



**State Visits to Burkina Faso, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
and the Federal Republic of Nigeria
by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette
Governor General of Canada**

Delegation



State Visit to Burkina Faso
October 23 to 26, 2018



State Visit to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
October 26 to 28, 2018



State Visit to the Federal Republic of Nigeria
October 28 to 30, 2018



Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette Governor General of Canada

Canada's 29th governor general, Julie Payette, has worked as an astronaut, engineer, science broadcaster, scholar, administrator and corporate director.

The first Canadian to board the International Space Station, Ms. Payette participated in two space missions, aboard the *Discovery STS-96* (1999) and *Endeavour STS-127* (2009) shuttles. She also served as CAPCOM (capsule communicator) at NASA's Mission Control Center in Houston, Texas, and was chief astronaut for the Canadian Space Agency (2000–07).

Ms. Payette worked as a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2011) and as Québec scientific delegate to the United States in Washington, D.C. (2011–13). She then served as chief operating officer of the Montréal Science Centre (2013–16).

Ms. Payette has been active in multiple facets of society throughout her career, notably with a number of organizations dedicated to youth, culture and sport. She has produced several scientific outreach short programs on Radio-Canada and has acted as a member of McGill University's Faculty of Engineering Advisory Board. She currently serves as a member of the International Olympic Committee's Women in Sport Commission.

A member of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec and a fellow of the International Academy of Astronautics, Ms. Payette has an international baccalaureate from the United World College of the Atlantic in the United Kingdom, a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree from McGill University, a Master of Applied Science in Computer Engineering degree from the University of Toronto and a certificate in cyber security from York University. In addition, Ms. Payette can converse in six languages, is an accomplished musician and holds a commercial pilot licence.

The recipient of many distinctions and 28 honorary doctorates, Ms. Payette was first invested into the Order of Canada in 2010, and is a Knight of the Ordre national du Québec.



**Lieutenant General (retired)
The Honourable Andrew Leslie
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister
of Foreign Affairs**

General Leslie has been a soldier, a business leader and a federal parliamentarian. His Canadian Armed Forces career included service with artillery, armoured, mechanized infantry and airborne units.

He has commanded at Regiment, Brigade Group, Division/Area, Joint Task Force and Army levels in domestic response, security operations, peacekeeping and war. Between 2006 and 2010, he was the commander of the Canadian Army at the height of Canada's participation in Afghanistan.

His longer missions included Germany, Cyprus and several areas within the former Yugoslavia. He also served as commander of Joint Task Force Kabul/deputy commander of the NATO mission in Afghanistan. His Canadian distinctions include both the Meritorious Service Cross and Medal, and his appointment as a Commander of the Order of Military Merit. He was appointed Commander of the U. S. Legion of Merit and also received the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

On retirement from the Forces in 2011, he was involved in various cyber security corporations and charitable organizations. He was elected as the federal member of Parliament representing Orleans in October 2015, and appointed chief government whip and a member of the Privy Council. In January 2017, he became parliamentary secretary, focused on Canada-U.S. relations, and now sits on the relevant cabinet committee with his main effort on trade issues.

He was educated at the University of Ottawa, the University of London and the Royal Military College, and participated in executive courses at the Harvard Business School and Canadian Forces Colleges.



Edmond Dejon Wega **Ambassador of Canada to Burkina Faso**

Edmond Raphael Dejon Wega joined Global Affairs Canada in 2003. He has been the ambassador of Canada to Burkina Faso and Benin since November 2017.

At Global Affairs Canada headquarters, he worked in the sub-Saharan Africa sector and served as director general in Southern and Eastern Africa, and director of the Canada Fund for Africa. Mr. Dejon Wega has also been director of Management Services in the Central and East Europe division.

Abroad, he worked at the Embassy of Canada in Ethiopia and the High Commission of Canada to Mozambique as minister-counselor and head of Development Co-operation in 2008 and 2015.

Prior to joining Global Affairs Canada, Mr. Dejon Wega worked for the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Privy Council Office and the Department of Finance. He also worked in the private sector prior to joining the government.

He was awarded the Canadian Agency for International Development's Personnel Manager of the Year Award in 2003.

Mr. Dejon Wega holds a bachelor's degree from the Université de Moncton and an M.B.A. in finance from the Université du Québec à Montréal. He speaks French, English and Portuguese.



Julie Shouldice Ambassador of Canada to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

Ms. Julie Shouldice is the ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Shouldice was at the Canadian High Commission in Pretoria as head of co-operation for South Africa and director of the Kenya and South Africa development programs. During her time at Global Affairs Canada headquarters, she was the director of education, child protection and gender equality, and acting director general of social development. She has held other positions in the Government of Canada in the areas of humanitarian assistance, public health and international development. Prior to joining Global Affairs Canada, Ms. Shouldice worked for the United Nations World Food Programme (Bangladesh and Burundi), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Croatia), and the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre and the Canadian Red Cross in Ottawa. Ms. Shouldice has a bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto and a master's degree from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland. She is married with two children.



Amy Galigan Acting High Commissioner of Canada to the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Ms. Galigan is the acting high commissioner of Canada to Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Equatorial Guinea. Prior to her assignment in Nigeria, she was the head of Office, Counsellor and Consul at the Office of the High Commission of Canada in Zambia.

At Global Affairs Canada headquarters, she has served in various roles: leading policy development to better protect vulnerable Canadian children abroad; coordinating NATO policy; and working on international drugs and crime. Her other overseas assignments have included Thailand, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ethiopia.

Ms. Galigan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Western Ontario.



Francis Drouin **Member of Parliament**

Francis Drouin was first elected to the House of Commons in October 2015. He currently serves as a member of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Estimates and the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. Mr. Drouin is also active on a variety of parliamentary associations. Of note, he is a member of the Executive Committee and rapporteur with the Cooperation and Development Committee of the Canadian Branch of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF).

Mr. Drouin holds a college diploma in business administration from La Cité collégiale and a bachelor's of commerce degree from the University of Ottawa. He first worked as a special assistant in the Office of the Ontario Premier, then went on to work in the private sector as a government relations consultant. Mr. Drouin has also been a member of the Board of Directors of La Cité collégiale and worked as the government relations manager for Startup Canada.



Sylvie Boucher **Member of Parliament**

Sylvie Boucher has dedicated her life to public office. She has held various positions in several departments within the governments of Quebec and Canada. From 2006 to 2011, she served as member of Parliament (MP) for the riding of Beauport—Limoilou. She also served as parliamentary secretary for various portfolios, including Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, for Official Languages and for Status of Women.

Re-elected as MP during the October 2015 federal elections for the riding of Beauport—Côte-de-Beaupré—Île d'Orléans—Charlevoix, Ms. Boucher currently serves as secretary for Rural Affairs and Economic Development for the regions of Quebec in the Official Opposition Shadow Cabinet, under the leadership of party leader Andrew Scheer.

Ms. Boucher has completed two training programs: the first in gerontology and the second in "System and Technology." She has been actively involved in municipal, provincial and federal politics for nearly 35 years.



Linda Duncan **Member of Parliament**

First elected in 2008, Linda Duncan is the member of Parliament for Edmonton Strathcona, the NDP critic for International Development and the deputy critic for Environment and Climate Change.

Prior to her election, Ms. Duncan worked as a senior legal advisor on effective environmental regulation and enforcement in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Jamaica. She founded and ran Alberta's public-interest Environmental Law Centre; served as chief of enforcement for Environment Canada; as assistant deputy minister for Yukon Renewable Resources; and as head of law and enforcement for the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. She taught environmental law at Dalhousie Law School (now the Schulich Law School) and served as co-coordinator of its Marine and Environmental Law Program.

Ms. Duncan holds arts and law degrees (University of Alberta) and an LL.M. (Schulich School of Law), and has been widely published in the areas of environmental and resources law and policy. She has been the recipient of various awards and tributes, including the 1998 Award of Merit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the 2004 Emerald Environment Award. She has received additional tributes from the governments of Canada, Indonesia and the Netherlands.

Ms. Duncan has long advocated for evidence-based decision making and citizen rights in environmental decisions, thrice tabling a Canadian Environmental Bill of Rights.



Roy Norton **Chief of Protocol of Canada**

Roy Norton has been the chief of Protocol of Canada since July 2016. From 2014–2016, he was Canada's consul general in Chicago, and from 2010–2014, consul general in Detroit. From 2006–2010, Mr. Norton served as minister of congressional relations and public affairs at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Prior to that assignment, he served for six years with the Government of Ontario, based in Toronto; as president and CEO of Ontario Exports Inc.; as assistant deputy minister of trade; and subsequently as chief of Protocol and assistant deputy minister of international relations.

During an earlier assignment in the economic section of the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., Mr. Norton was a member of Canada's negotiating team for two NAFTA chapters. In Ottawa, he served for five years as a senior policy advisor to the Foreign Minister, prior to which he worked for eight years in the Canadian House of Commons and in the Senate.

His Ph.D. in international relations is from Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Norton also holds master's degrees from Johns Hopkins (international economics), Harvard University (public administration), and Carleton University in Ottawa (Canadian history).



Marie-Geneviève Mounier **Associate Secretary to the Governor General** **of Canada**

Marie-Geneviève Mounier was appointed associate secretary to the Governor General on February 14, 2018.

Previously, Ms. Mounier served as assistant deputy minister of Sport, Major Events and Commemorations at the Department of Canadian Heritage, where she worked to advance the Canadian sport system. She oversaw the federal government's participation in major sporting events in Canada and abroad, notably the Olympic Games and the Jeux de la Francophonie in Abidjan. Ms. Mounier was also responsible for overseeing the production of major events marking the 150th anniversary of Confederation.

Prior to serving as assistant deputy minister within Employment and Social Development Canada's Labour Program from 2010 to 2015, Ms. Mounier served as assistant deputy minister of International and Intergovernmental Affairs and Sport at the Department of Canadian Heritage from 2007 to 2010. While in that role, she coordinated the federal government's participation in the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games, TV5Monde and other initiatives of the international Francophonie community. She has been involved in numerous meetings and events of the Francophonie in Africa.

Ms. Mounier has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Concordia University and a master's degree in public administration from the École nationale d'administration publique.



Jennifer Goosen
Director General, West and Central Africa,
Global Affairs Canada

In October 2016, Jennifer Goosen was appointed director general for West and Central Africa at Global Affairs Canada with responsibilities stemming across 23 countries in the region.

From 2014 to 2016, Ms. Goosen headed the Donor Relations Department at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and was responsible for leading the Global Fund Fifth Replenishment that took place in Montréal in September 2016, which culminated in raising \$12.9 billion. Previously, she worked as the director of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition at Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (formerly the Canadian International Development Agency) wherein she led departmental efforts related to Canada's Muskoka Initiative on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

She has worked previously as the Canadian head of Co-operation in Zimbabwe, managing Canada's development and humanitarian programming portfolio. Previous posts with CIDA included strategic planning, operations and management of Canadian programming in Mozambique and the Southern Africa region, and management of multilateral processes of the G8 and United Nations.

Ms. Goosen also worked at the Privy Council Office as an advisor to the Canadian prime minister and Cabinet on foreign policy and defence issues, where she provided strategic policy analysis and advice on the Middle East and consular affairs.

Ms. Goosen holds a bachelor's degree from Bishops University.



Pierre Boivin
Partner, McCarthy Tétrault LLP
Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of
the Canadian Council on Africa

Pierre Boivin is currently a partner in the Business Law Group and national leader of the Africa group at McCarthy Tétrault LLP. His practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, private equity and related commercial matters in Canada and internationally. He is regularly designated as a leading Canadian lawyer in the mining, electricity, oil and gas sectors in such guides as *Who's Who Legal*, *The Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* and other *Lexpert* guides, as well as *Chambers Global*, as the only Canadian lawyer in the mining sector in demand for his pan-African expertise. Mr. Boivin is also vice-chair of the board of directors of the Canadian Council on Africa and is a member of the boards of directors of Export Development Canada (EDC) and of NSIA Participations, a financial institution based in the Ivory Coast as a nominee of the National Bank of Canada. He is also a member of the board of directors of CPCS Transcom Limited, which is active in Nigeria, and of Vues d'Afrique, which organizes an annual African film festival in Montréal. He currently represents many Canadian companies in Burkina Faso and the Ivory Coast.



**Dr. Jan Christilaw, C.M.
Special Advisor, Women's Health
British Columbia Women's Hospital and
Clinical Professor, University of British Columbia**

Until April 2017, Dr. Jan Christilaw served as president of the BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre, and as vice-president of the Provincial Women's & Newborn Health, Provincial Health

Services Authority. Since stepping down at that time, she has continued her clinical work, and continues as a clinical professor in the Faculty of Medicine at UBC. She also serves as director of Women's Health with the Canadian Network for International Surgery, providing capacity building and skills training in several countries.

Dr. Christilaw has spent her career advancing women's health in British Columbia. Over the course of more than 25 years, she has served as president of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada; as an expert advisor on maternity care with the Canadian Institute for Health Information; as a clinical professor at UBC; on the editorial board of the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada*; and as chair of the Cesarean Birth in BC Consensus Panel. During her long career, she has delivered thousands of babies in British Columbia, and worked as a full-service community obstetrician-gynecologist in White Rock-South Surrey for over 20 years.

In recent years, she has been awarded the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in the Health and Wellness category, the British Columbia Community Service Award, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal, the Waterloo University Distinguished Alumni Award, the National Leadership Award of the Federation of Medical Women, the Canadian International Surgery Volunteer of the Year award, and the Honorary Alumnus UBC Faculty of Medicine Award in 2016.

Most recently, on January 1, 2017, she was appointed to the Order of Canada for her work in obstetrics nationally and internationally.



Anne Gaboury
President and Chief Executive Officer
Développement international Desjardins (DID)

Anne Gaboury is the current president and chief executive officer of Développement international Desjardins (DID), a position she has held since 2002.

- Développement international Desjardins (DID) is a Canadian institution specializing in the development of inclusive finance in emerging or developing countries. Its main levers for development include consulting services focused on capacity building, investment and management contracts to support the operations of financial institutions aimed at entrepreneurs.
- DID has more than 100 employees, 30 of whom are carrying out assignments on three different continents. DID works in association with major micro-finance investors, and maintains financial and technical partnerships with over 20 financial institutions around the world.
- Actual projects support women, entrepreneurs, farmers and rural households improve their quality of life and strengthen community leadership through access to financing, increased productivity, innovation and economic education.

Ms. Gaboury holds master's degrees in psychology and in business administration. In 2009, she earned the professional designation of ASC (administrateur de société certifié)-chartered corporate director.

In addition to her responsibilities as president and chief executive officer of DID, she is a member of the advisory council of the new Canadian development finance institute, Findev Canada. She is also president of the Strategic Orientation Committee of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) and a member of the board of directors of the Institut québécois des hautes études internationales de l'Université Laval. She has also been a board member on the Canadian Council on Africa (CCAFrique) and chaired the development committee of the International Co-operative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF).



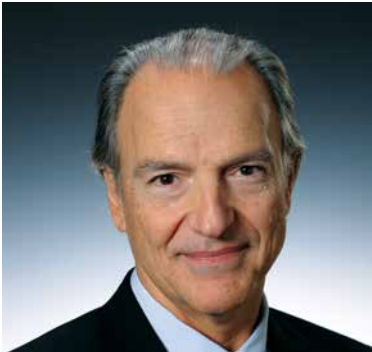
François Lalonde **Engineer and International Business** **Development Consultant**

An engineer and international business development consultant, J. François Lalonde gained international experience by working for such multinational engineering and construction companies as SNC-Lavalin (a Montréal-based Canadian company) and Bouygues Travaux Publics (a French firm based in France).

Mr. Lalonde also had a hand in the business development of Quebec firm Pomerleau Construction. In addition, he has been involved to varying degrees in numerous construction projects, such as high-tension electric transmission lines in East Africa and James Bay; the first highway concession on the African continent; and various types of commercial and residential buildings. For several years, he has worked primarily abroad, mainly in the United States, Africa and the Middle East.

Mr. Lalonde is a director of publicly traded companies, such as Stellar AfricaGold Inc. (since 2011) and Granite Creek Gold (since 2014). These two Vancouver-based companies are listed on the TSX Venture Exchange and specialize in gold exploration in West Africa. He is also the director and board chair of Atlantic Industrial Minerals, which owns a limestone deposit on Cape Breton Island.

Mr. Lalonde was a member of the Ordre des Ingénieurs du Québec from 1985 to 2015. He has been a board member for various start-up companies and charities.



**Pierre Lassonde, O.C., O.Q.
Chairman, Franco-Nevada Corporation and
Chairman, Canada Council for the Arts**

Pierre Lassonde is a graduate of École Polytechnique de Montréal who went on to become an accomplished entrepreneur in the field of natural resources. He built a number of publicly listed companies including Franco-Nevada Mining, a \$14-billion market capitalization company. He also served as chair of the World Gold Council from 2004 to 2008.

Mr. Lassonde has been the board chair of the Canada Council for the Arts since 2015, during which time the Council distributed almost \$300 million in grants and prizes across Canada to promote the creation and enjoyment of the arts. He was also chair of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. In this role, he spearheaded the construction of a new \$100-million pavilion designed by OMA (Netherlands Architecture Institute).

The Lassonde Family Foundation is dedicated to education and the arts, and to the community in which Mr. Lassonde lives. It has been actively promoting entrepreneurship and women in engineering, and uses the term "Renaissance engineer" to describe the balance it seeks to establish.

Mr. Lassonde lives in Toronto with his wife who is on the Board of Opportunity International, a non-governmental organization that addresses the education needs of developing countries.



Jean Lebel
President, International Development Research
Centre (IDRC)

Jean Lebel was appointed president of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on May 1, 2013. As part of Canada's foreign affairs and development efforts, IDRC invests in knowledge, innovation and solutions to improve lives and livelihoods in the developing world.

Dr. Lebel leads IDRC's contributions to Canada's international priorities. He is responsible for significant funding partnerships with foreign governments, philanthropic organizations and the private sector.

Prior to assuming the presidency of IDRC, Dr. Lebel served as vice-president of the Program and Partnership Branch, where he oversaw all IDRC programming. Before joining IDRC, he worked in both the academic and private sectors. He conducted groundbreaking work in agriculture and in ecosystem approaches to human health in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Dr. Lebel has served on the boards of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research, the Centre for Global Pluralism, the International Economic Forum of the Americas, and the World Economic Forum's Stewardship Board on Economic Progress. He also served as a mentor with the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation from 2016 to 2017.

He holds a Ph.D. in environmental sciences from l'Université du Québec à Montréal and an M.Sc.A. in occupational health sciences from McGill University.



Ellen McAteer, Soprano

Canadian soprano Ellen McAteer has been praised for her "lovely, full sound" (*Greater Hamilton Musician*), "joy and ebullient charm" (Bach in Bethlehem), and "stupendous singing" (*Calgary Herald*), as well as for her "steely soprano" which "handles Purcell's fussy lines with sparkling agility" (*Toronto Star*). Her performances have been described as a "powerhouse of dramatic assuredness, the ultimate in vulnerable intensity" (*Opera Canada*). Ms. McAteer's performances are diverse and include world premieres alongside staples of the classical and baroque repertoire.

She is the two-time recipient of the Richard Bradshaw Graduate Fellowship in Opera, and has been awarded the Ruby Mercer Opera Award, a Schulich scholarship, the Gaelyne Gabora Memorial Prize and the E. M. Wirth Scholarship.

Ms. McAteer holds bachelor's and master's degrees in voice performance from McGill University and the University of Toronto, respectively. She was also a recipient of the Glenn Gould School's Rebanks Family Fellowship. She has furthered her studies at the Banff Centre, the Oberlin Conservatory, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Orford Arts Centre and the Victoria Conservatory of Music, and has received career support from the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques and the Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation.



Dr. Chidi Oguamanam
Professor, Faculty of Law (Common Law
Section), University of Ottawa

Dr. Oguamanam is a full professor of law at the University of Ottawa, and is affiliated with three Centres of Excellence in the University: Law, Technology and Society; Environmental Law and Global Sustainability; and Health Law, Policy and Ethics.

A dedicated interdisciplinary scholar, Dr. Oguamanam is an internationally renowned expert in the areas of intellectual property, global knowledge governance and their ramifications for Indigenous and Western knowledge productions in such diverse contexts as food and agriculture, biodiversity conservation, culture, entertainment and creativity, medicines and pharmaceuticals, and environmental sustainability as part of international development law and policy.

A senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, Dr. Oguamanam was named to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists in 2016. An author of several books, he is a co-founder of the Open African Innovation Research (Open AIR) network, an influential pan-African research consortium dedicated to raising the next generation of African and Afro-Canadian thought leaders in the area of global knowledge governance and innovation.

He leads several research initiatives including the Access and Benefit Sharing Canada project. Born and raised in Nigeria, Dr. Oguamanam is a sought-after lawyer, speaker and public commentator on global affairs from African perspectives.



Lili-Anna Pereša, C.Q.
President and Executive Director, Centraide of Greater Montreal

Lili-Anna Pereša is an engineer and a graduate of the École Polytechnique de Montréal (1987). Since 2013, she has been the president and executive director of Centraide of Greater Montreal, which supports a wide network of community agencies that fight social exclusion and poverty.

From 2009 to 2012, Ms. Pereša led ONE DROP, which manages a project providing access to safe water in Burkina Faso. Prior to that, she directed community and humanitarian organizations, including les petits frères des Pauvres, the YWCA of Montréal and Amnesty International France.

She had her first experience as a volunteer aid worker at the age of 25 when she taught with the World University Service of Canada in Malawi. Following that, she was a management consultant to Oxfam-Québec's Burkina Secours in Burkina Faso. In 1994, Ms. Pereša joined CARE Austria as head of the Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina Mission, during the armed conflict that was affecting the region at that time. She also supported women's entrepreneurship efforts with the Bureau d'Appui aux Micro Entreprises (BAME) in Bobo-Dioulasso in 1995.

Ms. Pereša holds a graduate degree in management from McGill University and a master's degree in political science—with specialization in international co-operation and humanitarian aid—from the Sorbonne in Paris.

Ms. Pereša's involvement in humanitarian aid has earned her various distinctions, including the title of Chevalière from the Ordre national du Québec, an honorary doctorate from the Université de Montréal, and an Engineers Canada fellowship.

Ms. Peresa is a member of the Independent Advisory Board for Supreme Court of Canada Judicial Appointments. She is currently a board member of the Domaine Forget and of the Mobile Giving Foundation Canada, and was also a board member of the École Polytechnique de Montréal.



Mariam Sy Diawara
Founding President, Maison de l'Afrique
Montréal and Africa Web Festival

With 40 years of experience, Mariam Sy Diawara is an authority on communication in French-speaking Africa. She has distinguished herself through her strong social engagement with youth, which has earned her about a dozen honours and awards.

A global citizen, Ms. Sy Diawara settled in Quebec, where she founded PACTE (Passerelle Afrique Canada Transactions et Échanges) in 2000 and the Maison de l'Afrique Montréal in 2004 with the aim of bringing cultures together and fostering trade between North America and Africa.

Inspired by youth, she launched the Africa Web Festival (AWF) in Abidjan in 2014. With thousands of participants, it has become the largest event for promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and the digital economy in French-speaking Africa.

Actively working to address some of the challenges facing Africa, such as youth and employment, entrepreneurship and innovation, smart cities and the digital shift, Ms. Sy Diawara was referred to by TV5's "Le Journal Afrique" as an ambassador for Africa 3.0.

She currently oversees about 10 initiatives and businesses in the communication, advertising, publishing and humanitarian fields, which have enabled her to continue her efforts in both Côte d'Ivoire and the sub-region.



Daniel Taylor
Conductor /Countertenor
Head of Historical Performance and
Associate Professor of Voice, Early Music
and Opera, University of Toronto

Daniel Taylor is a Sony Classical artist sought after for his performances on the opera and concert stage, on CD/DVD and in film. Appearing on more than 120 recordings, he is the recipient of a Grammy Award, and has also been awarded Gramophone, Juno, Opus and ADISQ prizes, as well as the Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Mr. Taylor has appeared at the New York Metropolitan Opera, Glyndebourne, Rome Opera, Welsh National, Canadian Opera and Opera North. He has joined leading orchestras including those of San Francisco, Los Angeles, St. Louis, London, Lisbon, the New York Philharmonic, Gothenburg and Scottish National.

He has performed for Her Majesty The Queen, Canadian prime ministers, the King and Queen of Sweden, and King and Queen of Spain. He also sang at the investiture ceremony of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, in the Senate's Red Chamber.

Mr. Taylor has appeared with the Dalai Lama and with Salman Rushdie, as well as with actors Ralph Fiennes (*Harry Potter*), Jeremy Irons (*Batman v Superman*), Malcolm McDowell (*A Clockwork Orange*) and Chris Noth ("Law and Order").

He is the head of historical performance and a professor of voice, opera and early music at the University of Toronto, and was recently named head vocal consultant and chorus master at the Opera Atelier. He is praised for his clarity in instruction and dedication to his students.