



Annual Report 2019–2020

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

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BACK COVER PHOTOS

Guard, Maheu

Music, Gaudreault

Winter Celebration, Gaudreault

Drone façade, Maheu

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Official Residences

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

Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle, 1 côte de la Citadelle, Québec, Quebec G1R 4V7



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.

OUR VISION

CONNECT,
INSPIRE AND
HONOUR
CANADIANS

Our priorities are based on a clear understanding of the governor general's responsibilities:

- Representing the Crown in Canada
- Representing Canada nationally and internationally
- Encouraging excellence and achievement
- Serving as commander-in-chief of Canada
- Connecting with Canadians

OUR MISSION

TO SUPPORT
THE GOVERNOR
GENERAL AS
THE QUEEN'S
REPRESENTATIVE
IN CANADA
AND TO SERVE
CANADIANS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

OVERVIEW

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (OSGG) supports the governor general in fulfilling the constitutional, State and ceremonial responsibilities of the role.

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 their capacity as commander-in-chief. These activities recognize outstanding achievement by Canadians and foster national identity, unity and pride.

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: Rideau Hall, in Ottawa, and the Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle of Québec. In 2019–2020, these sites were visited by nearly 290 000 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, 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 heraldic emblems.

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 for each fiscal year.

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).



Ceremony at the Canadian War Cemetery in Bény sur Mer, France, to mark the 75th anniversary of D Day, June 2019.



Special Olympics Canada Winter Games, Thunder Bay, Ontario, February 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019–2020

From April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, the Office supported the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, as she participated in hundreds of activities throughout the year, including those related to her constitutional and military duties, honours ceremonies, visits at home and abroad, diplomatic meetings and official visits from foreign dignitaries.

1. The Governor General dissolved the 42nd Parliament of Canada and presided over the swearing in of the 29th Canadian Ministry, before delivering the Speech from the Throne officially opening the 43rd Parliament of Canada. She granted Royal Assent to 32 bills.
2. As commander-in-chief of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), the Governor General visited CAF members across Canada, as well as those deployed in Latvia and Romania as part of Operation REASSURANCE.
3. The Governor General represented Canada abroad as part of major commemorative events marking the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War; the 75th anniversaries of the Battle of Normandy, the Battle of the Scheldt, the Italian Campaign and the liberation of the German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp Auschwitz; and the 25th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi. She took part in visits to Lithuania, Estonia, Peru, France and the United States.
4. In Canada, the Governor General hosted the presidents of the State of Israel and the Republic of Croatia during their State visits to Canada. She met with Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan, and with His Excellency Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also welcomed 38 new ambassadors and high commissioners during the presentation of their letters of credence.
5. The Governor General had the opportunity to speak with 1 955 students from 34 Canadian schools during the school year as part of the GGinteractive program.
6. During 23 distinct regional visits, the Governor General met with residents from 29 communities in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia.
7. The Governor General integrated influencers and community leaders—including members of the Order of Canada—into activities organized during her regional visits, including those held at both official residences.
8. The Governor General inaugurated the Queen Elizabeth II Equestrian Monument in its new location, in front of Rideau Hall’s main gate on Sussex Drive.
9. The Dare to Dream exhibit was unveiled on October 2, 2019.
10. The Office’s staff quickly mobilized to maintain operations and continue serving Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Unveiling a monument dedicated to the sacrifices made by Canadians during the Battle of Normandy, France, June 2019.

REPRESENTING THE CROWN IN CANADA

The governor general’s key role is constitutional in nature and consists of ensuring a non-partisan, apolitical continuity of State while governments change. 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 grants Royal Assent to acts of Parliament, which turns them into law.

The Governor General took part in the following activities as the representative of the Crown in Canada:

- On June 21, 2019, the Governor General granted Royal Assent to 21 bills in the interim Senate Chamber of the Senate of Canada Building. The Chamber is being housed in the former hall of Ottawa’s central train station while Parliament’s Centre Block undergoes its rehabilitation. Built by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, the modernized train station has maintained its grandeur from the early 20th century.
- On July 13, 2019, the Governor General attended the State memorial service for His Honour the Honourable W. Thomas Molloy, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.
- On August 8, 2019, the Governor General attended the State funeral for Her Honour the Honourable Jocelyne Roy Vienneau, Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick.
- On November 20, 2019, the Governor General presided over the swearing-in ceremony of members of the 29th Canadian Ministry at Rideau Hall. She also presided over private swearing-in ceremonies in January, February and March 2020.
- On December 5, 2019, the Governor General delivered the Speech from the Throne in the interim Senate Chamber to officially open the first session of the 43rd Parliament of Canada.

- On March 27, 2020, the Governor General participated in a videoconference with lieutenant governors and territorial commissioners to discuss the repercussions of COVID-19 on their respective administrations and to share best practices.

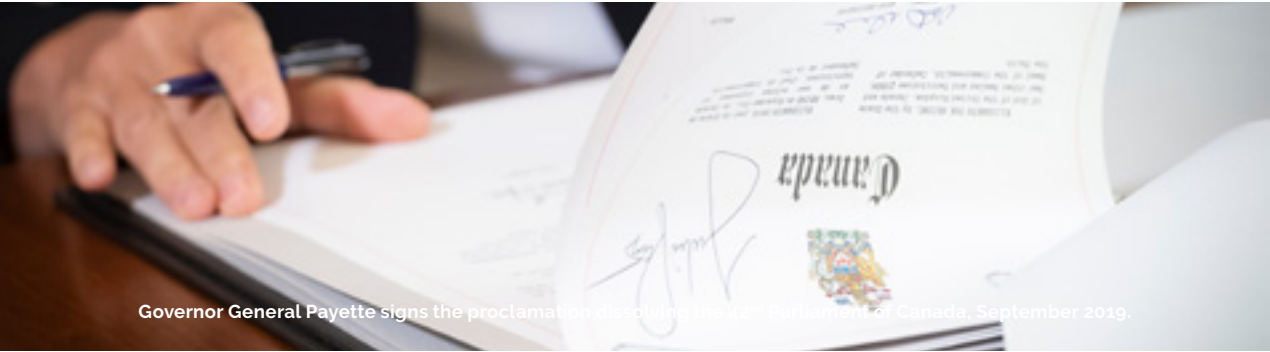
Over the course of the year, the Governor General granted Royal Assent to 32 bills. She signed more than 3 440 official documents, including Orders-in-Council, Instruments of Advice, bills, proclamations, commissions, agréments for foreign heads of mission, letters of credence and letters of recall for outgoing Canadian heads of mission.

REINSTALLATION OF THE EQUESTRIAN MONUMENT IN FRONT OF RIDEAU HALL

On June 12, 2019, the Governor General inaugurated the Queen Elizabeth II Equestrian Monument in its new location on Sussex Drive, in front of Rideau Hall’s main gate. Her Majesty The Queen originally unveiled the monument on Parliament Hill on July 1, 1992, in honour of the 125th anniversary of Confederation and the 40th anniversary of her reign. The major long-term rehabilitation of Parliament’s Centre Block was the impetus for this reinstallation.

DIAMOND JUBILEE PORTRAIT OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II TOUR

After being on display for a year in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Diamond Jubilee Portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II continued its cross-country tour. Since October 2019, it has been on display in the residence of the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, in Fredericton, so that the province’s citizens can admire it up close during tours and public activities.



Governor General Payette signs the proclamation dissolving the 43rd Parliament of Canada, September 2019.

REPRESENTING CANADA AT HOME AND ABROAD

The governor general represents Canada at home and abroad by hosting foreign officials and accepting the credentials of new foreign heads of mission upon their arrival in Canada. The governor general visits missions abroad and leads delegations of smart and talented Canadians to strengthen international ties, and to forge strong and lasting relationships with other countries.

The Governor General took part in the following activities as Canada’s representative at home and abroad:

- On April 1, 2019, at Rideau Hall, the Governor General hosted His Excellency Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel, on the occasion of his State visit to Canada.
- From April 4 to 9, 2019, the Governor General visited Rwanda for Kwibuka25, the 25th commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsi. This visit underscored Canada’s commitment to preventing genocide and mass atrocities, and demonstrated our support for the reconciliation process. The Governor General laid a floral wreath on behalf of Canadians at the Kigali Genocide Memorial, attended the Kwibuka25 Official Ceremony, and took part in a walk of remembrance and night vigil. She was accompanied by parliamentarians and prominent Canadians from the fields of education, research, innovation, development, trade and the arts.
- On May 13, 2019, at Rideau Hall, the Governor General hosted Her Excellency Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia, and Jakov Kitarović, on the occasion of the President’s State visit to Canada.

- From June 3 to 6, 2019, the Governor General visited Normandy, France, where she attended the unveiling of a monument dedicated to the sacrifices made by Canadians during the Battle of Normandy, as well as a ceremony at the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery, which holds the graves of more than 2 000 Canadians who gave their lives during the landings in Normandy and during the early stages of the Battle of Normandy. She also attended the Juno75 Gala, organized by the Juno Beach Centre Association, which honoured the memory, sacrifice and courage of the 90 000 Canadians who served in Normandy during the summer of 1944.
- On June 19, 2019, at Rideau Hall, the Governor General hosted foreign heads of mission accredited to Canada at the spring diplomatic gathering. Ambassadors and high commissioners were able to enjoy Canadian summer activities, sports and cuisine against the backdrop of the lush perennial gardens of Rideau Hall. The event also included a performance by the young musicians of OrKidstra.
- From July 23 to 27, 2019, the Governor General attended the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. The Governor General supported Canadian athletes by attending the opening ceremonies of the Games and Canada’s flag-raising ceremony in the Athletes’ Village. She cheered on Canadian athletes during several sporting events. During her stay, she again met with His Excellency Martín Vizcarra, President of the Republic of Peru, to discuss the Games and the important ties between our two countries; she had previously hosted him at Rideau Hall when he presented his letters of credence as ambassador of Peru.



Welcoming the President of the Republic of Croatia, Rideau Hall, Ottawa, May 2019.

- On August 27, 2019, the Governor General hosted Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado of Japan during her visit to Canada to highlight the 90th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Canada.
- From August 30 to September 2, 2019, the Governor General visited the Netherlands and Poland to commemorate the Second World War. The Governor General met with His Majesty King Willem–Alexander and Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and His Excellency Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. She then took part in the official ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Scheldt. In Poland, the Governor General attended the official ceremony commemorating the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II and met with His Excellency Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland.
- On September 30, 2019, the Governor General attended the funeral of former French president Jacques Chirac in Paris, France. Chirac was president of the French Republic from 1995 to 2007.
- On November 12 and 13, 2019, during a visit to Washington, D.C., the Governor General presented the Leadership for the Americas Award for Corporate Citizenship at the Inter–American Dialogue Leadership for the Americas Awards Gala. She also participated in a discussion at the Wilson Center’s Canada Institute.
- The Governor General travelled to Lithuania from November 24 to 26, 2019, and to Estonia from November 26 to 28, 2019, to underscore Canada’s close ties with these two countries. During these visits, the Governor General met with His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda, President of the Republic of Lithuania; His Excellency Saulius Skvernelis, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid, President of the Republic of Estonia, and His Excellency Jüri Ratas, Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia. The delegation that accompanied the Governor General helped to highlight Canada’s role as a global leader in the fields of scientific research, innovation, entrepreneurship and culture. The visit enabled the participants to explore opportunities for collaboration.
- From November 29 to December 4, 2019, the Governor General travelled to Italy to take part in events commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Italian Campaign. Over 93 000 Canadians served with the Allied forces during the campaign, playing an important role in the liberation of the country. In addition to accompanying the delegation of veterans and ministerial representatives to some of the commemorations, the Governor General met with His Excellency Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic, to discuss shared priorities and strengthen ties between Canada and Italy. The visit also showcased the dynamism of present-day Italy–Canada relations, notably with respect to scientific research and investments in science, technology and innovation.
- On December 22 and 23, 2019, the Governor General visited with Canadian troops deployed in Latvia and Romania. She also met with Artis Pabriks, Minister of Defence of Latvia, and with Kevin Hamilton, Ambassador of Canada to Romania.
- On January 7, 2020, in Ottawa, the Governor General delivered remarks at the opening ceremony of the 25th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth.
- From January 22 to 24, 2020, the Governor General travelled to Jerusalem for the Fifth World Holocaust Forum, which

coincided with the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz–Birkenau. During the visit, she met, once again, with His Excellency Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel, whom she had previously hosted during his State visit to Canada in April 2019. She also attended a dinner hosted by the President for visiting heads of State and government representatives.

- On January 27, 2020, the Governor General took part in the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp Auschwitz in Poland. The commemoration ceremony took place in front of the Gate of Death of the former Auschwitz II–Birkenau Camp, and featured remarks by survivors and by His Excellency Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland. Survivors and world leaders then paid tribute to the more than one million people, over 90 per cent of whom were Jews, who lost their lives at the camp during the Holocaust.
- On March 10, 2020, the Governor General met with His Excellency Željko Komšić, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at Rideau Hall during his visit to Canada.
- That same day, the Governor General hosted members of the Diplomatic Corps at the traditional Winter Diplomatic Reception, which has been held at Rideau Hall since 1872.
- On March 11, 2020, the Governor General invited women heads of mission to a working lunch at Rideau Hall to promote networking opportunities and learn more about the work of the Women Heads of Diplomatic Mission of Ottawa. Also in attendance were Supreme Court justices, heads of government agencies, deputy ministers and other outstanding public sector leaders.



Supporting Canadian athletes during the Pan American Games, Lima, Peru, July 2019.



Statement to the media by the Governor General and the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius, Lithuania, November 2019.



Presentation of a photo of Mount Fuji seen from space to Her Imperial Highness Takamado of Japan, Edmonton, August 2019.



Meeting with the President of the Italian Republic, Rome, Italy, December 2019.



Visit with Canadian troops deployed in Latvia and Romania, December 2019.



Visiting students at the Tallinn Secondary School of Science, Tallinn, Estonia, November 2019.



The Governor General during the 75th anniversary of the liberation of German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp Auschwitz, Poland, January 2020.

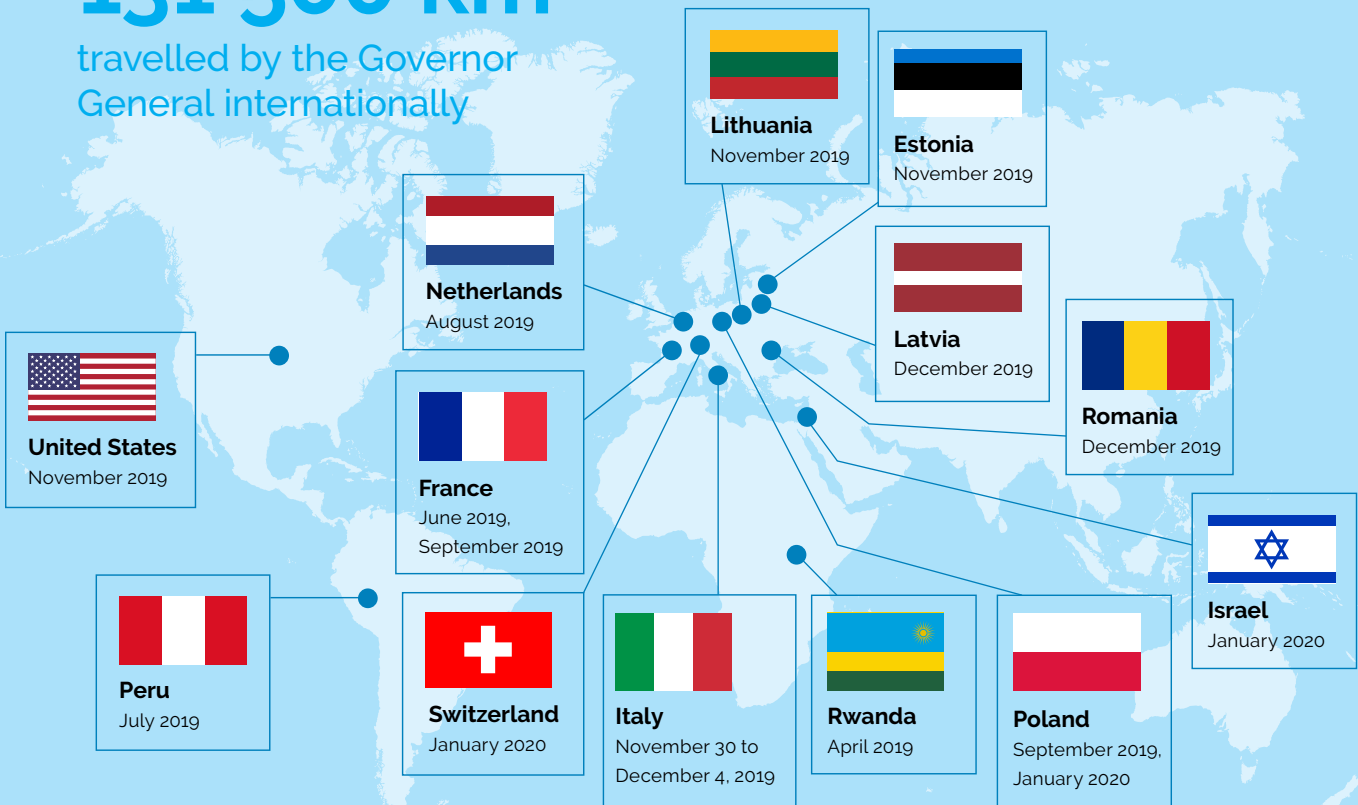


Canadian delegation accompanying the Governor General to Estonia and Lithuania, November 2019.

INTERNATIONAL VISITS

131 500 km

travelled by the Governor General internationally



INCOMING STATE VISITS

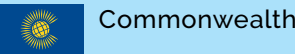
Rideau Hall is an important stop on the itineraries of foreign heads of State. During the 2019–2020 fiscal year, many VIPs visited Rideau Hall.

State visits include an official welcoming ceremony with military honours, a State luncheon or dinner in honour of the visiting dignitary, and a commemorative tree planting. Nearly 150 commemorative trees, planted by members of the Royal Family, heads of State and other officials, are found on the grounds of Rideau Hall.

These flags represent the countries of those dignitaries and members of international organizations who visited Canada in 2019–2020 (from left to right, according to their visit date):



In addition, representatives of Commonwealth-member countries visited Canada in 2019–2020.



LETTERS OF CREDENCE

Upon their arrival in Canada, and before they can carry out their duties as heads of mission, new ambassadors and high commissioners of countries for which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is not head of State must be officially welcomed by the governor general of Canada. Letters of credence are the official documents by which new heads of diplomatic missions are presented by their head of State as their official representative.

Over the course of the year, diplomats from 38 countries presented their letters of credence to the Governor General.

These flags represent the countries of those diplomats who presented their letters of credence in 2019–2020 (from left to right, according to presentation date):

Mexico, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Nepal, Mauritania, Armenia, Finland, Lesotho, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Malta, Tanzania, Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Denmark, China, Afghanistan, Jordan, Rwanda, Kuwait, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Japan, Croatia, Panama, Lithuania, Kosovo, Brazil, Mali, India, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Luxembourg, Kirghizstan, Maldives



There are over 180 diplomatic missions accredited to Canada.



Letters of credence presentation ceremony, Rideau Hall, Ottawa, March 2020.



Order of Canada recipients during an investiture ceremony at the Citadelle, Québec, July 2019.



Presentation of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, Rideau Hall, Ottawa, April 2019.

ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Canada is a nation of amazing people—open, tolerant and diverse—and one of the governor general's most important responsibilities is to honour Canada's best and brightest. The Canadian Honours System (which includes the Order of Canada, one of our country's highest honours), as well as a diverse range of Governor General's awards, serve to recognize the achievements of people from our country.

These honours programs are administered or supported by the OSGG. Every award ceremony is a team effort, and the Office always goes above and beyond to make every recipient feel special. Behind the scenes, improvements have been made to the administration of the honours programs. These modernization efforts relate to how appointments are processed, ethical considerations for the work of advisory boards and committees, and the statistical documentation of programs.

Over the past year, hundreds of people were honoured during recognition ceremonies held at Rideau Hall, the Citadelle, elsewhere in Canada and abroad.

In addition to orders investitures and other presentations of decorations and medals, several prestigious awards were presented in 2019–2020:

- the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards,
- the Governor General's Literary Awards,
- the Governor General's Innovation Awards,
- the Governor General's History Awards,
- the Governor General's Academic All-Canadian Commendation for student-athletes,
- the Michener Award for outstanding public service in journalism,
- the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Awards, which celebrate Canada's top science and engineering researchers, and
- the Canadian Institutes of Health Research suite of prizes – CIHR Gold Leaf Prizes, which recognize achievements across all fields of research (biomedical, clinical, health services and policy, and population and public health).



Meeting with and tribute to the youths who saved a child on Grouse Mountain, British Columbia, February 2020.

THE CANADIAN HONOURS SYSTEM

2019-2020 — NUMBER
OF APPOINTMENTS
AND AWARDS — TOTAL

8 672

ORDER OF CANADA: 205

10 COMPANIONS,
59 OFFICERS, 1 HONORARY OFFICER
AND 135 MEMBERS

ORDER OF MERIT OF THE POLICE FORCES: 60

1 COMMANDER, 10 OFFICERS,
48 MEMBERS AND 1 HONORARY MEMBER

MERITORIOUS SERVICE DECORATIONS (CIVIL DIVISION): 56

17 CROSSES AND 39 MEDALS

EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDALS: 5 306

SOVEREIGN'S MEDALS FOR VOLUNTEERS: 486

ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT: 109

5 COMMANDERS, 22 OFFICERS
AND 82 MEMBERS

DECORATIONS FOR BRAVERY: 66

1 STAR OF COURAGE,
41 MEDALS OF BRAVERY
AND 24 CERTIFICATES OF COMMENDATION

MERITORIOUS SERVICE DECORATIONS (MILITARY DIVISION): 53

5 CROSSES AND 48 MEDALS

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACADEMIC MEDALS: 2 331



HERALDRY

The Canadian Heraldic Authority, headed by the governor general, creates new heraldic emblems (coats of arms, flags and badges) for Canadian institutions and individuals.

Every Canadian is eligible to apply for a grant of arms.

207 EMBLEMS

During the 2019–2020 period, 207 heraldic emblems were granted or registered. Among them were arms for the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada; for the lieutenant governors of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador; and for the territorial commissioners of the Northwest Territories and Yukon. A special badge was also created for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (illustrated below).



Insignia created for the Royal Geographic Society of Canada

The narwhal is an iconic northern animal, symbolizing the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's continuing role in learning about the Arctic. Taken from the arms of the Society, the compass rose surmounted by a maple leaf represents exploration done in Canada or by Canadians. The gold annulet represents the Society as a circle of associates.

This badge is for use by the College of Fellows of the Society.

SERVING AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF CANADA

As commander-in-chief of Canada, the governor general supports the entire military community, including active and retired military personnel and their families. The governor general highlights significant moments in our military history and recognizes individual and collective merit by taking part in

various events and awarding of honours. The governor general also visits Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel and their families at home and abroad, presents new colours and signs commission scrolls for new officers joining the CAF.





D Day commemorative ceremony at the Willow Park Armoury, Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 2019.



Remembrance Day at the National War Memorial, Ottawa, November 2019.

In her capacity as commander-in-chief, the Governor General participated in the following activities:

- On May 16 and 17, 2019, the Governor General attended the convocation ceremony and the graduation and commissioning parade at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC), in Kingston, Ontario. The Governor General, General Jonathan H. Vance, Chief of the Defence Staff, and other senior personnel presented commissioning scrolls to graduating members of RMC, officially making them officers in the CAF. The commissioning parade included a formal inspection, a march past and a salute to the Governor General.
- After participating in events organized in France to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Normandy, the Governor General attended a commemorative ceremony at the Willow Park Armoury on June 6, 2019, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This meaningful location represents the departure point for many Canadian soldiers heading to war after a long train journey across Canada.
- On June 8, 2019, the Governor General took part in Navy Bike Day. This recreational, fun and family-friendly activity supports the members of the Royal Canadian Navy and their families.
- Pageantry, precision and colour were on full display at Rideau Hall on June 21, 2019, when the Governor General inspected the Ceremonial Guard. Later that day, she presented general officer scrolls to 20 military personnel newly promoted to the rank of commodore in the Royal Canadian Navy, or to the rank of brigadier-general in the Canadian Army or the Royal Canadian Air Force.
- On August 17, 2019, the Governor General participated in the rededication of the Kandahar Cenotaph, located in the Afghanistan Memorial Hall at National Defence Headquarters (Carling) in Ottawa. During the ceremony, she paid tribute to all soldiers and civilians who contributed to the Afghanistan mission. The cenotaph was unveiled in its earliest form on Remembrance Day, November 2003, at Camp Julien (the CAF encampment in Kabul, Afghanistan). Designed by Combat Engineer Captain Sean McDowell, the cenotaph was initially dedicated to the first six Canadian soldiers lost during the Afghanistan mission. It was originally placed to be in the view of successive mission commanders as a reminder of their

profound responsibilities. Following the closure of Camp Julien, the cenotaph was relocated to Kandahar Airfield in 2005. Over the years, it was expanded to include additional dedications to other fallen soldiers.

- On September 18, 2019, the Governor General visited the Régiment de la Chaudière museum to mark the regiment's 150th anniversary and meet with its members. This primary reserve infantry regiment of the Canadian Army is part of 2nd Canadian Division's 35 Canadian Brigade Group and is headquartered in Lévis, Quebec.
- On October 15, 2019, the Governor General received the symbolic first poppy of the 2019 National Poppy Campaign.
- On October 29, 2019, as colonel of the Governor General's Foot Guards (GGFG), the Governor General presided over the change of command ceremony of this primary reserve infantry battalion. Every summer, the Ceremonial Guard—a sub-unit of the GGFG—performs the changing of the guard ceremony on Parliament Hill and posts sentries at Rideau Hall.
- On November 11, 2019, the Governor General attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa at the National War Memorial, where she laid a wreath on behalf of all Canadians. She also paid tribute to the 2019 National Silver Cross Mother, Mrs. Reine Samson Dawe, who lost her son, Captain Matthew J. Dawe, on July 4, 2007. Commander of 8 Platoon, C Company, 3 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battalion, Dawe was killed in action in Afghanistan.
- On December 22 and 23, 2019, the Governor General visited with members of the CAF deployed in Latvia and Romania as part of Operation REASSURANCE. Accompanied by General Jonathan H. Vance, Chief of the Defence Staff, the Governor General was able to show her support for and witness the work being done by the troops.

Throughout the year, the Governor General recognized exceptional contributions made by members of the CAF by granting them the Order of Military Merit and Meritorious Service Decorations (Military Division) to highlight specific achievements that brought honour to the Forces and to Canada. (Please refer to the “Encouraging Excellence and Achievement” section of this report for a further breakdown of the decorations presented to military members.)



Presentation of scrolls to military officers, Rideau Hall, Ottawa, June 2019.



Dedication to service ceremony of the CCGS Captain Molly Kool, St. John s, Newfoundland and Labrador, May 2019.

CONNECTING WITH CANADIANS

One of the governor general’s key responsibilities is to visit, communicate with and encourage collaboration among Canadians from across the country in order to maintain the social fabric of Canadian society. The governor general hosts events at both official residences and participates in commemorative ceremonies, national celebrations and community activities across the country.

VISITING CANADIANS

Over the course of the 2019–2020 fiscal year, the Governor General visited with Canadians in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

- On April 26 and May 2, 2019, she met with residents of the communities of Grand Bay–Westfield and Rothesay, New Brunswick, who were affected by flooding along the Saint John River, as well as with residents whose homes were flooded in Sainte–Marthe–sur–le–Lac, Quebec. She also met with members of the military, first responders and volunteers who joined forces to help these communities.
- On May 30, 2019, the Governor General travelled to St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, to take part in the dedication to service ceremony of the icebreaker CCGS Captain Molly Kool. During her visit, the Governor General spoke with students from École des Grands–Vents and École Rocher–du–Nord on the occasion of Provincial Francophonie Day, which celebrates the French heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador.
- On June 27, 2019, in Longueuil, Quebec, the Governor General participated in the unveiling of Canadian stamps celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission and Canada’s

contributions to this lunar mission. This giant leap for human space exploration featured significant Canadian ingenuity and innovation. Canadian engineers working at NASA and at Héroux–Devtek—a company based in Longueuil, Quebec, that built part of the lunar lander—were instrumental in making this historic mission a success.

- On July 17, 2019, in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, the Governor General met with the Honourable Dennis King, Premier of Prince Edward Island, and Her Honour the Honourable Antoinette Perry, Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island.
- From July 18 to 20, 2019, the Governor General visited Îles–de–la–Madeleine, Quebec. During her trip, she visited the Mines Seleine and walked with Her Worship Rose Elmonde Clarke, Mayor of Grosse–Île. She took part in the inauguration of the first edition of the Festival de Cirque des Îles and visited Île d’Entrée, which is inhabited by a mere 100 people. She observed a Canadian Coast Guard search and rescue demonstration, then ended her visit with a community reception hosted by His Worship Jonathan Lapierre, Mayor and President of the Communauté maritime des Îles–de–la–Madeleine.
- On August 15, 2019, in Dieppe, New Brunswick, the Governor General delivered remarks at the 25th Congrès mondial acadien. The goal of this international gathering is to strengthen the ties that unite all Acadian communities throughout the world. Hosted by both Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, the event allowed the region to demonstrate its vitality, its commitment to a vibrant culture and, above all, its legendary openness to the world.



Visit with residents affected by floods in Sainte Marthe sur le Lac, Quebec, May 2019.

- From September 25 to 27, 2019, the Governor General visited the communities of Churchill, Cranberry Portage, and Flin Flon, Manitoba. She learned about the rich history and environmental challenges of the North. She also talked to students about her role as governor general and about her experiences in space.
- On December 6, 2019, in Montréal, Quebec, the Governor General participated in the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Polytechnique tragedy. On that day, in 1989, 14 young women were killed at the school.
- On February 21, 2020, the Governor General visited Canadian Forces Base Trenton to offer support to Canadians who had returned from Wuhan, China, the epicentre of the COVID–19 pandemic. She met with them and their families, and thanked all those who cared for them during their quarantine period on the base.
- On February 21 and 22, 2020, the Governor General visited the Metro Vancouver region, which includes the communities of

Surrey, North Vancouver and the City of Vancouver. She met with faculty and students at Simon Fraser University, and stopped at the YWCA Alder Gardens to learn about the programs being offered to women and families to encourage their financial independence, well–being and equal opportunity. She visited a supervised injection site and spoke with first responders dealing with the opioid crisis. She also presented special coins to five teens who, in February 2019, saved a young boy who was dangling from a chairlift on Grouse Mountain.

- On February 25, 2020, the Governor General visited Thunder Bay, Ontario, where she delivered remarks at the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games before cheering on athletes at sporting events. She also gave a presentation to students from Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School and Lakehead University. Before returning to Ottawa, the Governor General visited the Aviation Centre of Excellence, where she met with students enrolled in the Centre’s two full–time aviation programs.



25th Congrès mondial acadien, Dieppe, New Brunswick, August 2019.

COMMUNICATING WITH CANADIANS

IN PERSON AND ONLINE...

The Governor General gave more than 100 formal speeches and remarks at various events. She also provided numerous video and written messages to organizations throughout the country.

During the 2019–2020 fiscal period, the Office supported the Governor General’s many communication activities, whether in person, on the **gg.ca** website, or via social media:

- Ongoing updates to the website resulted in 957 114 visits and 2 886 664 page views by 747 855 unique users;
- More than 4 000 letters and close to 26 000 birthday and wedding anniversary greetings from the Governor General and Her Majesty The Queen were delivered;
- The Office’s Facebook, Twitter and Instagram social media accounts gained nearly 164 000 followers—an increase of 28 per cent from the previous year—while public content on the Governor General’s YouTube channel was increased.

The Office’s eight social media platforms feature a wide variety of content such as videos, infographics and images that illustrate the work being done each week throughout the year.

The frequency and quantity of content being published increased at the end of the fiscal year in order to bring Canadians together even more as the pandemic began.

...AND THROUGH GGINTERACTIVE

Created and tested in the 2018–2019 fiscal year, the **GGinteractive** program was officially launched in October 2019 to give students from across Canada a fun and exciting opportunity to speak with the Governor General, and to ask questions about her official role, her experience as a Canadian astronaut, and everything in between.

In 2019–2020, 1 955 students from 34 participating schools had the opportunity to speak with the Governor General.

CONVENING CANADIANS

AROUND THE TABLE...

During the 2019–2020 fiscal year, the Governor General hosted several forums and expert discussions on topical issues, such as:

- the importance of research and data-driven, evidence-based decision making;
- the positive impact of international collaboration and scientific diplomacy;
- the challenges faced by journalists in gathering, transferring and communicating facts to Canadians in the context of shorter news cycles; and
- the promotion of Canadian art and culture at home and abroad.

During regional visits, the Governor General regularly convened influencers and community leaders, including Order of Canada members, to foster further collaboration across the country on varied topical issues and themes.

...AND THROUGH GGACTIVE

Launched during the previous fiscal year, GGactive encourages Canadians to get moving and stay active. Throughout the 2019–2020 reporting period, the Governor General invited families and people of all ages to join her in discovering Canada’s magnificent landscapes, all while engaged in physical activity.

- On May 14, 2019, the Governor General joined parliamentarians and other cyclists for Bike Day on the Hill, in Ottawa. Beginning

at Parliament Hill, the participants cycled across the Portage Bridge into Gatineau before looping back to the starting point via the Alexandria Bridge.

- On July 19, 2019, during a visit to the Îles-de-la-Madeleine, the Governor General invited residents of Île d’Entrée to join her in walking to the top of Big Hill.
- On September 10, 2019, the Governor General, joined by OSGG employees, participated in the 3rd edition of the Move for What Matters! 5 km Walk Run Roll event. This event officially launched the 2019 Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign in the National Capital Region.
- During her trip to northern Manitoba (September 25 to 27, 2019) the Governor General invited members of the community in Churchill to join her for a friendly bowling game. In Flin Flon, she went canoeing on Phantom Lake with students from McIsaac School. She also enjoyed a walk with members of the public along Flinty’s Boardwalk at Ross Lake.
- On February 22, 2020, in North Vancouver, British Columbia, the Governor General took part in an open skate with members of the community at the Shipyards Skate Plaza.
- On February 25, 2020, during her visit to Thunder Bay, Ontario, the Governor General went cross-country skiing with members of the National Team Development Centre (NTDC) and local youth. NTDC Thunder Bay is a community-based organization working within the framework of Cross Country Canada to provide elite cross-country skiers with intensive training and competition programs.



Cross country ski activity with members of the National Team Development Centre (NTDC), Thunder Bay, Ontario, February 2020.

WELCOMING CANADIANS

Throughout this fiscal period, thousands of members of the public went to both official residences: Rideau Hall in Ottawa, and the Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle in Québec.

Through public events such as the Inspection of the Ceremonial Guard, the CHEO Teddy Bears’ Picnic, Storytime, Doors Open,

Chamberfest, Halloween and the annual Winter Celebration, nearly 290 000 people came to Rideau Hall or the Citadelle. (266 038 at Rideau Hall / 23 082 at the Citadelle)

NOTE: On March 13, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with public health requirements, the residences were closed indefinitely. This section outlines some of the activities held in Ottawa and Québec in 2019–2020, prior to the closing of the residences.

OPEN DOORS EVENT

On July 14, 2019, the Governor General invited members of the public to take part in an active living event at the Citadelle. Visitors took part in a boot camp, an obstacle course, a judo demonstration, a yoga session or a simple FitBreak. They also had the opportunity to learn more about nutrition and healthy habits, and to speak with experts from the Chancellery of Honours about the achievements of prominent Canadians.

DARE TO DREAM EXHIBIT

On October 2, 2019, the Governor General unveiled an exhibit at Rideau Hall showcasing breathtaking photographs of Canada taken from space, as well as an exclusive display of objects, gear and keepsakes from her personal collection. The exhibition provided an overview of her career as an astronaut and inspired people to dare to dream.

OUTDOOR SKATING

Rideau Hall’s refrigerated skating rink opened to skaters on December 7, 2019. During the season, 7 240 skaters enjoyed an enchanting experience, lacing up their skates to glide across a forest-lined rink to the sound of traditional music.

RIDEAU HALL’S ANNUAL WINTER CELEBRATION

On February 1, 2020, the Governor General invited guests to discover winter traditions from around the world. As they explored the grounds, visitors enjoyed free activities, performances, pop-up museums and food samples from countries that share our great love of winter.



Canadian Heraldic Authority kiosk at the doors open event at the Citadelle, Québec, July 2019.



Guided tour of the Dare to Dream exhibit, Rideau Hall, Ottawa, October 2019.



Guided tour of the Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle, Québec.

OFFICE OPERATIONS

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (OSGG) is composed of the following directorates: Policy, Program and Protocol; Communications; Human Resources; Corporate Services; and the Chancellery of Honours.

In 2019–2020, numerous initiatives were launched to modernize the work environment and activities offered by the Office, and to improve existing services, policies and procedures. Of particular note, GCdocs replaced the Office’s former digital file retention system, RDIMS. GCdocs is the Government of Canada’s official electronic documents and records management solution. It is a collaborative tool that allows users to effectively share, organize, evaluate, identify and dispose of digital data.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

At a ceremony held during National Public Service Week (June 2019), several staff members were recognized for their contributions to the Office, including eight individuals for their long service. On this occasion, the OSGG IT team received a certificate for excellence in the Outstanding Service category. Personalized certificates were also presented to five individual staff members in recognition of excellence in the following categories: Leadership, Creativity, Collaboration, Civility and Respect, and Outstanding Service.

Governor General Support	Internal Services	Statutory Expenditures (non-discretionary)	Total
\$12.91M	\$7.23M	\$3.04M	\$23.18M

The complete 2019–2020 Financial Statements of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General are available on our website at gg.ca/reports.



Recipients of the OSGG’s Awards for Excellence, Rideau Hall, Ottawa.

The kitchen team preparing for an event, Rideau Hall, Ottawa.

SUPPORT FROM OTHER 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. The funds allocated to this role and spent directly by the following organizations from their budget appropriations amounted to \$25.1 million.*

The National Capital Commission is responsible for the preservation, maintenance and capital construction projects for all of the official residences located in the National Capital Region, including Rideau Hall.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police provides support in matters related to the security of and personal protection services for the governor general, both domestically and abroad.

- The Office also works closely with other federal departments, including the following: The Department of National Defence
- provides logistical support and transportation to the governor general in an official capacity;
- Public Services and Procurement Canada provides the Office with accommodation and logistical support for the Residence of the Governor General at the Citadel and the Chancellery of Honours;
- Global Affairs Canada advises the governor general on all matters related to foreign policy, and funds activities related to incoming State visits, the governor general’s international program, and activities undertaken at the request of the prime minister; and
- Canadian Heritage, which is the lead department for such activities as Royal tours, State funerals, national memorial services and special anniversary celebrations.

* For further details on these departmental and agency expenditures, please contact the organizations involved or visit their respective websites.



NCC staff working in the gardens on the grounds of Rideau Hall.

Inspection of members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



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