

# Annual Report 2017-2018

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 50<sup>th</sup> 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. The Order of Canada's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated throughout 2017.*

Cover Photo: Rideau Hall

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Andrew Milligan, Associated Press: pg. 15.  
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Our Mission:

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

Our Vision:

**Connect, inspire and honour Canadians**



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 2017-2018, 235 heraldic emblems were granted or registered. Among the emblems created were the coat of arms for Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, 29<sup>th</sup> Governor General of Canada; the design for the Governor General's Medals in Architecture; and badges for Parks Canada wardens and HMCS *Harry DeWolf*, a new Royal Canadian Navy ship.

## Message from the Secretary to the Governor General and Herald Chancellor

I am very pleased to present to Canadians the 2017-2018 Annual Report of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General.

This has been an exciting year of transition between two governors general. Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette commenced her tenure as the 29<sup>th</sup> governor general with her installation on October 2, 2017, succeeding the Right Honourable David Johnston, who completed his seven-year mandate of distinguished service.

On February 2, 2018, I was honoured to be invited to lead the Office as the new secretary to the governor general and herald chancellor. Our great team of employees began strategic planning and modernizing the Office to better support and help implement Her Excellency's mandate.



Built on centuries of traditions, the Office is a rigorous and high-energy organisation that seeks improvements as it plans, analyzes and executes its varied activities. As we support one of Canada's most celebrated scientists and astronauts, you will not be surprised to hear that right from the beginning, special attention went into bringing the latest technologies to the Office, thereby expanding our ability to connect with Canadians, improving our efficiency, and providing us with the agility needed to fulfill our mission. Through these innovations, we launched initiatives such as a new website that allows for online Honours nominations and a digital school outreach program (eGG) to bring the Governor General directly into the classroom.

This report serves as a snapshot of our activities. Day-in and day-out, 365 days a year, the teams at Rideau Hall and the Citadelle work together, alongside Canadian and international partners, to support the Governor General's responsibilities: representing the Crown; representing Canada at home and abroad; showcasing excellence and achievement; serving as commander-in-chief of Canada; and helping to bring Canadians together.

I want to thank all employees and partners for their professionalism and commitment, as well as for the warm welcome and support I have received since my arrival.

Together, we have achieved remarkable things in the past year. The best is yet to come!

**Assunta Di Lorenzo**

Secretary to the Governor General and Herald Chancellor of Canada

## Office of the Secretary to the Governor General

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General supports the governor general in fulfilling the 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 or her 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: Rideau Hall, in Ottawa, and the Citadelle, in Québec. In 2017-2018, these sites were visited by close to 335 000 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 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 or her role as the representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Canada and in carrying out his or her 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, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Department of National Defence, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Global Affairs Canada and the Department of Canadian Heritage.



Rideau Hall



The Citadelle



## Highlights of 2017-2018

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## Highlights of 2017-2018



Upon her arrival at Rideau Hall, after being installed as the 29<sup>th</sup> governor general of Canada, Governor General Julie Payette inspected a 100-person guard of honour comprising men and women from the Canadian Grenadier Guards and the Governor General's Foot Guards, two of the household regiments.

I am convinced that anyone can accomplish anything and rise to the challenge as long as they are willing to work with others, to let go of their personal agenda, to reach a higher goal and to do what is right for the common good.

*Governor General Julie Payette  
October 2, 2017*

A transition year requires the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General to support two governors general, and the specific and unique requirements of one that is departing from office and another that is arriving. The Office supported governors general David Johnston and Julie Payette as they participated in hundreds of activities in this transition year, among them, ceremonies, visits at home and abroad, diplomatic meetings, official visits from foreign dignitaries, and a multitude of military and constitutional duties.

- The Office, working with the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Privy Council Office, managed a smooth and seamless transition between governors general, leading up to the installation of the Right Honourable Julie Payette as Canada's 29<sup>th</sup> governor general, on October 2.
- Behind the scenes, the Office is modernizing many of its processes, its operations and its objectives in order to reflect the evolving nature of Canadian society and to improve efficiency. The goal: to combine tradition and innovation in the delivery of support to Canada's viceregal office.



Scouts greeted the Governor General at a welcoming ceremony in Victoria on March 20, 2018, as she began her official visit to British Columbia.



Visitors enjoyed outdoor activities during Winter Celebration which was held at Rideau Hall on January 27, 2018.

The Right Honourable David Johnston attended the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, in France, on April 8, 2017.

- The Office maintained its commitment to bringing the recognition of excellence directly to Canadians throughout the country. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of Canada was celebrated throughout 2017 and presentations of Canadian honours extended beyond Rideau Hall to cities such as Moncton, Yellowknife, Québec, Toronto and Victoria.
- The Office supported both governors general by overseeing the operational, logistical and strategic requirements of a broad range of activities, from the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the opening of the Invictus Games, to visits with Canadian troops deployed abroad in Ukraine and Latvia, and stationed closer to home at CFB Gagetown and CFB Esquimalt.
- The Office coordinated with a number of federal partners in organizing and providing support in welcoming Their Royal

Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall as they embarked on a tour of Nunavut, Ontario, and the National Capital Region. As part of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation, the new front door was inaugurated at Rideau Hall on July 1 and received Royal designation as The Queen's Entrance, in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Sapphire Jubilee and her dedicated service to Canada.

- The Office supported both governors general David Johnston and Julie Payette as they travelled to seven provinces and two territories to take part in a variety of events, to meet with Canadians in their communities to discuss issues of local and national concern. The Office also maintained its commitment to welcoming Canadians to Rideau Hall and the Citadelle by hosting many public events, including Savour Fall, Winter Celebration and a Victorian-themed Halloween.



Representing the Crown in Canada

## Representing the Crown in Canada

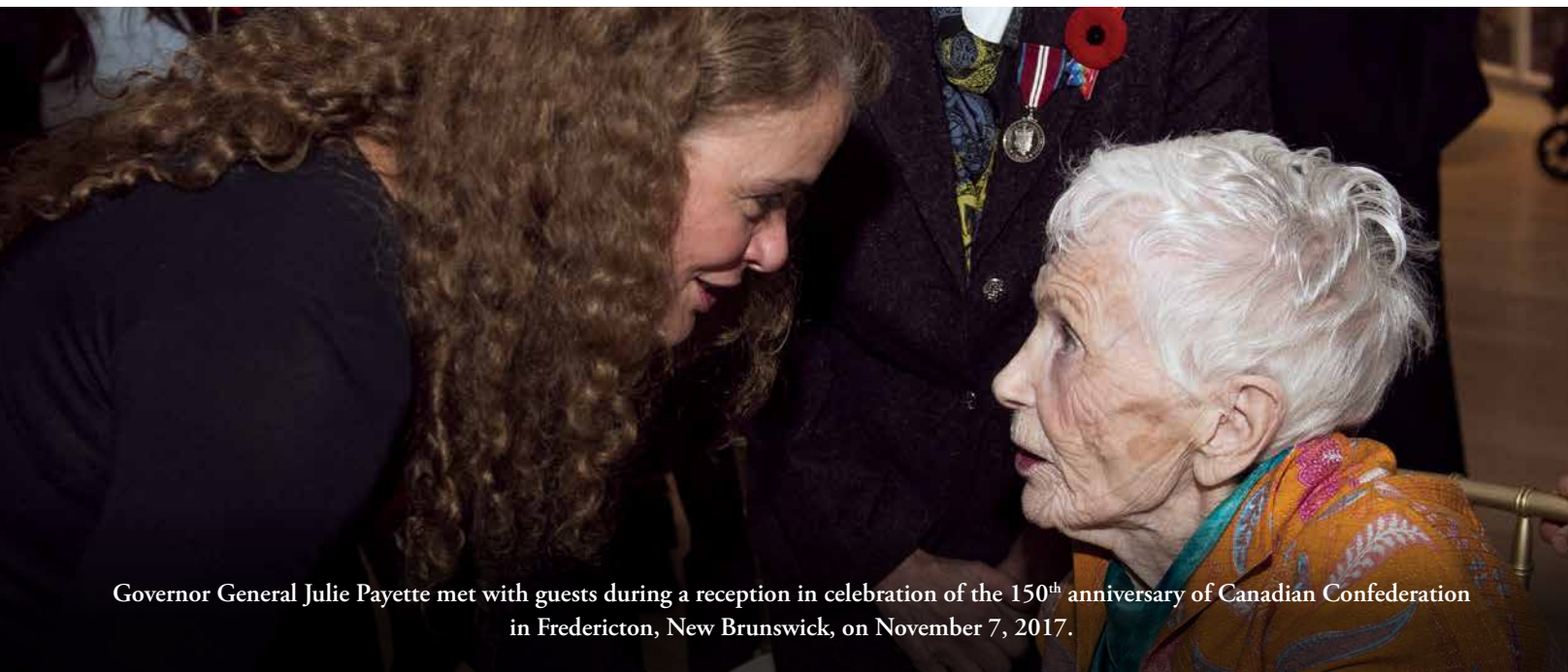
One of the governor general's responsibilities is to ensure that Canada always has a prime minister. The governor general presides over the swearing-in of the prime minister, the chief justice of Canada and Cabinet ministers; summons, prorogues and dissolves Parliament; delivers the Speech from the Throne;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

In 2017-2018, 98 activities associated with representing the Crown in Canada were supported by the Office.

- Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette became the 29<sup>th</sup> governor general of Canada on October 2. The installation ceremony took place inside the Senate Chamber, on Parliament Hill, and was followed by military honours and the inspection of a guard of honour.
- Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh were received by Governor General David Johnston at Canada House, in London, United Kingdom, in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation.
- Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall travelled to Iqaluit to launch the 2017 Royal Tour of Nunavut, Ontario and the National Capital Region. While marking Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation, Their Royal Highnesses participated in activities that highlighted the themes of diversity and inclusion, youth, the environment and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.
- On December 18, 2017, the new chief justice of Canada, the Right Honourable Richard Wagner, was sworn in during a ceremony at Rideau Hall.
- The Annual Conference of the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners was held at Rideau Hall in June 2017. This annual gathering is a forum for the exchange of information of mutual interest.
- Throughout the year, governors general David Johnston and Julie Payette presided over six swearing-in ceremonies and gave Royal Assent to 39 bills. They signed more than 4 425 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.



Governor General Julie Payette gave Royal Assent during a traditional ceremony held in the Senate Chamber on December 12, 2018.



Governor General Julie Payette met with guests during a reception in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian Confederation in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on November 7, 2017.

“Planning and collaboration are key to the success of an official visit by a governor general to a province. Months of preparation and teamwork are required to ensure that the visit, in all its complexity, is executed flawlessly. It was a pleasure to work with the Governor General's team in planning her first official visit to New Brunswick.”

*Lana Tingley-Lacroix, Chief of Protocol  
Intergovernmental Affairs, International Relations and Office of Protocol Branch, Government of New Brunswick*



On September 20, 2017, Governor General Designate Julie Payette had her first audience with Her Majesty The Queen at Balmoral Castle, Her Majesty's residence in Scotland.



Governor General David Johnston accompanied Her Majesty The Queen during a visit to Canada House in London, United Kingdom, to mark Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation.





Representing Canada at Home and Abroad

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## Representing Canada at Home and Abroad

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

In 2017-2018, the Office supported governors general David Johnston and Julie Payette as they participated in over 100 activities and events, representing Canada at home and abroad.

- The President of the Republic of Chile, the President of the Italian Republic, the President of the Republic of Colombia, the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the King and Queen of the Belgians were all welcomed at Rideau Hall on the occasion of their State visits to Canada.
- The Office supported Governor General David Johnston as he undertook an official visit to the People's Republic of China in July 2017, in support of developing new partnerships for Canada and reinforcing existing ties in education and research collaboration, innovation, agri-food and tourism.

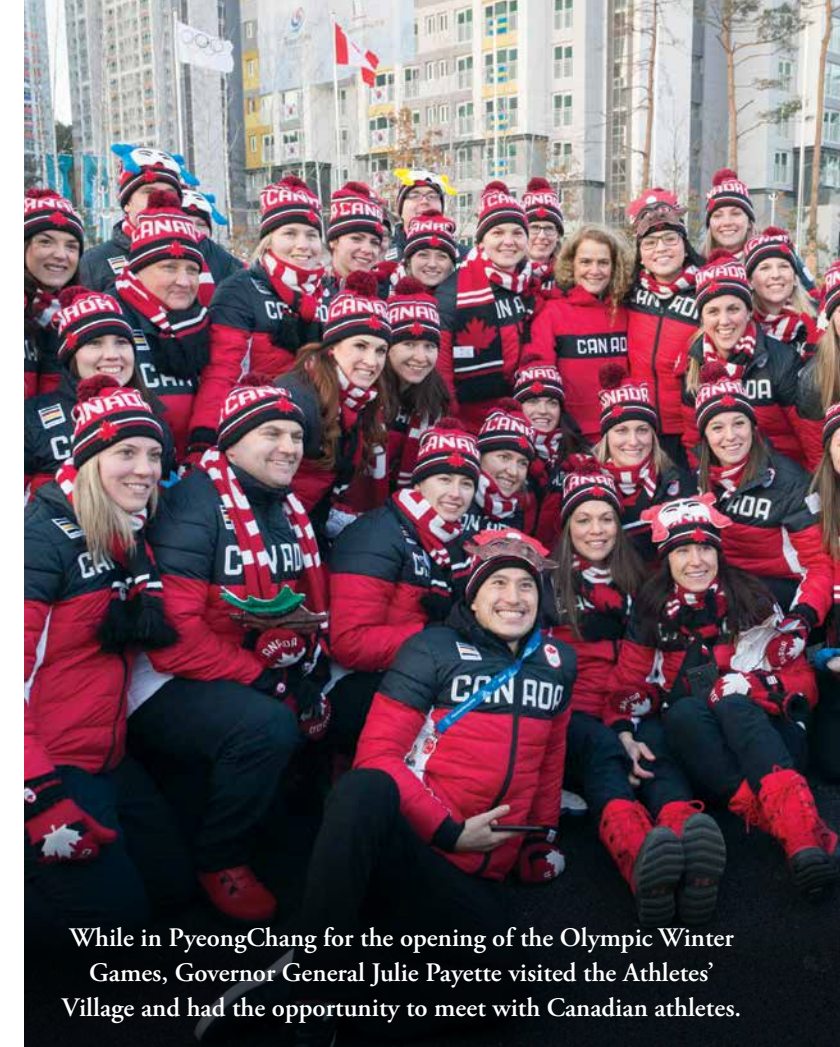


Her Excellency Viviane Laure Elisabeth Bampassy, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal, presented her credentials to the Governor General on March 27, 2018.

“Thank you for your commitment to diplomacy. Let's aim high in our desire for partnership and co-operation, and dare to dream of a better world together.”

*Governor General Julie Payette  
March 27, 2018*

- Governor General Julie Payette travelled to Bangkok, Thailand, to represent Canada at the royal cremation of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the longest-reigning monarch in Thailand's history.
- While visiting Canadian troops in Ukraine and Latvia in January, Governor General Julie Payette met His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, and His Excellency Raimonds Vējonis, President of the Republic of Latvia.
- In February, Governor General Julie Payette led the Canadian delegation in attendance at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. While in PyeongChang, she attended Canada's flag-raising ceremony in the Athletes' Village, participated in the official opening of Canada Olympic House, attended the Opening Ceremony and cheered on our Canadian athletes. She also met with His Excellency Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea, to talk about the Games and the important connections between our two countries.
- Throughout the year, diplomats from 46 countries presented their letters of credence to governors general David Johnston and Julie Payette. The Office has prioritized reducing waiting times for new ambassadors and high commissioners to present their credentials.



While in PyeongChang for the opening of the Olympic Winter Games, Governor General Julie Payette visited the Athletes' Village and had the opportunity to meet with Canadian athletes.

“It was a great honour to meet Ms. Payette at the PyeongChang Olympic Games. I have tremendous admiration for astronauts because they, too, have to undergo rigorous training to achieve their dreams. I don't know what it's like to be weightless in space, but I imagine it's not far off from the adrenaline rush I felt when I won Olympic gold!”



*Mikaël Kingsbury, Canadian freestyle skier  
March 27, 2018*



Encouraging Excellence and Achievement

## Encouraging Excellence and Achievement

The governor general presents awards to people who have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional dedication in ways that bring special credit 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.

- In 2017-2018, close to 11 000 Canadians were recognized through the Canadian Honours System at events held throughout the country to celebrate excellence and achievement.
- In 2017, the Order of Canada celebrated 50 years of recognizing outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. To celebrate this important milestone, the Office partnered with the Walrus Foundation to present a national tour featuring 50 members of the Order; released the book *They Desire a Better Country: The Order of Canada in 50 Stories*; and organized a special gathering of all members of the Order at Rideau Hall.



Ms. Karen Storwick received her Meritorious Service Decoration (Civil Division) on February 28, 2018.



On June 19, 2017, Gord Downie was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of his charitable contributions, social activism and his efforts in moving Canada along the path to reconciliation.

“Thank you so much for an absolutely wonderful day. It couldn't have been more perfect. My family and I were so honoured to share the day with the Governor General, the welcoming staff at Rideau Hall and so many incredible recipients. I greatly appreciate the time and effort you all put in to making this day so special for us.

”  
*Karen Storwick*  
*Recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal*

- Hundreds of events—both large and small—were held at Rideau Hall and the Citadelle, the official residences of the governor general, including such prestigious award presentations as:
  - the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards;
  - the Governor General's Literary Awards;
  - the Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts;
  - the Governor General's Innovation Awards;
  - the Governor General's History Awards;
  - the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case, which highlight the advancement of women's equality and inclusiveness in Canada;
  - the Governor General's Academic All-Canadian Commendation for student-athletes;
  - the Michener Award for outstanding public service in journalism; and
  - the Killam Prizes, which celebrate Canadian scholars and their research and innovation.

“The Order of Canada comprises an extraordinary network of talented, compassionate and dynamic people from right across this vast, diverse land, and yet, like any group of individuals, the Order is much more than the sum of its parts.”

*Governor General David Johnston*  
*August 22, 2017*

**190** INVESTEEES TO THE ORDER OF CANADA

3 COMPANIONS, 1 HONORARY COMPANION,  
38 OFFICERS, 1 HONORARY OFFICER  
AND 147 MEMBERS

**60** INVESTEEES TO THE  
ORDER OF MERIT OF THE  
POLICE FORCES

1 COMPANION, 6 OFFICERS  
AND 53 MEMBERS

**195** MERITORIOUS  
SERVICE DECORATIONS  
(Civil Division)

59 CROSSES AND 136 MEDALS

**3** POLAR MEDALS

**7 273** EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDALS

**235** HERALDIC EMBLEMS  
created or registered

**45** INVESTEEES TO THE ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT

2 COMMANDERS, 7 OFFICERS  
AND 36 MEMBERS

**79** BRAVERY DECORATIONS

4 STARS OF COURAGE  
AND 75 MEDALS OF BRAVERY

**63** MERITORIOUS  
SERVICE DECORATIONS  
(Military Division)

9 CROSSES AND 54 MEDALS

**880** SOVEREIGN'S MEDALS  
FOR VOLUNTEERS

**2 190** GOVERNOR GENERAL'S  
ACADEMIC AWARDS

Serving as Commander-in-Chief of Canada



## 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. The governor general 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, the governor general appoints the chief of the Defence Staff.

In 2017-2018, the Office supported governors general David Johnston and Julie Payette as they participated in 38 activities as commander-in-chief of Canada.

- The first half of the year was noted for Governor General David Johnston's participation in the ceremonies commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, in France, as well as for his presentation of new colours to the

Royal Canadian Air Force. Historically, colours marked and provided a rallying point for army regiments in the line of battle. While they are no longer carried in action, colours continue to be symbols of pride, honour and devotion to Sovereign and to country.



While on board HMCS *Chicoutimi* on March 21, 2018, Governor General Julie Payette had an opportunity to operate some of the systems of the submarine.

I have great admiration and infinite respect for the women and men who serve in uniform with duty and honour. We have a duty to remember the stories of Canadians who valiantly fought for our freedoms. Let's honour the bravery and sacrifices of our veterans by working together for a better and more peaceful world.

*Governor General Julie Payette  
November 11, 2017*



Governor General Julie Payette and the 2017 Silver Cross Mother, Mrs. Diana Abel Fitzpatrick.

It was an honour to have hosted the Commander-in-Chief onboard Her Majesty's Canadian Submarine *Chicoutimi* as we returned from our historic Asia-Pacific deployment in 2018. Introducing the crew and demonstrating the systems that allow us to live and operate underwater to someone who has lived in space was a unique pleasure. I hope to welcome the Commander-in-Chief onboard HMCS *Victoria* in 2019 and have her dive the submarine.

*Commander J. S. Ouellet, Commanding Officer  
Her Majesty's Canadian Submarine Chicoutimi*

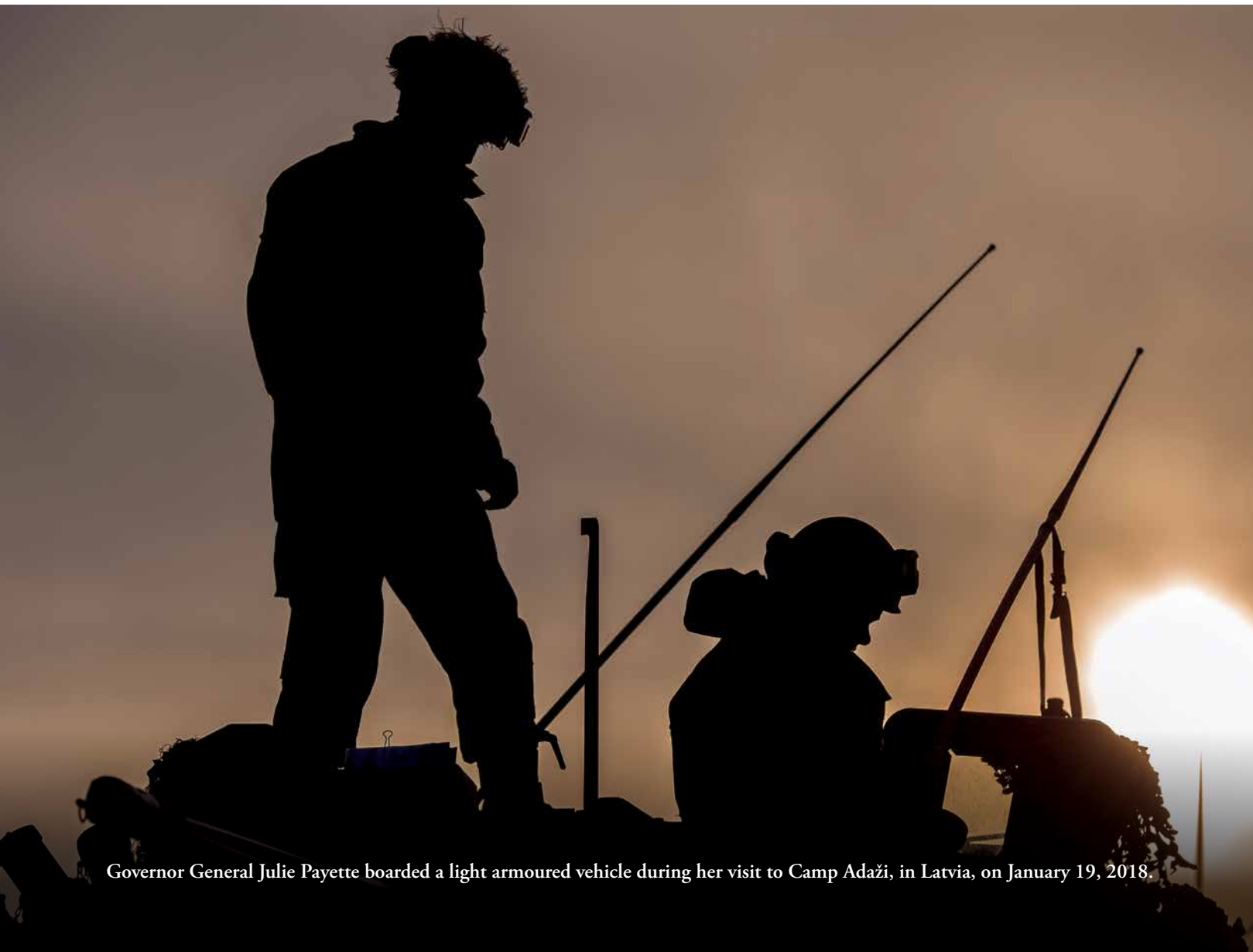
- In the latter part of 2017-2018, Governor General Julie Payette visited with CAF personnel at 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Support Base Gagagetown, and with troops serving on Operation UNIFIER in Ukraine and on Operation REASSURANCE in Latvia.
- She also met with members of the Royal Canadian Navy on board Her Majesty's Canadian Ship *Regina* and Her Majesty's Canadian Submarine *Chicoutimi*, which belong to the Pacific fleet and are based out of Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt.

- On Remembrance Day, Her Excellency paid tribute to the 2017 Silver Cross Mother, Mrs. Diana Abel Fitzpatrick, whose son, Corporal Michael David Abel, died on May 3, 1993, while serving in Belet Huen, Somalia, as part of a United Nations peacekeeping effort.

- Throughout the year, governors general David Johnston and Julie Payette recognized exceptional sustained service by members of the Canadian Armed Forces with the insignia of the Order of Military Merit. In addition, Meritorious Service Decorations (Military Division) were presented to individuals whose specific achievements brought honour to the Canadian Armed Forces and to Canada.



The Canadian Armed Forces paid tribute to their 28<sup>th</sup> commander-in-chief, David Johnston, and their honorary captain (Navy) for Military Personnel Command, Sharon Johnston, during a military parade at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum on September 27, 2017.



Governor General Julie Payette boarded a light armoured vehicle during her visit to Camp Adazi, in Latvia, on January 19, 2018.

“The men and women of 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Support Base Gagetown were extremely proud and privileged to host our Commander-in-Chief, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, on her first official visit to a Canadian Armed Forces base. This visit was particularly special as Gagetown enters into its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Governor General acknowledged the incredibly strong relationship between the military and the Town of Oromocto. Although it was a challenge to highlight the diverse range of key activities that regularly takes place in the *home of the Army*, it was particularly fitting and memorable for our Commander-in-Chief to take a few minutes at the end of her visit to speak with families at our Military Family Resource Centre, recognizing the critical role that our families play in our military's strength.”

*Colonel K. E. Osmond, Commander  
5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Support Group Canadian Armed Forces Gagetown*



On November 7, 2017, during her first official visit to New Brunswick, Governor General Julie Payette visited CFB Gagetown and spent time with troops and their families.





Bringing Canadians Together

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## Bringing Canadians Together

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

In 2017-2018, the Office supported a wide range of activities that brought Canadians together, including visits to seven provinces and two territories.

- Canadians came together to consider the challenges we face today and to help define the future of our country. They took part in such events as Working Together for the Common Good: The Governor General's Conference on Giving; the Masquerade for Mental Health; and the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference.
- Engaging youth is of particular importance to Governor General Julie Payette. During her inaugural visit to the Northwest Territories, she met with youth groups to discuss their aspirations and challenges.
- Governor General Julie Payette welcomed the Grey Cup to Rideau Hall on the occasion of the 105<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup Championship Game. To celebrate National Flag Day, she took part in a special ceremony held on the Canada 150 skating rink on Parliament Hill.
- Close to 335 000 visitors came through the doors or visited the grounds of Rideau Hall and the Citadelle, the two official residences of the governor general.



Governor General Julie Payette skied a circuit on the West Lawn when she participated in the third annual cross-country ski event on Parliament Hill on February 14, 2018.

- More Canadians than ever before are connecting with the governor general through social media. With more than 65 000 followers (as of March 2018), the Office remains committed to supporting this online presence. Whether promoting interesting facts about science and healthy living, highlighting Canadians receiving honours, or sharing videos recognizing important events or celebrations, Governor General Julie Payette is committed to using technology to connect with Canadians.
- Rideau Hall hosted a number of public events, including Storytime, Savour Fall and Winter Celebration. Guests were invited to sit out under the stars for a special presentation of the film *Bon Cop Bad Cop 2*, as part of the popular Rideau Hall Movie Nights series.
- The grounds were transformed into a haunted Victorian-era cemetery for Rideau Hall's annual Halloween celebration.



Governor General David Johnston opened the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference in Whistler on June 2, 2017. Divided into 16 study groups, the 250 participants travelled to various parts of the country and reconvened in Ottawa two weeks later to report back to the Governor General on what had been learned throughout their journey.



On November 15, 2017, during her first official visit to the Northwest Territories, Governor General Julie Payette delivered remarks and participated in the official inauguration of the Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway, the "first all-weather road to Canada's Arctic Coast".

# Office Operations

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General comprises 138 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 as the representative of Her Majesty The Queen in Canada and in carrying out his or her primary responsibilities.

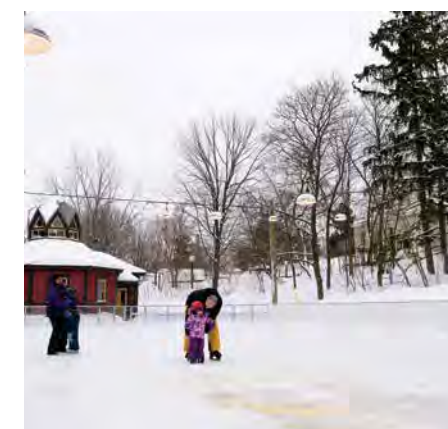
In addition to supporting governors general David Johnston and Julie Payette, in 2017-2018, the Office continued to improve its overall operations, services and communications:

- The Office migrated its four honours databases into one new system and continued to develop an online portal for Canadian honours nominations.
- Editorial Services prepared 6 063 messages, letters and emails in response to requests from the public, and sent out 23 315 birthday and wedding anniversary messages on behalf of The Queen and both governors general.
- Communications continued to increase its reach through the governor general's website, yielding 1 096 053 visits by 782 661 unique users.
- Timelines were reduced for foreign diplomats presenting letters of credence to the governor general.
- The number of honours ceremonies held and awards presented to Canadians increased, as part of the Canadian Honours System.
- Additional artistic programming—including performances by emerging artists—was integrated into ceremonies and events held at both official residences and in cities across the country.
- Several mandate-specific initiatives were developed that will be integrated into OSGG operations in 2018-2019: GGActive, which will encourage active living among Canadians; and eGG, which will use technology to foster direct communication between Governor General Julie Payette and students from across the country.

Figure 1: 2017-2018 Financial Summary for the Office (in millions)

Governor General Support	\$ 14.82
Internal Services	\$ 5.67
Statutory (non-discretionary) Expenditures	\$ 2.97
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 23.46</b>

(The complete **2017-2018 Financial Statements** of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General are available on our website at [www.gg.ca/Reports](http://www.gg.ca/Reports))



## 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. Despite this being a transition year for a new governor general, and a year of great change and intense activity, the funds allocated to this role and spent directly by the following organizations from their budget appropriations amounted to \$27.3 million dollars\*. This is a decline of 12.0% in spending since the last fiscal year.

- 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 spouse, if applicable), 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 accommodation and logistical support for the Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle and the Chancellery of Honours. It also provides 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, 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.

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



Visitors enjoy the historic skating rink at Rideau Hall



View of the Château Frontenac from the Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle, in Québec

