



THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Honourable Janet Austin



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

I 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 [Lieutenant Governor's BC Journalism Fellowship](#) and selected [Francesca Fionda](#) 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 Kúkpí7 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 [Transgender Day of Visibility](#), the annual [Indigenous Back-to-School Picnic](#), and the ever-popular '[Music on the Lawn](#)' 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 Estcwicwéy - 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 T̓silhqot'in Nits'il?in-q̓i, to undertake [an official visit to T̓silhqot'in Title Lands](#). I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Chiefs



Above: With the incredible Emergency Management BC and BC Wildfire Service teams at the Southeast Fire Centre in Castlegar **Below:** Installing the 2021 and 2022 Reconciliation Paddles at Government House with T'esóts'en, Patrick Kelly, Leq'á:mel Nation





and community members who welcomed me with great kindness to [Tsilhqot'in Culture Camp](#). 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 [ʔAq'amnik](#) and [Yaqa Nuʔkiy](#) 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 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 xagqanaᑦ ʔitkiniᑦ (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,



The Honourable Janet Austin
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

