



Annual Report 2016-2017

Office of the Secretary to the Governor General







The Viceregal Lion

The emblem used by the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General is the crest from the Royal Arms of Canada. It consists of a gold lion wearing the Royal Crown and holding in its right paw a red maple leaf. The lion stands on a wreath of the official colours of Canada, red and white.



About the 50th Anniversary of the Order of Canada

Created in 1967, the Order of Canada, one of our country's highest civilian honours, recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. Throughout 2017, the Order of Canada's 50th anniversary will be celebrated.

Photo credits

MCpl Vincent Carbonneau, Rideau Hall: Cover Page, pgs. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14

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Sgt Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall: Cover Page, pg. 12

Sgt Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall: Cover Page, pgs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

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Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A1

Citadelle of Québec, 1 Côte de la Citadelle, Québec, Quebec G1R 4V7

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Open daily from 8 a.m. to one hour before sunset, the grounds of Rideau Hall have picnic areas, gardens, a play structure and interpretive panels for the public. In the summer, there are special events, including the Relief of the Sentries of the Ceremonial Guard. In the winter, people can lace up their skates and warm up in the newly restored Winter Pavilion before enjoying Rideau Hall's historic skating rink, now refrigerated to extend the skating season.

Tours of the residence and of the grounds are offered year-round, free of charge.

Office of the Secretary to the Governor General

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General supports the Governor General in fulfilling his constitutional, State and ceremonial responsibilities.

The Office is also responsible for planning and implementing the Governor General's program and the many activities undertaken with, and on behalf of, Canadians in communities across the country and abroad, as well as with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in his capacity as commander-in-chief. These activities recognize outstanding achievement and the pursuit of excellence by Canadians, and foster national identity, unity and pride in Canadians.

To help Canadians and international visitors understand the role and responsibilities of the Governor General, the Office offers extensive visitor and interpretation programs at the Governor General's historic official residences at Rideau Hall, in Ottawa, and at the Citadelle, in Québec. In 2016-2017, these sites were visited by more than 350 000 people.

The Office, through the Chancellery of Honours, administers all aspects of the Canadian Honours System, including the Order of Canada, the Decorations for Bravery, the Meritorious Service Decorations, Military Valour Decorations, the Polar Medal and the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. The Chancellery is also home to the Canadian Heraldic Authority, which is headed by the Governor General, and which creates and records armorial bearings in Canada.

The three branches of the Office—Policy, Program and Protocol, the Chancellery of Honours, and Corporate Services—work together to support the Governor General in his role as the representative of Her Majesty The Queen in Canada and in carrying out his responsibilities.

The Office is headed by a secretary, who serves as senior advisor and deputy to the Governor General.

Accountability and Funding

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General reports to Parliament through the Prime Minister, receives its funding from an annual parliamentary appropriation and publishes an annual report.

The Office works closely with the National Capital Commission (NCC), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the Department of National Defence (DND), Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH).

Message from the Secretary

It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report for the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General.

2016-2017 was another rewarding year for the Office, supporting His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston in more than 575 activities.

The Office remains committed to ensuring the Governor General has the support he needs to represent the Crown in Canada, represent Canada abroad, encourage excellence and achievement, serve as commander-in-chief, and bring Canadians together. We continue to work hard to be a smart and caring office that connects, inspires and honours Canadians.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners across the country, as well as the diplomatic and consular staff around the world, who helped us support the mandate of the Governor General. I would especially like to thank the staff at Rideau Hall and the Citadelle for their dedication and unwavering commitment to service. What we have been able to accomplish together in support of His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston since October 1, 2010, has truly been extraordinary!

I invite you to read this report to learn more about our accomplishments over the past year; each section illustrates how the Office supports the Governor General in fulfilling his primary responsibilities.



Our mission:

To support the Governor General as The Queen's representative in Canada and to serve Canadians

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General provided His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston with the support he required to participate in more than 575 activities in 2016-2017.

Highlights

- His Excellency marked the 150th anniversaries of Canadian Confederation and the Canadian Parliamentary Press Gallery; the 125th anniversary of the Stanley Cup; the 100th anniversary of women first achieving the right to vote in Manitoba, as well as the creation of the National Research Council; the 80th anniversary of the Governor General's Literary Awards; the 60th anniversaries of the Canada Council for the Arts and Daffodil Month; and the 50th anniversaries of the Canada Games and the Order of Canada.
- The Governor General undertook visits to the United States, Jordan, Israel,
 West Bank and Sweden, and welcomed heads of State to Canada, including the presidents of Poland, Mexico, the United States and Kosovo.
- Celebrations of Canadian honours extended beyond Rideau Hall with ceremonies taking place in Halifax, Québec, Edmonton, Montréal and London.
- As commander-in-chief of Canada, the Governor General, along with Her Excellency, took part in events marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme at Beaumont-Hamel and the 25th anniversary of the Military Family Services Program. They also hosted a military tattoo on the grounds of Rideau Hall.
- Their Excellencies visited Canadians in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Nunavut, taking part in a variety of events, meeting with Canadians in their communities and discussing issues of local and national concern.
- Her Excellency continued to be an advocate for mental health and to support families at home and abroad. She was appointed honorary captain (Navy) for her work in supporting military families and breaking down the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Our vision:

connect, inspire and honour Canadians











Representing the Crown in Canada

One of the Governor General's responsibilities is to ensure that Canada always has a Prime Minister. The Governor General presides over the swearing-in of the Prime Minister, the Chief justice of Canada and Cabinet ministers; summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament; delivers the Speech from the Throne; and gives Royal Assent to acts of Parliament. He acts on the advice of the prime minister, but has the right to advise, encourage and warn.



In 2016-2017, more than 95 activities associated with representing the Crown in Canada were supported by the Office.

- In June, Their Excellencies travelled to London, England, to mark the 90th birthday of Her Majesty The Queen. They took part in celebrations such as a National Service of Thanksgiving, a luncheon with Her Majesty The Queen alongside governors general of Commonwealth realms, and the Ceremony of Trooping the Colour.
- The Annual Conference of the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners was held in Halifax in July. This annual gathering is a forum for the exchange of information of mutual interest.
- In September, Their Excellencies welcomed Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, as well as their children Prince George and Princess Charlotte of Cambridge, to Victoria. Their Excellencies then joined Their Royal Highnesses in Bella Bella, British Columbia, for a dedication ceremony of the Great Bear Rainforest; in Whitehorse, Yukon, for arts and culture demonstrations; and again in Victoria to bid farewell.
- Throughout the year, the Governor General presided over five swearing-in ceremonies and gave Royal Assent to 15 bills.
- His Excellency signed more than 3 395 official documents, including
 Orders-in-Council, Instruments of Advice, bills, proclamations, commissions,
 agréments for foreign heads of mission, letters of credence and letters of recall.

"The Crown is such an important part of this country. It's a safeguard for our rights and freedoms, and it helps ensure the responsibility and the continuity of our government."

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston September 24, 2016





As head of the Canadian Heraldic Authority,
His Excellency presented Her Honour the
Honourable Lois E. Mitchell,
Lieutenant Governor of
Alberta, with her coat of
arms in July.

































Representing Canada

The Governor General represents Canada at home and abroad, receiving visiting heads of State, conducting State visits abroad, accepting the credentials of foreign heads of mission and signing diplomatic documents.

In 2016-2017, the Office supported Governor General David Johnston as he participated in 172 activities, representing Canada at home and abroad.

- From May 24 to 31, the Governor General conducted a working visit to Georgia, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado—key states in the important and multi-faceted relationship between Canada and the United States.
 During this visit, innovation, education, trade and philanthropy were the focal points of His Excellency's discussions with American partners.
- Their Excellencies' visit to the Middle East, from October 29 to November 1, was an occasion to reaffirm Canada's steadfast support for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel, and to underscore the critical importance of engagement with Canada's allies in the region. It also highlighted Canada's development and humanitarian support for the Palestinian people.
- On November 29, the Governor General of Canada travelled to Havana, Cuba, to attend a commemoration in honour of former President Fidel Castro on behalf of Canada.
- Their Excellencies conducted a State visit to the Kingdom of Sweden from February 19 to 23 to further enhance Canada-Sweden collaboration. During visits to the cities of Stockholm, Malmö, Lund and Gothenburg, Their Excellencies were joined by Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia, and were accompanied by a delegation that included Minister Kirsty Duncan, parliamentarians and Canadian leaders of innovation, trade, research, social inclusion and sustainability.
- The Governor General welcomed heads of State to Canada including the presidents of Poland, Mexico, the United States and Kosovo.
- Throughout the year, diplomats from 37 countries presented their letters of credence to the Governor General during nine ceremonies. Upon their arrival in Canada, and before they can carry out their duties as heads of mission, new ambassadors, as well as new high commissioners of countries for which Her Majesty The Queen is not head of State, must be officially welcomed by the Governor General. There are more than 170 heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Canada.









"At its best, diplomacy brings people together. It bridges differences. It builds on the strengths of nations, rather than dividing by weaknesses.

It's what I call the diplomacy of knowledge."

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston February 8, 2017

Encouraging Excellence and Achievement

The Governor General presents awards to people who have demonstrated excellence or dedicated service to Canada. Excellence and achievement are celebrated through the Canadian Honours System and in the granting of armorial bearings (coats of arms, flags and badges.)



The Office, through the Chancellery of Honours, administers all aspects of Canadian honours, as well as the Governor General's Academic Medal.

In 2016-2017, 65 events encouraging excellence and achievement were supported by the Office.

- The Governor General presented insignia to 7 Companions, 37 Officers and 139 Members of the Order of Canada. The Order of Canada recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.
- His Excellency presented the Star of Courage to 2 individuals for their conspicuous courage and the Medal of Bravery to 75 people.
- His Excellency presented 171 Meritorious Service Decorations (Civil Division), specifically 50 Crosses and 121 Medals, to recognize remarkable contributions in different fields of endeavour that brought honour to Canada.
- His Excellency invested 71 recipients into the Order of Merit of the Police Forces: 1 Companion, 5 Officers and 65 Members. The Order recognizes conspicuous merit and exceptional service by members and employees of the various Canadian police forces.
- Polar medals, celebrating Canada's northern heritage and recognizing persons who render extraordinary services in the polar regions and in Canada's North, were presented to 9 individuals.
- On April 12, during National Volunteer Week, His Excellency presented
 55 Canadians with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers at the inaugural presentation at Rideau Hall. Throughout the year, an additional 533 recipients received this medal in recognition of their exceptional volunteer achievements.
- More than 3 380 Academic medals for outstanding scholastic achievement were presented by participating educational institutions on behalf of the Governor General.

In 2016-2017, more than 10 450 honours and awards were presented. These included the Order of Canada, Meritorious Service and Bravery decorations, as well as Polar, Exemplary Service and Academic medals.











The Canadian Heraldic Authority, headed by the Governor General, creates new armorial bearings (coats of arms, flags and badges) for Canadian institutions and individuals.

In 2016-2017, 233 heraldic emblems were granted or registered. Armorial bearings for the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of Canada, were among the emblems created.

- His Excellency presented seven people with the Governor General's Innovation Awards at the inaugural ceremony, which took place on May 19.
- On June 17, the Governor General presented the Michener Award for outstanding public service in journalism and the Michener-Deacon Fellowships at Rideau Hall.
- The 2016 Governor General's Medals in Architecture and the 2016 Governor General's Medal in Landscape Architecture were presented on September 20.
- His Excellency presented the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case to six laureates on November 15. The event was held at the Manitoba Legislative Chamber to coincide with the 100th anniversary of women first achieving the right to vote in Manitoba in 1916.
- On November 30, at the 80th edition of the Governor General's Literary Awards, His Excellency honoured 14 laureates in the English and French categories of fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction, young people's literature (text and illustrated books) and translation.
- The Governor General highlighted the importance of the Arctic and the people who call it home on December 8 when he delivered remarks at the Arctic Inspiration Prize ceremony in Winnipeg.
- His Excellency celebrated Canada's top science and engineering researchers on February 7 when the NSERC Awards were presented at Rideau Hall.
- The 40th anniversary of the Saidye Bronfman Award for Excellence in Fine Crafts was marked during the presentation of the 2017 Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts on March 1.
- On March 24, the Governor General was honoured to take part in a celebration of First Nations, Métis and Inuit achievement and excellence when he delivered remarks at the Indspire Awards Ceremony.
- The History Awards, the Killam Prizes, the Performing Arts Awards and the Vanier Medal were also presented throughout the year.































Serving as Commander-in-Chief of Canada

The Governor General visits Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel, their families and friends, at home and abroad, awards military honours and presents new colours to the CAF. He signs all commissioning scrolls of officers serving in the Forces, as well as scrolls for new generals and flag officers. In addition, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, he appoints the Chief of the Defence Staff.



In 2016-2017, the Office supported the Governor General as he participated in 34 activities as commander-in-chief of Canada.

- Throughout the year, the Governor General visited more than 6 000 troops and recognized 187 members of the CAF and reservists with Canadian honours.
- On April 18, His Excellency met with the Armed Forces Council, the senior military body of the CAF, which meets regularly to advise the Chief of the Defence Staff on a broad range of military matters pertaining to the command, control and administration of the forces.
- The Governor General and Commander-in-Chief's Military Tattoo took place on the grounds of Rideau Hall on May 14.
- On May 20, His Excellency participated in the presentation and consecration of colours by the Grey and Simcoe Foresters, a Primary Reserve infantry regiment that is part of the 4th Canadian Division's 31 Canadian Brigade Group.
- At a ceremony of remembrance at the Canadian War Museum on July 1,
 Their Excellencies marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme at Beaumont-Hamel.
- On Remembrance Day, Their Excellencies paid tribute to the 2016 Silver Cross Mother, Mrs. Colleen Fitzpatrick, whose son, Corporal Darren Fitzpatrick, was mortally wounded after stepping on an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan on March 6, 2010.
- Through the Order of Military Merit, His Excellency recognizes exceptional sustained service by members of the Canadian Armed Forces. He presented insignia to 7 Commanders, 32 Officers and 108 Members.
- His Excellency presented 39 Meritorious Service Decorations (Military Division), specifically 12 Crosses and 27 Medals, to individuals whose specific achievements brought honour to the Canadian Armed Forces and to Canada.







"We are very grateful for your sense of duty, your professionalism and your dedication to excellence. To your families and loved ones, we are also grateful. Canada would not be the country it is without the dedication and excellence of our armed forces, past and present."

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston March 6, 2017



















page 10 April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Bringing Canadians Together

The Governor General participates in commemorative ceremonies and national celebrations, provincial and territorial visits, and community activities across the country. He also hosts events at both official residences: Rideau Hall in Ottawa, and the Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle of Québec.

In 2016-2017, the Office supported close to 200 activities related to bringing Canadians together.

- The Governor General visited 35 communities in eight provinces and two territories, continuing to engage Canadians in their vision for a smart and caring nation and further exploring his pillars of learning and innovation, philanthropy and volunteerism, and families and children.
- Her Excellency continued advocating for mental health and supporting families.
 She participated in a presentation on the importance of volunteerism given by
 Live for the Cause in Montréal; visited the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
 in Ottawa; and delivered remarks at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's
 Transforming Lives Dinner and Awards.
- In May, Their Excellencies visited communities in northern Manitoba, Nunavut and Nunavik (QC) where they met with local government representatives and community members, as well as with Canadian Rangers and Junior Rangers, to thank them for their work and service.
- His Excellency hosted "We Can Do Better: Governor General's Conference on Concussions in Sport," at Rideau Hall, on December 6.
- On December 31, the Governor General delivered remarks at the launch of the 150th anniversary of Confederation celebrations on Parliament Hill.
- His Excellency opened the Winter Pavilion on January 28. Featuring an exhibition about winter festivities and sports at Rideau Hall, the pavilion allows visitors to lace up their skates and warm up before enjoying Rideau Hall's historic skating rink.
- On March 16, His Excellency welcomed Canadians to Rideau Hall to see the Stanley Cup and the Dominion Hockey Challenge Cup, the original Stanley Cup bowl, as part of its 125th anniversary celebration. The Stanley Cup was donated in 1892 by Lord Stanley of Preston, Canada's 6th governor general.
- Throughout the year, visitors to Rideau Hall participated in Storytime, Savour Fall and Winter Celebration activities, and joined Their Excellencies to watch Canadian films under the stars at Rideau Hall Movie Nights in June.

"I ask that every Canadian get to know someone with serious mental illness in our 150th anniversary. [...] Let us all get to know each other, and that harmful and counterproductive fear will go away."

Her Excellency Sharon Johnston March 3, 2017









Office Operations

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General consists of 157 employees in three branches: Policy, Program and Protocol; the Chancellery of Honours; and Corporate Services. These three branches work together to support the Governor General in his role as the representative of Her Majesty The Queen in Canada and in carrying out his primary responsibilities.

In addition to supporting the Governor General, in 2016-2017, the Office continued its efforts to improve its overall operations and to provide support to employees.

- The Office continued to implement its multi-year action plan to increase the number of visitors to the official residences of the Governor General. A record-breaking 340 000 people visited Rideau Hall, and 18 000 visitors were welcomed at the Citadelle. The quality of the tours and of the tour guides was recognized on Trip Advisor, with a rating of 4.5 out of 5, with Rideau Hall being ranked No. 15 of 255 things to do in Ottawa.
- The Office worked with the National Capital Commission (NCC) to develop a 50-year vision for how the grounds and buildings of the iconic precinct at Rideau Hall can be used to their fullest potential. This document outlines the forward purpose of Rideau Hall and a strategy for its further development in a thoughtfully planned and sustainable way. With this road map in hand, Rideau Hall, an important national treasure, will continue to serve as the home of the people of Canada for generations to come.
- The Office began celebrating the 150th anniversary of Confederation in a manner that reflects the personal priorities of the Governor General and its mission to connect, honour and inspire Canadians. In addition, celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Order of Canada got underway at the first Order of Canada investiture ceremony held at Rideau Hall in 2017 with the release of a commemorative book: *They Desire a Better Country: The Order of Canada in 50 Stories*.
- The Office began developing an online portal for Canadian honours nominations and developed information management and information technology strategies to help improve its efficiency.
- Seven career and professional development sessions, six sessions on Indigenous relations (including topics such as the history
 of treaties and reconciliation), and three sessions related to workplace well-being were among information sessions provided for
 interested employees throughout the year.

Figure 1: 2016-2017 Financial Summary for the Office (in millions)

Governor General Support	\$13.80
Internal Services	\$6.03
Statutory (non-discretionary) Expenditures	\$2.83
Total:	\$22.66

(The complete **2016-2017 Financial Statements** of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General are available on our website at www.gg.ca.)



In 2016-2017,

Some 21 500 birthday and wedding anniversary messages were sent on behalf of The Queen and the Governor General.

On behalf of the Governor General and the Office, Editorial Services prepared more than 5 000 letters, emails and messages in response to requests from the public.

www.gg.ca had 936 876 visits by 670 994 unique users.

40 925 people followed @GGDavidJohnston and 4 018 followed @RideauHall on Twitter.

Support from Other Government Departments

In addition to the support provided by the Office, six federal government departments and agencies are also mandated to support the activities of the Governor General. In 2016-2017, this additional support had a total value of \$31.03 million (see figure 2.) These funds are allocated to and spent directly by those departments and agencies and are not transferred to the budget of the Office to the Secretary to the Governor General.

- The National Capital Commission (NCC) is responsible for preservation, maintenance and capital construction projects for all the official residences located in the National Capital Region, including Rideau Hall.
- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) provides support in matters related to the security and personal protection services for the Governor General and his spouse, domestically and abroad.
- The Department of National Defence (DND) provides logistical support to and transportation for the Governor General in an official capacity.
- Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) provides the Office with support and accommodation for the Citadelle of Québec and for the Chancellery of Honours, as well as with payroll and cheque issuance services.
- Global Affairs Canada (GAC) advises the Governor General on all matters related to foreign policy and funds activities related to
 incoming State visits, as well as to the Governor General's international program and activities undertaken at the request of the
 Prime Minister.
- The Office also works closely with other agencies such as the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH), which is the lead department for activities including Royal tours, State funerals, national memorial services and special anniversary celebrations.

Figure 2: 2016-2017 Support from Other Government Departments (in millions)

NCC	RCMP	DND	PSPC	GAC
\$13.40	\$6.90	\$6.99	\$1.91	\$1.83



History Happens Here

Official Residences of the Governor General

Located within minutes of downtown Ottawa and Gatineau, Rideau Hall has been the official residence and workplace of every governor general since Confederation in 1867.

Tours of the Residence

Visit the State rooms where the governor general fulfills official duties, where dignitaries are welcomed and where Canadians are honoured.

The residence is home to a magnificent collection of Canadian art and furniture. On display are the works of such renowned Canadian artists as Jean Paul Lemieux, Emily Carr and Allen Sapp.

General Public

November to April:

Tours available daily (by reservation)

May and June:

- Weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (by reservation)
- Weekends, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (without reservation)

July and August:

• Daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (without reservation)

September and October:

- Weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (by reservation)
- Weekends, noon to 4 p.m. (without reservation)

Group Tours

Tours offered year-round (by reservation)

*Please note that hours of operation are subject to change due to official events.

Reservations and Information:

Tours are free of charge. 613-991-4422 or 1-866-842-4422 (toll-free) guide@gg.ca

www.gg.ca/visitus

Located within the Citadelle of Québec, the Residence of the Governor General is a remarkable heritage attraction that has been the second official residence of Canada's governors general since 1872.

Tours of the Residence

Visit the State rooms where the governor general fulfills official duties, where dignitaries are welcomed and where Canadians are honoured.

The Canadian character of the furnishings and works of art enrich the value of the residence's heritage. The marriage of period furniture and contemporary artwork creates a décor that reflects the country's history, as well as its various artistic and cultural traditions.

General Public

May and June:

• Weekends, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (without reservation)

June 24 to Labour Day:

• Daily, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (without reservation)

September and October:

• Weekends, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (without reservation)

Group Tours

April to October (by reservation)

School Program

Educational tours are offered in September and October, and from April to June (by reservation)

*Please note that hours of operation are subject to change due to official events.

Reservations and Information:

Tours are free of charge. 418-648-4322 or 1-866-936-4422 (toll-free) citadelle@gg.ca

www.gg.ca/visitus

