to the Order of Canada—one of our country's highest honours.

If you know someone who inspires you, please tell us about them. It's simple to submit a nomination at [www.gg.ca/nominate](http://www.gg.ca/nominate).

“ *The Order of Canada reminds me that I'm always representing my country when I'm abroad.* ”

**Christopher Plummer, C.C.**

Actor

## They Desire a Better Country

The Order of Canada is the cornerstone of the Canadian Honours System. Presented by the governor general of Canada, it recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation.

Since the creation of the Order in 1967—Canada’s centennial year—more than 6 000 deserving people have been appointed: artists, scientists, educators, entrepreneurs, community volunteers, athletes, health care professionals, innovators and business leaders. Their contributions are varied but they have all enriched the lives of others and have taken to heart the motto of the Order: DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM (“They desire a better country”).

Appointments are made for sustained achievement at three levels:

### **Companion**

Recognizes outstanding achievement and merit of the highest degree, especially in service to Canada or humanity at large.

### **Officer**

Recognizes achievement and merit of a high degree, especially in service to a province or our country.

### **Member**

Recognizes outstanding contributions to a particular community, region or field of activity.



The now-familiar snowflake design of the Order of Canada insignia dates from 1967, and is based on groundbreaking photographs of snowflakes at a microscopic level. This diagram, from Ukichiro Nakaya’s *Snow Crystals: Natural and Artificial* catalogue, was chosen as the shape of the insignia. In the years since, it has come to symbolize our northern heritage and our diversity, because no two snowflakes are alike.

## Who Can You Nominate?

The Order of Canada recognizes people in all sectors of society. You can nominate:

- Any living Canadian for admission into the Order. However, elected officials and judges are not eligible to be appointed while in office.
- Non-Canadians who have made an extraordinary contribution to Canadian life.
- An existing member of the Order to be promoted to a higher level within the Order. Promotions are only considered five years after the initial appointment.
- A candidate who has been previously considered but not appointed to the Order of Canada. Usually, a new nomination can be submitted five years after the last one was made. Contact us if you think this applies to your candidate.

### Is the Order of Canada the Right Fit?

The Order of Canada is one of several honours presented by the governor general on behalf of all Canadians. Other honours include Decorations for Bravery, Meritorious Service Decorations, the Medal for Volunteers and the Polar Medal. It is possible that one of these may be a better fit to recognize your candidate's contributions. Visit [www.gg.ca/honours](http://www.gg.ca/honours) for more information on Canadian honours or contact us—we will be happy to help you.

“*Dream, stand up and take action.*”

**Bernard Voyer, O.C.**

Explorer

## What You Need for Your Nomination

When you complete the nomination form, you will be asked for the following information:

- **Your contact information**, so that we can stay in touch with you about your nomination;
- **Your candidate's contact information** and citizenship;
- The **reasons why** your candidate should be considered;
- A short resumé listing **important aspects** of the candidates' career, as well as their relationships to professional, community or not-for-profit groups; and
- Contact information for three (or more) people who are familiar with the candidate's contributions and who will act as **references**.

“ It feels good to have this recognition publicly proclaim to all Canadians that advocacy, activism, altruism are all well and alive amongst us. ”

**Alia Hogben, C.M.**

Social worker

## How to Write a Good Nomination

Your nomination is your chance to tell your candidate's story. Give examples of how they have demonstrated outstanding qualities.

Good nominations include answers to the following questions:

- What makes your candidate stand out from their peers?
- What puts them in the top level of accomplishment in their field?
- How have they earned the respect of peers and become a role model in their field?
- What was it like before the candidate began their work? How has the situation improved?
- What impact did they have on society, and how widely does it reach?
- How have they demonstrated ongoing leadership, initiative, creativity and dedication?



## Tips for Choosing References

You should ensure that the references provided are familiar with the candidate's accomplishments. It is more important that they be able to speak about the candidate from first-hand experience, than that they be public figures or hold senior positions. You may also wish to choose references who are already members of the Order of Canada and who know of your candidate.

The Chancellery of Honours, part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, will write to these individuals. It may also contact other references with expertise in the candidate's field or within a region to independently assess the nomination.



## Ensuring Confidentiality

Please do not notify the candidate about the nomination and do not initiate a letter writing campaign. This also avoids disappointment if the nomination is not successful. The Chancellery of Honours will keep information about nominations confidential. As part of this commitment, the Chancellery will respond to inquiries about the status of a nomination only to the nominator named on the nomination form.



## What Happens Next?

After you submit your nomination, it will be received by the Chancellery of Honours. It will then undergo a rigorous research process, which can take 12 months. When this is complete, it will be presented to the Advisory Council for the Order of Canada. Chaired by the chief justice of Canada, the Council is independent and apolitical. Its members meet twice a year to review nominations and to make recommendations to the governor general.

The governor general makes appointments to the Order of Canada, on behalf of His Majesty The King. New recipients of the Order of Canada are announced twice annually, on January 1 and July 1. In the year following the announcement, recipients will be invited to receive their insignia at an investiture ceremony, over which the governor general will preside.

## Our Commitment to You

The Order of Canada is respected internationally because its nomination process is merit-based, apolitical and accessible. The Chancellery of Honours is committed to maintaining these values to the highest standard for every nomination.

## For More Information

For more information about the Order of Canada, as well as recent appointments and a searchable database of members, visit [www.gg.ca/honours](http://www.gg.ca/honours). If you have questions about the program, please direct them to [ordersadmin@gg.ca](mailto:ordersadmin@gg.ca) or call 1-613-991-0900.

# Who Inspires You? Honour Them!



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