The Honourable Janet Austin



Above: Hitching a ride in a wagon at the Tsilhqot'in Culture Camp (photo credit: Laureen Caruthers)

begin our review of 2022 by recognizing the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on September 8, 2022. Her Late Majesty dutifully served for seven decades, always with dignity, grace, and unwavering devotion to her people. Her passing represents the end of an era defined by its longevity, by her example of service, and by the kindness and consideration she showed to everyone. As the representative of the Crown in British Columbia, I was deeply touched by the outpouring of genuine grief expressed by so many British Columbians.

Like his mother and throughout his life, His Majesty King Charles III, has also demonstrated his dedication to public service through his patronage of more than 400 organizations and his earnest commitment to education, environment, and sustainability. I feel great alignment with these interests and with his stated desire to work towards a renewed relationship with Indigenous peoples. I look forward to supporting His Majesty's work as he fulfills the duties of the Crown.

Throughout 2022, we were delighted to celebrate Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, in gratitude for her enduring to her people. With support from the Government House Foundation, we





Above: Signing the Book of Condolence for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Government House

launched the <u>Lieutenant Governor's BC Journalism</u>
Fellowship and selected <u>Francesca Fionda</u> of The
Tyee as the first recipient. The financial award
will enable her to undertake long-form work on
climate refugees— the challenges for people and
communities displaced by disasters in British
Columbia.

Through the Platinum Jubilee Arts and Music

Awards, we recognized 28 exceptional recipients, in the fields of visual arts, music, and performance, with monetary awards. We also created a Platinum Jubilee Garden, commemorated Commonwealth Day with the burial of a time capsule including mementoes from Canada's Vice Regal community, and held Platinum Jubilee events for members of my honorary patronages, and community members.

2022 was also the second year of the BC Reconciliation Awards— a partnership between my office and the BC Achievement Foundation. We were delighted to announce six recipients for exceptional commitment to furthering reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. We look forward to hosting a ceremony in honour of the 2021 and 2022 recipients early in the New Year.

As you can imagine, there's been much demand for Government House to host ceremonies and recognition events that had been deferred during the pandemic years. Among others, we hosted two investiture ceremonies for the Order of British Columbia, the BC Achievement Awards, the Premier's Education Awards and a record fifteen Long Service Award dinners, in recognition





Left: With Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, and Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, at a memorial event commemorating one year since the confirmation of unmarked graves at a residential school in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Photo credit: MCpl Anis Assari, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2022)

Right: Burying a Platinum Jubilee time capsule on Commonwealth Day with David Spence, Vancouver Island Chair, Royal Commonwealth Society; Thomas Codrington, British Consul General; and Honorary Aide-de-Camp Bill Bresser



of BC's dedicated public servants. Other highlights include the <u>Transgender Day of Visibility</u>, the annual <u>Indigenous Back-to-School Picnic</u>, and the everpopular '<u>Music on the Lawn</u>' series of free live outdoor-concerts for local music lovers.

In May, I was honoured to welcome Her Excellency
the Right Honourable Mary Simon to Government
House and to accompany her to Tk'emlúps te
Secwépemc territory for the anniversary of the
revelation of the unmarked graves of Le Estcwicwey
- The Missing. During her first official visit to
Government House, we also hosted a celebration of
the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Rangers, with
Her Excellency presiding.

The past year also opened opportunities for travel throughout the province—something I greatly missed during the pandemic. I was deeply honoured to accept the invitation of Chief Joe Alphonse OBC, Tribal Chairman of the Tŝilhqot'in Nits'il?in-qi, to undertake an official visit to Tŝilhqot'in Title Lands. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Chiefs

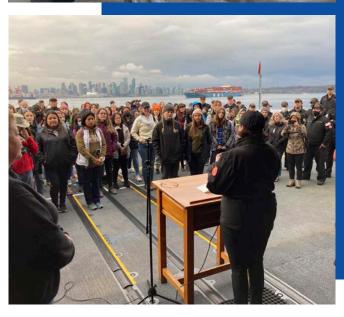












and community members who welcomed me with great kindness to <u>Tsilhqot'in Culture Camp</u>. The trip also afforded a memorable and informative visit to the Cariboo Friendship Centre in Williams Lake and a meaningful visit with Chief Willie Sellars of the Williams Lake First Nation.

A community tour of the Kootenays in June included a visit to Ktunaxa territory, where I learned about the revitalization of language and culture at ?Aq'amnik' and Yaqan Nu?kiy schools. I was also delighted by the vibrancy of the arts scene in Nelson, inspired by the dedication and skill of the teams at the Southeast Fire Centre and captivated by a visit to the Doukhobor Discovery Centre in Castlegar.

In July, I had the honour of hosting a reception for the Council of the Federation, affording me the opportunity to thank Premiers from coast to coast to coast to coast for their service to their jurisdictions and to Canada. And in September, I welcomed Prince Rahim Aga Khan and Princess Zahra Aga Khan for the signing of an Accord of Cooperation between the Ismaili Imamat and the Province of BC on emergency preparedness, climate adaptation, equitable human development and social justice.

Throughout the year, I continued to partner with numerous organizations whose activities align with the strategic themes established for my mandate. Some of these include the Women Leading Change series with the University of Victoria, ongoing work with the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade and the Business Council of BC on diversity, inclusion and equity, and the Duke of Edinburgh International Award for youth development.

Top: Joined by Elders and community leaders at a lunch held in honour of BC Reconciliation Award recipients xa@qana‡ ?itkini‡ (Many Ways of Doing the Same Thing) Research Team **Middle:** Learning about avalanche prevention with Operation PALACI **Bottom:** Addressing participants at the Achieve Anything Foundation Day Sail for women and girls



Above: Joined by Premiers from across Canada at the Council of the Federation **Below:** Giving remarks at the welcome reception for the Council of the Federation

I am so very grateful to all those who sustain the work of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and who provide me with their personal support and encouragement: my Honorary Aides-de-Camp, all the volunteers with the Friends of Government House Gardens Society, the Government House Foundation, and, of course, my wonderful colleagues here at Government House.

Please accept my heartfelt best wishes for a peaceful and joyous holiday season and for every possible happiness in the coming year.

With gratitude,





Sudlish

The Honourable Janet Austin
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

