



Annual Report 2015-2016

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.

Photo credits

MCpl Vincent Carboneau, Rideau Hall: Cover Page, pgs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18

Department of Canadian Heritage: page 5

Sgt Ronald Duchesne, Rideau Hall: Cover Page, pgs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Sgt Serge Gouin, Rideau Hall: page 16

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

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

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Open daily from 8 a.m. to one hour before sunset, the grounds of Rideau Hall have picnic areas, gardens, a play structure and interpretive panels for the public. In the summer, there are special events, including the Relief of the Sentries of the Ceremonial Guard; in the winter, there is outdoor public skating.

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

For more information, please consult www.gg.ca/visitus

Office of the Secretary to the Governor General

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

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

To help Canadians and international visitors understand the role and responsibilities of the Governor General, the Office offers extensive visitor and interpretation programs at the Governor General's historic official residences at Rideau Hall, in Ottawa, and at the Citadelle, in Québec. In 2015-2016, these sites were visited by more than 300 000 people. In addition, close to 19 500 people visited the *It's An Honour!* mobile exhibit as it concluded its 22-month cross-country journey. Featuring interpretative panels, multimedia elements and artifacts, this travelling exhibit provided an opportunity for more than 79 000 visitors of all ages to learn more about the Canadian Honours System and some of its recipients who have been recognized for their extraordinary achievement, bravery, valour and service.

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 and Military Valour Decorations. The Chancellery is also home to the Canadian Heraldic Authority, which is headed by the Governor General, and which creates and records armorial bearings in Canada.

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

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

Accountability and Funding

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

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

Message from the Secretary

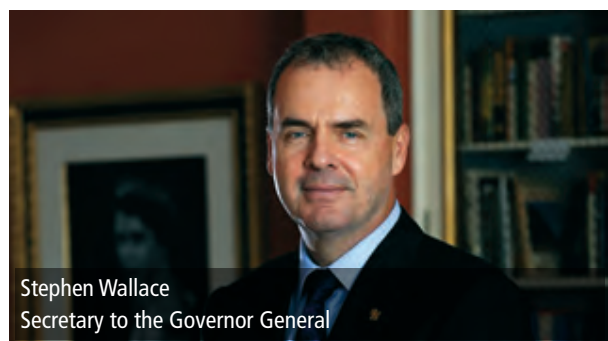
It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report for the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General.

2015-2016 was another rewarding year for the Office, supporting His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston in close to 500 activities.

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners across the country as well as the diplomatic and consular staff around the world who have helped us support the mandate of the Governor General. I would especially like to thank the staff at Rideau Hall and the Citadelle for their dedication and unwavering commitment to service.

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



Stephen Wallace
Secretary to the Governor General



Our mission:

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

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General provided His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston with the support he required to participate in close to 500 activities in 2015-2016.

Highlights

- The Governor General, as the Queen's representative in Canada, presided over the swearing-in ceremony of the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Canada's 23rd prime minister, and the members of the 29th Canadian ministry. He also opened the first session of the 42nd Parliament of Canada with the *Speech from the Throne*.
- Their Excellencies hosted the King of Jordan, the President of the Philippines, and the King and Queen of the Netherlands during their State visits to Canada.
- His Excellency marked the 100th anniversaries of Anzac Day and the writing of "In Flanders Fields"; the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain; and the 70th anniversaries of the Battle of the Atlantic and the Liberation of the Netherlands.
- As commander-in-chief of Canada, the Governor General presided over the ceremony marking the Change of Command of the Canadian Armed Forces. He also received the symbolic first poppy of the 2015 National Poppy Campaign, toured the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre, and visited 22 Wing/CFB North Bay, home of the Canadian Air Defence Sector.
- Their Excellencies continued to engage Canadians in their vision for a smart and caring nation by strengthening the pillars of learning and innovation, philanthropy and volunteerism, and families and children.
- Her Excellency continued to be an advocate for mental health and to support families.

Our vision:

connect, inspire and honour Canadians



On July 17, as commander-in-chief of Canada, His Excellency presided over the ceremony marking the Change of Command of the Canadian Armed Forces.



Chantal Kreviazuk, C.M, Sarah Polley, O.C., Rick Mercer, O.C. and Raine Maida, C.M., were among 44 people invested into the Order of Canada on September 21.



On November 4, His Excellency presided over the swearing-in of the 29th Canadian Ministry.



Skating on the historic outdoor rink was a popular activity for the 8 500 people who visited Rideau Hall for Winter Celebration on January 16.



On February 12, the Governor General met with His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General.

Representing the Crown in Canada

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



On June 3, the closing ceremony of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission took place at Rideau Hall.



On October 29, His Excellency met with His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex during his working visit to Canada.



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau was sworn in as Prime Minister of Canada on November 4.



The Governor General read the *Speech from the Throne* in the Senate on December 4.

In 2015-2016, more than 100 activities associated with representing the Crown in Canada were supported by the Office.

- Their Excellencies hosted the closing ceremony of the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission at Rideau Hall on June 3.
- On July 4, His Excellency presented the Queen Elizabeth II Cup at Spruce Meadows, in Calgary.
- Also in July, His Excellency participated in the inauguration of Yukon's Government House and attended the conference of lieutenant governors and commissioners in Whitehorse. This annual gathering of the viceregal community is a forum for the exchange of information of mutual interest.
- Their Excellencies celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest-reigning sovereign in Canada's modern era on September 9. The Bank of Canada, Canada Post and the Royal Canadian Mint respectively unveiled a commemorative bank note, stamp and coin, highlighting Her Majesty's historic milestone.
- The Governor General presided over the swearing-in ceremony of the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Canada's 23rd prime minister, and the members of the 29th Canadian ministry on November 4.
- On December 4, the Governor General read the *Speech from the Throne* to open the first session of the 42nd Parliament. The speech set out the broad goals and directions of the government as well as the planned initiatives to accomplish those goals.
- Throughout the year, the Governor General presided over three swearing-in ceremonies and gave Royal Assent to 35 bills through traditional ceremonies at the Senate of Canada and by written declaration.
- His Excellency signed more than 1 570 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.



In July 2015, it was announced that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had approved the creation of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. This new medal will be part of the Canadian Honours System and will recognize volunteers who have made a significant, sustained, unpaid contribution to their community, in Canada or abroad. The program will incorporate and replace the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. The inaugural presentation of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers will take place in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

“The Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers will celebrate the achievements of these Canadians and emphasize our country’s commitment to giving. This new medal will build on the legacy and spirit of the Caring Canadian Award, created by my predecessor, the late Right Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, in honouring exceptional volunteers”

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
July 15, 2015



The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, designed by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, bears two intertwined hearts, symbolizing generosity and the action of caring. The viceregal colours of blue and gold present in the ribbon are taken from the design of the Caring Canadian Award, while the deep red colour represents the Sovereign.

Michelle Fillion and René Morin, Anniversary Clerks

Although Michelle Fillion and René Morin admit that their work is fairly routine, the duo have never felt the Monday morning blues.

Year after year, they send out approximately 20 000 messages on behalf of the governor general and The Queen to Canadians across the country celebrating a birthday (90 years or older) or anniversary (50 years or more).

Surprisingly, while requests are sent by email, fax and mail, messages continue to be sent almost exclusively on paper. “Since I’ve been here, I’ve had maybe three requests for electronic versions,” says Michelle, who joined the team 19 years ago.

She adds that some people are amazed that such a service is available. “They’re very happy because for some, these are among the last greetings they’ll receive,” referring to the very advanced age of some of the celebrants.

According to René, who has been an anniversary clerk for 25 years, people really appreciate the letter format of the message, the content of which reflects the style and preference of each governor general.

Many of the recipients have told them that although they may receive beautiful messages from other people, it is the governor general’s message that moves them to tears.

“It’s a really unique job,” concludes René. “For us, it’s routine, but for the person receiving the message, it’s a moment of joy.”

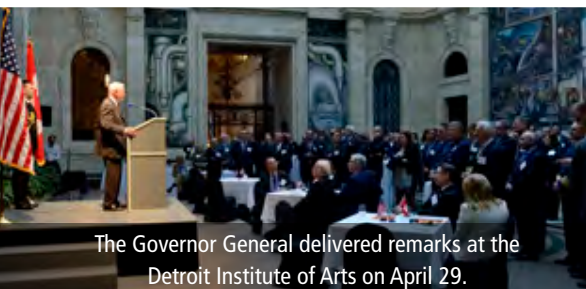


Representing Canada

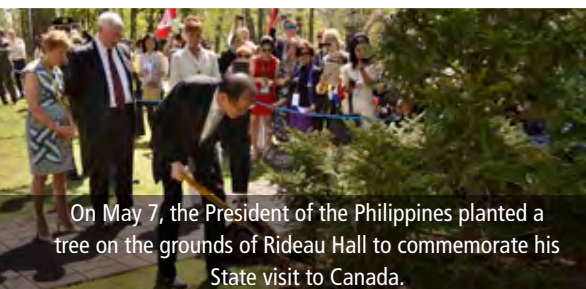
The Governor General represents Canada at home and abroad, receiving visiting heads of State, conducting State visits abroad, accepting the credentials of foreign heads of mission and signing diplomatic documents.



A ceremony at Rideau Hall on April 29 marked the beginning of a State visit by His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



The Governor General delivered remarks at the Detroit Institute of Arts on April 29.



On May 7, the President of the Philippines planted a tree on the grounds of Rideau Hall to commemorate his State visit to Canada.

In 2015-2016, the Office supported Governor General David Johnston as he represented Canada abroad during visits to the United States, and as he welcomed heads of State to Canada, including the King of Jordan, the President of the Philippines, and Their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands.

- In April, during his visit to the Midwest of the United States, the Governor General participated in a series of events in Minnesota, Illinois and Michigan that focused on the importance of enhanced co-operation in innovation and education.
- In early May, at Rideau Hall, Their Excellencies welcomed His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines. The President's State visit focused on strengthening our trade and investment ties, and on expanding co-operation in development and regional security between Canada and the Philippines.
- Later in May, Their Excellencies welcomed Their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands on the occasion of their State Visit to Canada. 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands during World War II. The State visit highlighted Canada's contribution to that historic struggle, and the tremendous friendship and co-operation that exists between both countries.
- In February, during a visit to Washington, D.C., His Excellency moderated a round-table discussion on international research collaboration with Canadian, U.S. and European Union partners who were attending the Association for the Advancement of Science conference.
- Throughout the year, diplomats from 28 countries presented their letters of credence to the Governor General during seven ceremonies at Rideau Hall. Upon their arrival in Canada, and before they can carry out their duties as heads of mission, new ambassadors, as well as new high commissioners of countries for which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is not head of State, must be officially welcomed by the Governor General. There are more than 170 heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Canada.

In 2015-2016,

His Excellency participated in 88 activities, representing Canada at home and abroad.

Diplomats from 28 countries presented letters of credence to the Governor General.

Angola • Bhutan • Botswana • Croatia • Cyprus • Gabon • Iraq • Japan • Kuwait • Kyrgyzstan • Panama • Paraguay • Peru • Senegal • South Korea • South Sudan

“We have a long history of diplomacy in this country ... At its best, diplomacy brings people together. It bridges differences. It builds on the strengths of all involved. That’s the kind of diplomacy Canada seeks to engage in ... call it diplomacy for a smarter, more caring world.”

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
October 27, 2015

Erlinda Patual, Housekeeper

Erlinda Patual has been at Rideau Hall for nearly 25 years, serving five governors general and keeping the residence clean for staff and visitors—although that’s not all she’s done.

She has also been a dresser and has helped out the Pantry staff by serving during State and Order of Canada dinners. Currently, she takes care of the private quarters and guest rooms, and cleans

His Excellency’s office daily, in addition to other rooms. She says that she loves seeing the art on display and how it has changed from one mandate to another.

She occasionally travels with Their Excellencies to the Citadelle as well, which she greatly enjoys. One of the best parts of the job, she says, is meeting different people and seeing different places. During incoming State visits, for instance, she has met kings and queens, prime ministers and presidents.

One of her more memorable moments happened during one of Nelson Mandela’s visits to Canada. She was taking care of his shirts, which were made out of a special material. “I was

so happy ... I didn’t burn anything!” she says. “It’s really something ... that was very special. Something I will never forget.”

Over the years, Rideau Hall has become home to Erlinda. “This is where I’m going to stay until I retire.”



A State dinner was hosted in honour of Their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands on May 27.



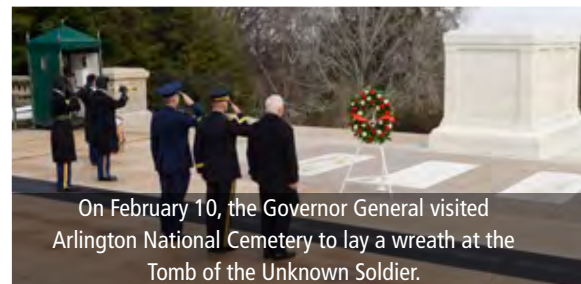
The Governor General met with His Excellency Dr. Ólafur R. Grímsson, President of the Republic of Iceland, on June 9, during his visit to Canada.



Officials of Universities Canada and the Association of Brazilian Rectors of State and Municipal Universities met on June 17, following up on discussions held during His Excellency’s visit to Brazil in 2012.



Her Excellency Aminah Binti A. Karim, High Commissioner for Malaysia, presented her credentials to the Governor General on January 26.

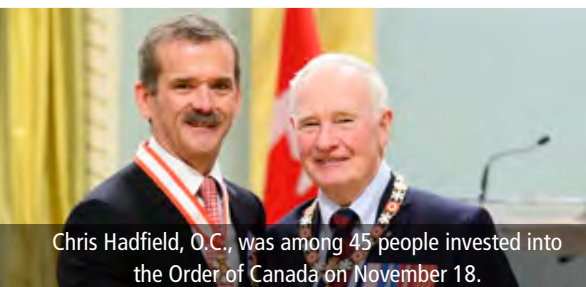


On February 10, the Governor General visited Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Encouraging Excellence and Achievement

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

The Office, through the Chancellery of Honours, administers all aspects of the Canadian Honours System, as well as the Governor General's Academic Medal, the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award, and the Polar Medal.



Chris Hadfield, O.C., was among 45 people invested into the Order of Canada on November 18.



On December 11, 43 people were presented with Meritorious Service Decorations (Civil Division).



On February 8, Bravery Decorations were presented to security services members who responded to the October 22, 2014, events on Parliament Hill.



In 2015-2016, more than 60 activities encouraging excellence and achievement were supported by the Office.

- The Governor General presented insignia to 3 Companions, 38 Officers and 146 Members of the Order of Canada. The centrepiece of Canada's honours system, the Order of Canada recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation.
- His Excellency invested 88 recipients into the Order of Merit of the Police Forces. The Order recognizes conspicuous merit and exceptional service by members and employees of the various Canadian police forces.
- The Governor General presented the Star of Courage to 7 individuals for their conspicuous courage and the Medal of Bravery to 124 people.
- His Excellency presented the Meritorious Service Cross to 7 individuals and Meritorious Service Medals to 49 individuals whose deeds or activities set an example for others, improved the quality of life of a community and brought benefit or honour to Canada.
- The Canadian Heraldic Authority created and recorded 211 heraldic emblems (coats of arms, flags and badges) for Canadian institutions and individuals during the year. Armorial bearings for the lieutenant governors of New Brunswick and of Newfoundland and Labrador were among the emblems created.
- Across the country, 384 Caring Canadian Awards were presented, including 91 during National Volunteer Week. Marc and Craig Kielburger, founders of Free the Children, presented 78 Caring Canadian Awards on behalf of His Excellency.
- 3 336 Academic medals for outstanding scholastic achievement were presented by participating educational institutions on behalf of the Governor General.

The inaugural presentation of the newly created Polar Medal, designed by the Canadian Heraldic Authority, took place on July 8 in Whitehorse. The Governor General presented the Polar Medal to 10 recipients who rendered extraordinary services in the polar regions and in Canada's North.

As an official honour created by the Crown, the Polar Medal is part of the Canadian Honours System. The program incorporated and replaced the Governor General's Northern Medal, created in 2005 by then-Governor General the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson.

Administered by the Chancellery of Honours, the Polar Medal elevates the way individuals, who contribute to northern communities and to our understanding of northern Canada and its people, are recognized. It also highlights achievements in polar exploration and scientific discoveries.



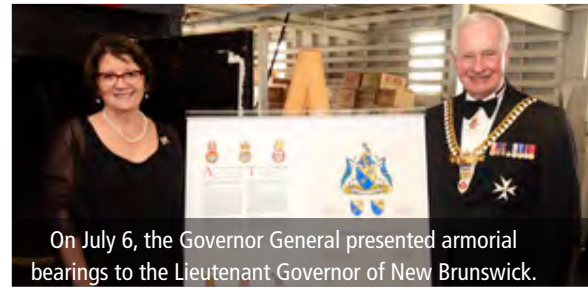
- His Excellency also presented the Killam Prizes, the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, the Michener Awards, the Governor General's History Awards, the Governor General's Literary Awards, the Vanier Medal, the Arctic Inspiration Prize, the NSERC Awards, the Pearson Peace Medal and the Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts.

In 2015-2016,

More than 10 350 honours and awards were presented. These include the Order of Canada, Meritorious Service and Bravery decorations, as well as Academic, Polar and Exemplary Service medals.



On May 30, laureates of the 2015 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards were celebrated at the National Arts Centre.



On July 6, the Governor General presented armorial bearings to the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick.

Elsa de Lima, Office Coordinator, The Chancellery of Honours

When Her Majesty The Queen came to Canada in 1977 for the Silver Jubilee, an 11-year-old Elsa de Lima was there, representing her school at a celebration for The Queen. Little did she know, 35 years later, she would see The Queen again at Rideau Hall during the Diamond Jubilee. "It was kind of a full circle moment ... I never in my life imagined it would happen to me again."

Since 2009, Elsa has worked at the Chancellery of Honours as its office coordinator. She channels her experience from running a family business into her role, which includes everything from being the go-to person for finance and human resources to helping to coordinate investitures with Events staff—just some of the many administrative processes of the Chancellery.

Perhaps the most satisfying part of the job is seeing the reaction of the recipients at presentation ceremonies. Often, she says, she can see the emotion on their faces as their citations are read, as they realize the impact they have had on Canada.

As she reflects on the great people she has met and the team she works with—one that feels so much like a family—she is thankful for where she is. "How can I possibly top this? How could I possibly go anywhere else that would make me feel as happy and as fulfilled as I feel every day?"



The Honourable Louise Arbour was presented with the 29th Pearson Peace Medal on March 17.



Serving as Commander-in-Chief of Canada

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



On May 3, His Excellency laid a wreath to pay tribute to the service men and women who lost their lives at sea during the Battle of the Atlantic.



A statue was unveiled to mark the 100th anniversary of LCol John McCrae writing "In Flanders Fields."

In 2015-2016, the Office supported the Governor General as he participated in 35 activities as commander-in-chief of Canada.

- On April 25, the Governor General marked the 100th anniversary of Anzac Day—the first major military action of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzac) during the First World War—at a ceremony held at the Canadian War Museum.
- At the National War Memorial on May 3, His Excellency commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic—Canada's longest and largest military engagement of the Second World War.
- On June 25, in Guelph, the Governor General unveiled the LCol John McCrae Statue to honour the 100th anniversary of the writing of "In Flanders Fields."
- On July 17, His Excellency presided over the ceremony marking the Change of Command of the Canadian Armed Forces from General Tom Lawson to General Jonathan Vance.

Corporal Kevin Liang Governor General's Foot Guards



Corporal Kevin Liang has served as a reservist with the Governor General's Foot Guards for the past four and half years. He was motivated to join the Canadian Armed Forces after seeing how accepting Canada was when his family immigrated to Canada from China when he was 10 years old.

"I wanted to make a difference in the world," he says. "I wanted to give back to the country that ... took us in."

In his ceremonial role at Rideau Hall, Cpl Liang is part of a team that welcomes guests to "Canada's House." He represents the professionalism of the Governor General's Foot Guards and its long-standing tradition of service to Rideau Hall and to Canada.

He has also taken part in parades on the grounds, most recently as part of the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief's Military Tattoo. To Corporal Liang, serving at Rideau Hall evokes a sense of patriotism, honour and respect for the institution. "When you're part of that parade, staring directly [ahead] towards the honoured guests, His Excellency and all the VIPs, it makes you proud to be a Canadian soldier."

“You come from all across this country ... You come from different backgrounds and may even speak different languages. Yet, the uniform you put on marks you as kin, as someone others can rely on. The military family is a special one, and I’m proud, as commander-in-chief, to be a part of that family. On behalf of all Canadians, I’d like to thank you for all that you have done and for all that you continue to do for our country.”

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
June 8, 2015

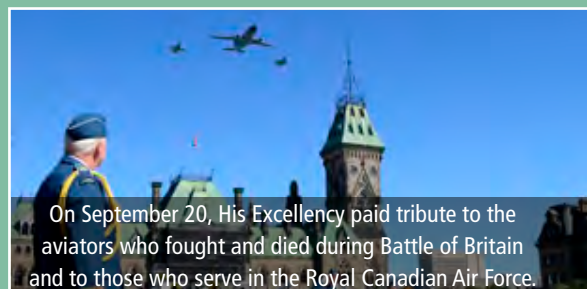


The Annual Inspection of the Ceremonial Guard took place on June 27.

In 2015-2016,

The Governor General visited close to 10 000 troops and recognized 134 members of the CAF and reservists with honours from the Canadian Honours System.

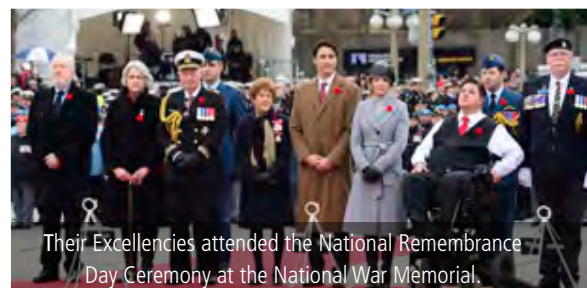
- On September 20, on Parliament Hill, His Excellency took part in a national ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.
- On October 22, at the National War Memorial, Their Excellencies honoured the sacrifices of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent and Corporal Nathan Cirillo, as well as the bravery shown by first responders during the tragic events that took place in October 2014 in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, and at the National War Memorial and Parliament Hill in Ottawa.
- On Remembrance Day, Their Excellencies paid tribute to the 2015 Silver Cross Mother, Mrs. Sheila Elizabeth Anderson, whose son, Corporal Jordan James Anderson, was killed by an improvised explosive device, on July 4, 2007, in Afghanistan.
- Through the Order of Military Merit, His Excellency recognizes exceptional sustained service by members of the Canadian Armed Forces. He presented insignia to 4 Commanders, 16 Officers and 67 Members.
- His Excellency presented 39 Meritorious Service Decorations, specifically 6 Crosses and 33 Medals, to individuals whose specific achievements brought honour to the Canadian Armed Forces and to Canada.



On September 20, His Excellency paid tribute to the aviators who fought and died during Battle of Britain and to those who serve in the Royal Canadian Air Force.



Their Excellencies visited the Valcartier Family Centre on October 6 to learn about the services provided to military members and their families.



Their Excellencies attended the National Remembrance Day Ceremony at the National War Memorial.

On June 26, 2015, His Excellency recognized Lieutenant-Colonel Lee John Hammond with his second Meritorious Service Medal (Military Division). From June 2013 to March 2014, LCol Hammond excelled as the deputy commander of the Canadian Contribution to the NATO Training Mission in Afghanistan. He synchronized Canada’s personnel drawdown plan from Afghanistan with the larger NATO plan, while preserving Canada’s national imperatives in the region. His Excellency presented LCol Hammond with a bar to add to the Meritorious Service Medal he previously received for his work as chief of operational plans with Joint Task Force Afghanistan in 2009, when he was the key author of a groundbreaking document that transformed how the task force and its civilian partners conducted counter-insurgency operations.



Bringing Canadians Together

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



On April 23, Her Excellency delivered remarks at the opening of the Canadian Educators Conference on Mental Health.



Participants of the 2015 Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference gathered at Rideau Hall on June 4.



On July 11, His Excellency was honoured to present the gold medal to the Canadian Synchronized Swimming Team at the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games.



In August, there were screenings of two Canadian films at the 2nd annual Rideau Hall Movie Nights.

In 2015-2016, the Office supported more than 200 activities related to bringing Canadians together.

- Their Excellencies visited Canadians in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Yukon, where they discussed issues of local and national concern.
- Her Excellency continued to be an advocate for mental health and to support families and children across the country. Two of the many places she visited included Laing House, a peer support organization for youth living with mental illness in Halifax, and the Equay-wuk (Women's Group), which provides intensive leadership skills development training and mentorship to young Aboriginal women in 31 remote First Nations communities in northwestern Ontario. In May, at the Champions of Mental Health Awards Gala dinner, it was announced that, in 2016, the Youth Award would be renamed The Sharon Johnston Champions of Mental Health Award for Youth, in honour of Her Excellency's work in supporting and helping Canadians living with mental illness.
- As part of the 2015 Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference, 16 study groups travelled across the country and then presented their findings on leadership and innovation to His Excellency.
- In June, Their Excellencies opened the Families in Canada Conference 2015, marking the 50th anniversary of the Vanier Institute of the Family, which was founded in 1965 by then-Governor General the Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier, following the original Canadian Conference on the Family.
- In July, Their Excellencies met with evacuees of Saskatchewan's wildfires.
- Throughout the year, visitors to Rideau Hall participated in Storytime, Savour Fall and Winter Celebration activities, and watched Canadian films under the stars at the second annual Rideau Hall Movie Nights.
- In December, Their Excellencies hosted a forum on welcoming Syrian refugees to Canada to highlight the country's diversity, inclusion and volunteerism efforts, and to prepare for the arrival of the refugees.

"It is more important than ever to be literate in mental health language when mental health issues impact more than a million Canadian children and youth, yet less than 20 per cent will receive proper care. Seventy per cent of adults with mental illness report their symptoms started at a young age. Early diagnosis predicts a better mental health outcome."

Her Excellency Sharon Johnston
May 5, 2015

“Canada’s diverse, tolerant, multicultural society is one of our great strengths and perhaps our greatest contribution to the world. That’s why it’s so important that we succeed in welcoming refugees. That, and simply because it’s the right thing to do.”

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
December 15, 2015

In 2015-2016,

The Governor General and Mrs. Johnston visited Canadians in 26 communities in 8 provinces and 1 territory.

The Governor General delivered 195 speeches, remarks and video messages.

More than 300 000 visitors and guests were welcomed at Rideau Hall and the Citadelle.

To date, Their Excellencies have granted viceregal patronage to 202 organizations.

Anik Devlin, Contracting Officer

Anik Devlin has been at Rideau Hall for two years, but has been a public servant for more than 16. Though she has worked in a number of different jobs, including office administrator, committee coordinator and procurement officer, she very much enjoys her current role as a contracting officer with Materiel Management.

She explains that her job means being involved in the life cycle of goods or services, from the time someone identifies a need “that would contribute in realizing their work objectives,” to procuring it and following it through to

the contract’s completion. And it is the diversity of those contracts that is important to her. “What attracted me to procurement—and still does to this day—is ... help[ing] [colleagues] acquire what they need,” she says.

At Rideau Hall, she has the opportunity to see the unique fruits of her labour, particularly given the size of the department. She once attended a Bravery Decoration presentation ceremony, which opened her eyes to the meaning behind her work. She saw how what she does—from coordinating transportation for recipients and providing hospitality at the event, to arranging for the program to be printed—has an impact on the final product. “It may seem small, but at the end of the day, I’m part of this big picture.”



On December 7, at Rideau Hall, the Governor General administered the *Oath of Citizenship* at a ceremony where 50 people from 24 countries became Canadians.



Their Excellencies welcomed Syrian refugees at Pearson International Airport on December 18.



On March 3, Their Excellencies visited *Opening Doors*, an Aboriginal door carving exhibition at the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design.

Office Operations

The Office of the Secretary to the Governor General consists of 158 employees in three branches: Policy, Program and Protocol; the Chancellery of Honours; and Corporate Services. These three branches work together to support the Governor General in his role as the representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Canada and in carrying out his primary responsibilities.

In addition to supporting the Governor General, in 2015-2016, the Office focused on continuing to improve its overall operations and to provide support to employees.

- The multi-year action plan to increase the number of visitors to the official residences of the Governor General continued to be implemented. This resulted in a record-breaking 285 000 people visiting Rideau Hall, while 15 000 visitors were welcomed at the Citadelle.
- The Office continued its efforts to modernize its operations. In October, the Office was among the first departments to adopt the PeopleSoft 9.1 Government of Canada standard when it transitioned to My GCHR (My Government of Canada Human Resources) from the existing HRIS (Human Resources Information System) application.
- Planning continued for celebrating 2017 in a way that reflects the personal priorities of the Governor General and the Office's mission to connect, honour and inspire Canadians. In addition, more concrete plans were established to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Order of Canada, also taking place in 2017.
- Information sessions were held for employees on a variety of topics including career management, the national flag of Canada, the NCC's construction plans for Rideau Hall in 2015, as well as the history of Crown-Indigenous relations.



Rideau Hall



The Residence of the Governor General at the Citadelle of Québec

Figure 1: 2015-2016 Financial Summary for the Office (in millions)

Governor General Support	\$13.72
Internal Services	\$5.70
Statutory (non-discretionary) Expenditures	\$2.90
Total:	\$22.32

(The complete **2015-2016 Financial Statements** of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General are available on our website at www.gg.ca/Reports.)

In 2015-2016,

More than 19 800 birthday and wedding anniversary messages were sent on behalf of The Queen and the Governor General.

On behalf of the Governor General and the Office, Editorial Services prepared more than 4 800 letters, emails and messages in response to requests from the public.

www.gg.ca had 889 626 visits by 649 117 unique users.

36 300 people follow @GGDavidJohnston and 3 153 follow @RideauHall on Twitter while 6 265 people liked GG David Johnston and 2 421 liked Rideau Hall on Facebook.

Support from Other Government Departments

In addition to the support provided by the Office, six federal government departments and agencies are also mandated to support the activities of the Governor General. In 2015-2016, this additional support had a total value of \$22.08 million (see figure 2.) These funds are allocated to and spent directly by those departments and agencies and are not transferred to the budget of the Office to the Secretary to the Governor General.

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

Figure 2: 2015-2016 Support from Other Government Departments (in millions)

NCC	RCMP	DND	PSPC	GAC	PCH
\$11.3	\$6.65	\$3.26	\$0.73	\$0.14	Nil

Perry Pucci, Property and Events Manager, National Capital Commission

For 25 years, Perry Pucci, Property and Events Manager with the NCC, has been watching and helping to shape the evolution of Rideau Hall.

What has kept him working with the NCC on the grounds all this time? Things are always changing, he says, and the challenges are never the same. "It's a great old building ... [it's] got a great character!" And though he says that Rideau Hall doesn't give up its secrets easily, he adds, "It's fun to work in a living, breathing house with the people who work inside."

It's those same people he's determined to watch out for. In addition to protecting the building and the history of Rideau Hall, he says it's important to offer guidance on how to better the lives of the people who reside and work here.

While he enjoys working with the different people and organizations represented at Rideau Hall—from the RCMP and the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, to the military and others—those aren't the only people he sees come through this space.

"I think it's a fantastic place. Our environment, the people we see coming into the events [are] pretty impressive ... the best of Canada comes through here at some point."

He adds that while you can sometimes forget what makes this place special, and get caught up in the things that need fixing, "everybody that shows up thinks it's spectacular."



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

Tours of the Residence

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

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

General Public

November to April:

- Tours available daily (by reservation)

May and June:

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

July and August:

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

September and October:

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

Group Tours

Tours offered year-round (by reservation)

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

Reservations and Information:

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

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

Tours of the Residence

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

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

General Public

May, June, September and October:

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

June 24 to Labour Day:

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

Group Tours

April to October (by reservation)

School Program

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

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

Reservations and Information:

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

