May 2024

Activity Report 2023–24

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

Government House

Halifax





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A MESSAGE FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



The Garden Party at Government House. June 22, 2023.

Dear Friends,

As Patsy and I reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for opportunities to engage with the vibrant communities located across Nova Scotia. Together, we have witnessed significant milestones that have and continue to shape our province's history.

The year began with the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, a momentous occasion that captured the hearts of millions worldwide. It stands as a cherished memory etched in the collective consciousness of the province. The excitement and anticipation surrounding public festivities will long be remembered, along with the jubilant atmosphere that captured residence from Yarmouth to Cape Breton.

> ***Visits with residents across the province have allowed us to celebrate the spirit of Nova Scotia, including a vitality that transcends adversity and fosters unity and friendship.***

In 2023, Government House witnessed several historic appointments. Judge Perry F. Borden's swearing-in as Chief Judge of the Provincial Court marked the first African Nova Scotian appointed to Chief Judge at the Provincial level. The Honourable Twila Grosse, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs and Minister of the Public Service Commission, became the first female African Nova Scotian member of the Executive Council.

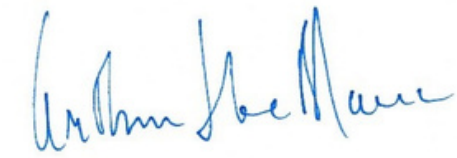
At Government House, we hosted dignitaries and esteemed guests, including Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, accompanied by His Excellency Whit Fraser, and Icelandic President Guðni Th. Jóhannesson, accompanied by Ms. Eliza Reid, the First Lady of Iceland. These visits underscored our province's significance on the national and international stage.

Throughout the year, we witnessed countless acts of service, compassion, and care from Nova Scotians. From investitures to community events, each gathering reaffirmed our shared values and commitment to excellence.

Our visit to Fire Station 65 in Tantallon reminded us of the heroic efforts undertaken by firefighters and emergency service providers during the summer of 2023, when the severity of wildfires located across the province reached unprecedented levels. The unwavering courage and dedication to service displayed by these individuals continues to inspire all Nova Scotians.

Visits with residents across the province have allowed us to celebrate the spirit of Nova Scotia, including a vitality that transcends adversity and fosters unity and friendship. Each day, we strive to honour the past, embrace the present, and envision a future brimming with promise, opportunity, and endless possibilities for connection and growth.

Patsy and I send warmest wishes to all Nova Scotians and visitors to our province.



Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, KC
Lieutenant Governor

Bridgewater Fire Department Band at the Garden Party. June 22, 2023.



THE OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



The Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Government House supports the Lieutenant Governor in fulfilling his constitutional, state, and ceremonial responsibilities. *The Constitution Act 1867* provides that there must be a Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia who is appointed in the name of the Sovereign by the Governor General on advice of the Prime Minister.

As the representative of His Majesty King Charles III, King of Canada, who is Head of State, the Lieutenant Governor, His Honour the Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, is authorized and required to execute all matters that pertain to his office according to law and constitutional convention.

The Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Government House provides administrative and logistical support enabling the Lieutenant Governor to exercise the constitutional powers and responsibilities of the Office and to undertake representational, ceremonial, and civic duties. The autonomous nature of the Office is consistent with the Lieutenant Governor's role to function with political neutrality. The Office also supports the Administrator of the Province who acts in the place of the Lieutenant Governor when the Lieutenant Governor is unavailable.

Additionally, the Office is responsible for planning and implementing the Lieutenant Governor's programs, awards, patronages, and other activities undertaken with, and on behalf of, Nova Scotians residing across the province.

To help Nova Scotians and visitors understand the role and responsibilities of the Lieutenant Governor, the Office offers public tours, along with a talk and tour program for students, at the Lieutenant Governor's official residence, Government House in Halifax.

Under the direction of the Private Secretary and Executive Director of Government House, the administrative element of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Government House reports through the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Government House is committed to accounting for activities and expenditures. Support for the physical plant, systems and infrastructure of Government House is provided through the Department of Public Works.

The Office works closely with the provincial departments, Government of Canada, Mi'kmaq leaders, Canadian Armed Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Halifax Regional Police, Cape Breton Regional Police Service, New Glasgow Regional Police, Department of Canadian Heritage, and numerous non-governmental organizations over which the Lieutenant Governor presides as Patron or Honorary Patron.

By enabling the Lieutenant Governor to exercise his constitutional authorities and responsibilities and to undertake duties as the representative of the Head of State, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor directly contributes to maintaining a stable and effective government.



The Vice-Regal Household Staff.

MISSION

To serve, support, and maintain with excellence, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and Government House.

MANDATE

To support the constitutional and symbolic role of the Lieutenant Governor as The King of Canada's representative in Nova Scotia, and to maintain and enrich the traditions and heritage of Government House as the centre of official hospitality for the province and its people.

OBJECTIVES

The corporate objectives of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor reflect six goals central to the mandate of the Lieutenant Governor:

- Constitutional/Legal
- Crown-Indigenous Relations
- Ceremonial
- Community Engagement
- Promote Nova Scotia
- Preserve Government House

Roles & Duties of the Lieutenant Governor

Constitutional Duties



Swearing-In Ceremony for Members of His Majesty's Executive Council. September 14, 2023.

The Province of Nova Scotia witnessed historic appointments within His Majesty's Executive Council and the Judiciary in 2023. These appointments were formalized during Swearing-In Ceremonies held at Government House.

On August 27, 2023, the Honourable Judge Perry F. Borden assumed the role of Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia. His appointment was particularly significant as he became the first African Nova Scotian to hold this position. The Lieutenant Governor administered the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office during this historic occasion.

Premier Tim Houston advised cabinet changes on September 14, 2023. The Honourable Twila Grosse, MLA for Preston, joined the cabinet as Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs and Minister of the Public Service Commission, becoming the first female African Nova Scotian member of the Nova Scotia Executive Council. His Honour accepted the Premier's recommendations and administered the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Office.







NOVA SCOTIA

During the Swearing-In Ceremony on September 14, the Premier also announced the nomination of The Honourable Karla MacFarlane as the first female Speaker of the House of Assembly, Nova Scotia.

On October 12, following the resignation of Speaker Keith Bain, the Lieutenant Governor instructed the House of Assembly to elect a new Speaker. Members of the Legislative Assembly selected MacFarlane, making her the first female Speaker of the House of Assembly. His Honour approved the election results at a meeting of the Legislature.

Additionally, throughout the year, the Lieutenant Governor fulfilled other constitutional duties. His Honour granted Royal Assent to 26 Bills, approved 396 Orders-in-Council, issued 10 Proclamations, and signed 147 Notary Scrolls.

Photos, Top to Bottom: (1) The Honourable Twila Grosse during her Swearing-In Ceremony at Government House. (2) Swearing-in of the Honourable Colton LeBlanc as Minister of Cyber Security and Digital Solutions. (3) Chief Judge Perry F. Borden during his Swearing-In Ceremony at Government House.

Roles & Duties of the Lieutenant Governor

Ceremonial Duties



Coronation Flag Raising Ceremony and Outdoor Reception, Government House. May 6, 2023.

On May 6, 2023, Canadians and people throughout the Commonwealth celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. This rare and historic event captivated millions worldwide.

Throughout May and June, the Province of Nova Scotia organized a series of public and private events to commemorate this significant occasion. These events took place at Government House, Province House, and Canadian Forces Base Halifax.

One of the notable highlights was the Province of Nova Scotia State Dinner on May 5, which honored the Coronation as a significant state occasion that fostered unity within the province, the country, and the Commonwealth. Attendees included Premier Tim Houston, Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy, Grand Keptin Antel Denny, former lieutenant governors, representatives from

all levels of government and the judiciary, MLAs, members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, first responders, and religious leaders.

On the morning of the Coronation, Their Honours welcomed members of the public to Government House at 6:00 AM to witness live events unfolding from London. Attendees savored tea and scones during the procession to Westminster Abbey, the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, and the procession to Buckingham Palace.

As the Coronation concluded in London, a public Flag Raising Ceremony commenced at Government House. This marked the first occasion that The King's Personal Canadian Flag was displayed and flown. The Coronation Day events also featured speeches by the Lieutenant Governor and Premier Houston, a Mi'kmaq Smudging Ceremony led by Elder Marlene Companion, musical performances by the Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy, drumming by Michael R. Denny, a 21-gun salute, and a commemorative tree planting. The event concluded with a public reception hosted by the Lieutenant Governor in front of Government House.

May 2

- Opening of the King Charles III Exhibit, Province House
- *Canadians at the Coronation* Movie Screening, Government House

May 5

- Provincial State Dinner, Canadian Forces Base, Halifax

May 6

- Live viewing of the Coronation, Government House
- Flag Raising Ceremony and Reception, Government House

May 23

- Citizenship Ceremony, Province House

June 22

- Coronation Garden Party, Government House

Provincial State Dinner, Canadian Forces Base Halifax. May 5, 2023.



ON THE OCCASION OF THE CORONATION
A Message from the Lieutenant Governor

I have the honor, on behalf of the people of Nova Scotia, to convey heartfelt congratulations to King Charles III and Queen Camilla on the occasion of their Coronation.

As the King of Canada and our Head of State, His Majesty is an integral part of our society; he is at the apex of our system of constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy, which is among the oldest in the world.

His Majesty is widely known for his passion for the environment, youth initiatives, volunteer and military service, and of course, carrying on the established legacy of service. These areas of focus are of significance to the lives of Nova Scotians, and we look forward to new opportunities that will arise over the coming years.

Today, the province begins a new chapter in our history, and we look towards the future with hope and anticipation. We recommit to service, inclusion, and compassion, so that our communities are places where diversity is celebrated, and all individuals are free to live with dignity.

I send best wishes to our King and Queen on this joyful occasion. May the coming years be filled with health and happiness.







Photos, Top to Bottom: (1) Opening of the King Charles III Exhibit, Province House. (2) Inspection of the Guard of Honour, Flag Raising Ceremony, Government House. (3) The Lieutenant Governor, Premier Tim Houston, Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy, and Aide-de-Camp-in-Waiting, Inspector Don Moser, at the Tree Planting Ceremony, Government House.

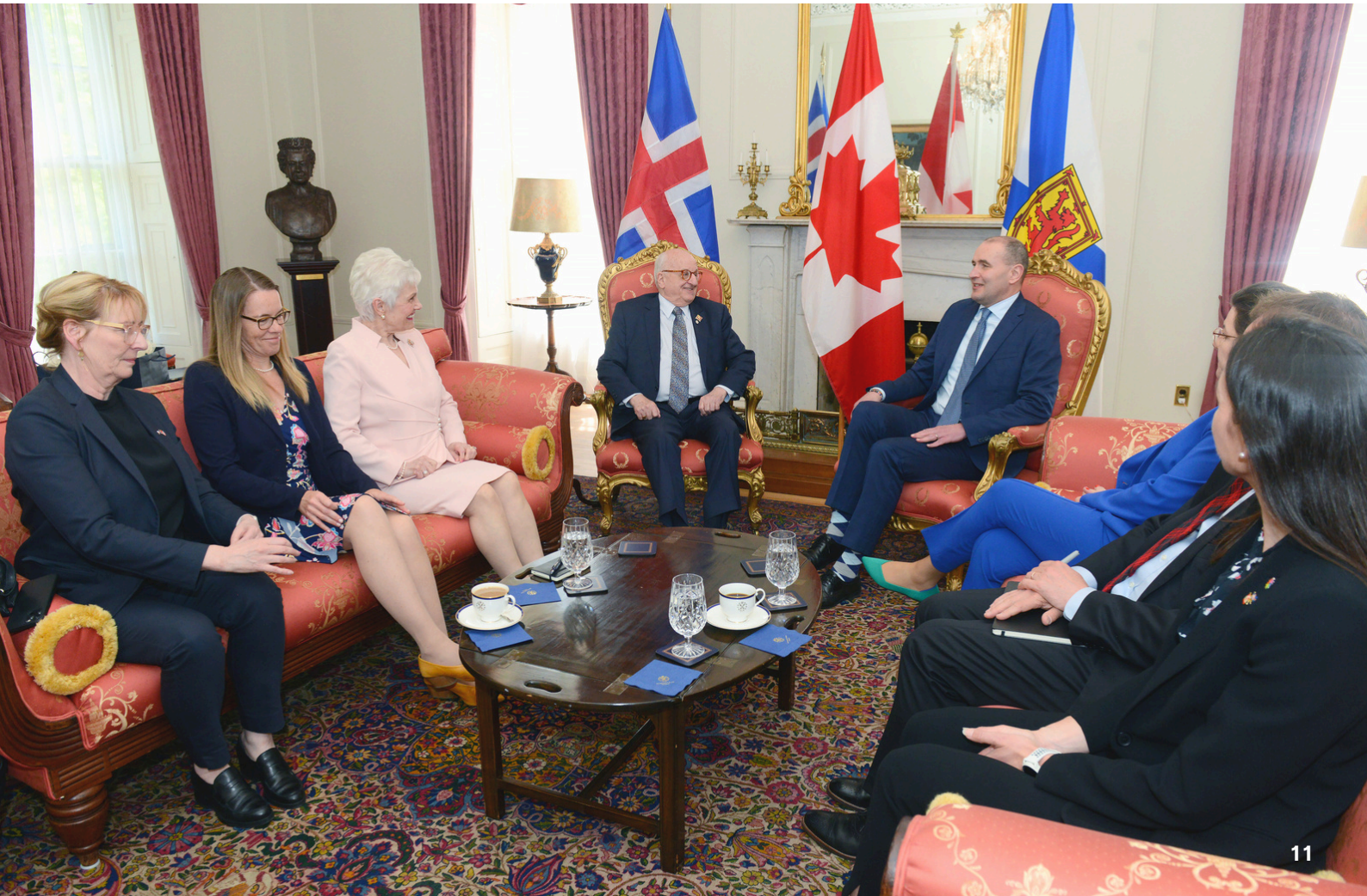


In May 2023, the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. LeBlanc had the pleasure of hosting Icelandic President His Excellency Guðni Th. Jóhannesson and Ms. Eliza Reid, the First Lady of Iceland, at Government House, marking the inaugural Icelandic State Visit to Nova Scotia and the first to Canada since 2000.

This significant occasion offered Their Honours the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions with President Jóhannesson, reflecting on shared interests and commemorating the enduring friendship between Iceland and Canada, which spans over a millennium. Moreover, it served as a moment to envision the future and contemplate the continued growth and evolution of this vital relationship in the modern era.

The deep-rooted connections between our nations were celebrated through various events, including a Courtesy Call and a State Dinner hosted at Government House. Additionally, a Business Leaders Breakfast was convened in the Dining Room prior to the President's departure, further fostering dialogue and collaboration between our respective communities.

Courtesy Call between the Lieutenant Governor and President Jóhannesson. May 30, 2023.



The Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. LeBlanc warmly welcomed Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, and His Excellency, Whit Fraser, to Nova Scotia in September 2023. This visit marked the Governor General's inaugural official trip to the province.

Their Excellencies arrived at Government House and were greeted by the Honourable Allan MacMaster, Deputy Premier, and Grand Keptin Antle Denny. Honorary Colonel Dr. Donald Julien conducted a Smudging Ceremony and Her Excellency reviewed the Guard of Honour.

Their Excellences engaged in discussions regarding Nova Scotia's rich history and culture, as well as its place in Canada, during Courtesy Calls hosted at Government House. Participants in these conversations included Their Honours, Deputy Premier MacMaster, Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy, and Grand Keptin Antel Denny.

After visiting with Nova Scotians at a variety of locations, Their Excellences attended a reception at Government House, providing opportunities to meet with individuals that serve the province as professionals and volunteers.



Photos, Right and Bottom: (1) The Governor General giving remarks at a Reception at Government House. (2) The arrival of Their Excellencies at Government House. September 13, 2023.



An Evening of Poetry with George Elliott Clarke

Their Honours welcomed a distinguished circle of artists, including George Elliott Clarke, Sylvia D. Hamilton, and composer Nevawn D. Patrick, to Government House on February 9, 2024. The event honored the enduring legacy of Viola Desmond, the contributions of former Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Dr. Mayann Francis, and pivotal moments in the history and heritage of the African Nova Scotian community.

The evening was highlighted by the presentation of four poignant poems, skillfully transformed into musical compositions by Nevawn D. Patrick, and brought to life by performances from jazz vocalist Linda Carvery and pianist Holly Arsenault.



Assumption of Command Ceremony, HMCS William Hall

Preceding a naming ceremony of the HMCS William Hall, the ship's inaugural command team was hosted at Government House for an Assumption of Command Ceremony on May 3, 2023.

William Hall holds the esteemed distinction of being the first Black individual, the first Nova Scotian, and one of the earliest Canadians to receive the British Empire's highest award for gallantry, the Victoria Cross.

The naming of a ship is imbued with rich history and naval tradition. Dating back centuries, this ritual is believed to bestow good fortune and ensure safe voyages for both the vessel and its crew.



The 190th Anniversary of the Appointment of the First U.S. Consul to Halifax

On September 18, 2023, the Lieutenant Governor hosted a reception at Government House to commemorate nearly two centuries of diplomatic relations and friendship between Canada and the United States.

His Excellency David L. Cohen, U.S. Ambassador to Canada, and Consul General Lyra S. Carr unveiled an article published in *The London Gazette* on September 17, 1833, announcing the appointment of John Morrow as the inaugural Consul. Morrow notably became the first foreign diplomatic representative accredited to Nova Scotia.



Crown-Indigenous Relations

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



Treaty Day Flag Raising Ceremony and Reception at Government House. October 1, 2023.

Throughout 2023-24, several historic moments provided opportunities to recognize the relationship between the Crown and Indigenous communities.

Notably, a Courtesy Call at Government House between Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, His Excellency Whit Fraser, Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy, and Grand Keptin Antle Denny honored the connection between the Mi'kmaq people and the Crown, which was formalized through the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1725 and subsequent Treaties.

In the summer, the 2023 North American Indigenous Games took place in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people in what is today Nova Scotia. For ten days, athletes and teams from across Canada and the United States competed in sporting events, while the public was invited to learn about various aspects of Indigenous heritage, traditions, arts, and crafts at a cultural pavilion. Their Honours attended the Opening Ceremony and various events, engaging with athletes and extending appreciation to the 3,000 volunteers whose dedication ensured the event's success.



Mi’kmaq leaders, Elders, and musicians played a central role in Coronation celebrations. Grand Chief Norman Sylliboy and Grand Keptin Antle Denny attended the Provincial State Dinner at the Canadian Forces Base Halifax and the Coronation Flag Raising Ceremony and Reception at Government House as dignitaries. At both events, Elder Marlene Companion led guests in Smudging Ceremonies. Michael R. Denny was also present to perform a selection of Mi’kmaw songs featuring traditional drumming.



Throughout the year, Government House paid tribute to Mi’kmaw history, heritage, and culture. Esteemed artist Alan Syliboy engaged a sold-out audience at Evenings @ Government House, discussing themes of family, spirituality, and resilience. Two of Mr. Syliboy's portraits are proudly displayed in Government House as part of the Crown Collection.

To mark Treaty Day and the commencement of Mi’kmaq History Month, a Flag Raising Ceremony was held at Government House. Following the event, the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. LeBlanc attended the annual award presentation at Province House, which recognizes youth and community members for outstanding contributions.



Photos, Top to Bottom: (1) The Governor General with Grand Chief Sylliboy and Grand Keptin Denny during a Courtesy Call at Government House. (2) Alan Syliboy discussing his artwork at Evenings @ Government House. (3) Smudging Ceremony by Elder Marlene Companion at the Provincial State Dinner.

Overall Activity Levels

Events, Remarks, and Certificates



Coronation Year Citizenship Ceremony at Province House. May 23, 2023.

84

Constitutional Duties

98

In-House Events

148

External Events

The activities undertaken by the Lieutenant Governor are divided into separate categories. They are defined as follows:

Constitutional Duties:
Events including the Speech from the Throne, meetings with the Premier or Executive Council Officials, and signing Orders-In-Council, statutory and non-statutory instruments.

In-House Events:
Receptions, dinners, investitures, performances, presentations, meetings, and ceremonies held at Government House, which are presided over by the Lieutenant Governor.

External Events:
Events organized by Government House and presided over by the Lieutenant Governor but held outside of Government House.

Activity Statement

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

Event Type	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22
A. Constitutional Duties	A. 84	A. 71	A. 72
B. In-House Events	B. 98	B. 132	B. 131
C. External Events	C. 148	C. 126	C. 63
Total	**330**	**329**	**266**

Speech Type	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22
A. In-Person Remarks	A. 109	A. 148	A. 63
B. Video Remarks	B. 4	B. 11	B. 30
C. Written Messages	C. 13	C. 18	C. *
Total	**126**	**177**	**93**

Certificate Type	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23	FY 2021-22
A. Milestone Birthdays	A. 274	A. 327	A. 332
B. Wedding Anniversaries	B. 140	B. 146	B. 168
C. Military	C. 115	C. 175	C. 132
D. Merit/Thanks	D. 3	D. 1	D. 7
E. Service	E. 2	E. 1	E. 4
Total	**534**	**650**	**643**

Continuing Public Access

Public and Regional Outreach



Citizenship Ceremony at Province House. May 23, 2023.

During 2023-24, Their Honours maintained a strong focus on public outreach, both through programs at Government House and visits with Nova Scotians in communities outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Free, thirty-minute public tours of Government House ran from the beginning of July to the end of August. Each provided visitors with a glimpse of the main floor of Government House, including the Grand Staircase, Ballroom, Morning Room, and Drawing Room. The Household was delighted to welcome hundreds of guests from across Canada, the United States, Korea, and Australia, to name a few.

A popular summer tradition at Government House is the annual Garden Party, held during the third week of June. In 2023, over 570 guests enjoyed a Coronation-themed afternoon, including commemorative pins to celebrate the historic occasion. Visitors enjoyed tea and cake while listening to live music by cellist Shimon Walt and the Bridgewater Fire Department Band.

Evenings @ Government House completed two successful seasons in Fall 2023 and Winter 2024. Guests were treated to ten free concerts and presentations that showcased the history, heritage, and culture of the province. Highlights included a night of historic ghost stories with local folklore expert Dusty Keleher, music by les Voix d'Acadie, and a behind-the-scenes look at conservation work done at Government House with Julia Landry and Michelle Gallinger.

The Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. LeBlanc fostered ongoing relationships with residents of all ages through receptions for volunteers, in-house committee meetings, and community outreach. Their Honours were delighted to speak with students and educators at events including the Heritage Fair and Education Week. They also visited with veterans and residents residing at Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Building and several retirement homes, marking the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War, Remembrance Day, and various holidays.

Official visits took Their Honours to Cape Breton Island, Yarmouth County, Cumberland County, Annapolis and the Bay of Fundy, and the South Shore. On such occasions, they marked significant moments including the Swissair Flight 111 25th Anniversary Candlelight Vigil, the Ship Hector Pioneer Plaque Unveiling, and the reopening of the Acadian Centre at Université Sainte-Anne, which serves as the central repository for Acadian cultural documents.

Finally, Their Honors received Honorary Degrees, Doctor of Letters, from Cape Breton University. A convocation ceremony took place in Petit De Grat, Nova Scotia on November 4, 2023.







Photos, Top to Bottom: (1) Their Honours visited with students at the Heritage Fair. (2) Guests at Government House during the Summer Tour Program. (3) Their Honours visited with archivists at the Acadian Centre, Université Sainte-Anne.

Promoting Nova Scotia

Investitures and Awards



Order of St. John Investiture and Award Ceremony. May 27, 2023.

Throughout the year, the Lieutenant Governor celebrated Nova Scotians that made significant and long-term contributions to their communities, the province, and the country.

In total, there were ten investitures held at Government House, honoring 103 Nova Scotians. These investitures included the Order of Canada, the Order of Nova Scotia, the Order of St. John, the Meritorious Service Medal, the RCMP Long Service Medal, the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, and various Exemplary Service Medals.

His Honour acknowledged the achievements of Nova Scotians from diverse backgrounds and ages through the presentation of Lieutenant Governor Awards. Thirteen ceremonies were held at Government House or at off-site locations throughout the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The Lieutenant Governor's Award Programs

Award	Partner	No. Bestowed 2023-24	No. Bestowed 2022-23	No. Bestowed 2021-22
Award for Conservation	Nova Scotia Salmon Trust	1	1	*
Award for Culinary Excellence	Nova Scotia Community College	5	6	6
Award for Excellence in Architecture	Nova Scotia Association of Architects	*	4	4
Award for Excellence in Engineering	Engineers Nova Scotia	2	2	2
Award of Excellence for l'Acadie and Francophonie of Nova Scotia	Acadian and Francophonie Affairs	3	3	6
Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines	Winery Growers Nova Scotia and Taste of Nova Scotia	4	4	5
Award for Excellence in Public Administration	Institute of Public Administration Canada	1	2	1
Community Spirit Award	Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage	4	4	4
Education Medal	Department of Education & Early Childhood Development	155	155	155
Masterworks Arts Award	Arts Award Foundation	*	5	5
Nova Scotia Talent Trust Award	Nova Scotia Talent Trust	4	18	8
Respectful Citizenship Award	Department of Education & Early Childhood Development	14	14	18

Historic Moments at Government House

National and International Events



Photos, Top and Left: (1) Order of Canada Investiture for Dr. the Honourable Ron Stewart, CC, ONS, ECNS, MD. March 14, 2024. (2) Companion of the Order of Canada Insignia.



On behalf of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, CC, CMM, COM, OQ, CD, His Honour was pleased to preside over an Order of Canada investiture for Dr. the Honourable Ronald Stewart, CC, ONS, ECNS, MD. Dr. Stewart was promoted from Officer of the Order of Canada to Companion in November 2023.

Citation: *Fondly known as the father of emergency medicine, Ronald Stewart has improved the lives of countless individuals. As the Minister of Health for Nova Scotia, he led the creation of the province's consolidated Emergency Health Services and the introduction of paramedics. Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University, he is widely consulted for his expertise in emergency medical system design, and has provided valuable leadership in public health, medical education, and humanitarian initiatives.*

This was the first time that a Companion of the Order of Canada has been invested in Nova Scotia.

His Honour was pleased to host Parliamentarians from NATO member states at Government House on April 18, 2023. The event highlighted the alliance's important role in peace and security and the importance of Nova Scotia as home to the largest Canadian Armed Forces installations in the country.

Photos, Left to Bottom: (1) Remarks by Mr. Fernando Gutierrez, Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Defence and Security Cooperation. (2) The NATO Parliamentarians Reception at Government House.





Milestone Events

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024



150th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. May 23, 2023.

The Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. LeBlanc were present at 246 events hosted by a wide range of cultural, sporting, civic, heritage, military, and volunteer communities.

Activities included 12 courtesy calls with Commonwealth and foreign diplomatic representatives.

Highlights from the past year include:

- King Charles III Coronation Events
- 250th anniversary of the landing of the Ship Hector
- RCMP 150: 150th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- 150th anniversary of Mount Saint Vincent University
- 150th anniversary of the *SS Atlantic*
- State of the Courts Address
- Citizenship Swearing-In Ceremonies
- Battle of the Atlantic Parade and Wreath Laying
- Inaugural visit from Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada

- State visit by Icelandic President Guðni Th. Jóhannesson and Ms. Eliza Reid, the First Lady of Iceland
- Arrival Ceremony for HMCS FREDERICTON
- Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo Opening Ceremony
- 70th anniversary of the end of the Korean War
- 25th anniversary of Operation Persistence Candlelight Vigil
- 78th Highlanders Freedom of the City Parade
- Visit to Tantallon Fire Station 65
- Remembrance Day Ceremony and Reception
- Halifax Explosion Memorial Service
- African Heritage Month Opening Night and Gala
- Fête Nationale de l'Acadie 2023 Flag Raising Ceremony
- Celtic Colours Opening Ceremony
- Africville Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 2024 JUNO Awards
- Various CAF Changes of Command Ceremonies







Volunteer Service

Honorary Aides-de-Camp and Government House Initiatives



The Garden Party at Government House. June 22, 2023.

The team of 30 Honorary Aides-de-Camp, comprising members from various branches such as the Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army, Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Halifax Regional Police, Cape Breton Regional Police Service, and New Glasgow Regional Police, dedicated a total of 2,430 hours to assisting the Lieutenant Governor in fulfilling his duties across Nova Scotia.

Throughout the year, the Aides-de-Camp regularly convened for monthly meetings and participated in an annual training session focused on event protocol. They continued to play a pivotal role at events, particularly those held off-site, where their responsibilities included conducting site visits, finalizing event schedules, and coordinating with event organizers.



In 2023, the Communications Department at Government House developed and operated two community outreach initiatives.

In the spring of 2023, wildfires in Nova Scotia destroyed homes and temporarily displaced thousands of residents. To address pressing needs, the Communications Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor partnered with the Red Cross to support relief efforts. Guests at the Garden Party were asked to donate directly to the Red Cross via QR Codes set up on the property. Additionally, two Red Cross volunteers set up a booth and spoke with guests.

Building on the momentum, the Communications Department established a second outreach initiative in December 2023 to support the Mobile Outreach Street Health Program with the North End Community Health Centre. This initiative was developed in response to a request from a resident, who expressed needs for foot care services in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Guests attending the annual New Year's Day Levée at Government House were asked to bring sock donations for foot care clinics. The entire Household, the Aides-de-Camp, and staff at Service Nova Scotia, Government of Nova Scotia, also participated. In total, Government House collected over 290 pairs of socks. They were delivered to the North End Community Health Centre in January and distributed to community members.

Photos, Top to Bottom: (1) Melissa Goertzen, Communications Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, delivering sock donations to the North End Community Health Centre. (2) Members of the Red Cross volunteer team with Their Honours at the Garden Party.



The Crown Collection

Government House and the Provincial Archives



Their Honours with Deborah Pearce at the portrait unveiling at Government House. April 19, 2023.

The Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Patsy LeBlanc were delighted to unveil a portrait of Father Léger Comeau, CM. Created by artist Deborah Pearce, this piece is the latest addition to the Crown Collection and will be on permanent display at Government House.

Father Comeau played a central role as a leader and advocate for Nova Scotia's Acadian community. He notably founded the Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FANE) and championed French-language education. In acknowledgment of his contributions, Father Comeau was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada and a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, France's highest civilian honor.

Their Honours extend their gratitude to Mr. Louis Deveau, OC, ONS, and Mrs. Fedora Deveau, Mr. Noël Després, and Ms. Yvette Comeau Després for their contributions, participation, and support in bringing this significant portrait to the Crown Collection.

As previously mentioned, George Elliott Clarke spearheaded a gathering of artists at Government House to honor the legacies of Viola Desmond and former Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Dr. Mayann Francis. The event also served as a tribute to the vibrant history, heritage, and culture of the African Nova Scotia Community. For further information, please refer to page 13.



A booklet of poems and songs, comprising previously unpublished works by George Elliott Clarke and Dr. Mayann Francis, as well as original compositions by Nevawn D. Patrick, was submitted to the Provincial Archive. This compilation stands as a lasting tribute to African Nova Scotian artists and historical artifacts that shape our shared identity.



Provincial and Federal Expenditures

April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024

Provincial Expenditures

The budget is voted on by the House of Assembly as a line in the budget of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. It covers the operation of the Lieutenant Governor's programs, salaries for the Household Staff, security services, and operational expenses associated with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Under the budget, the Salaries and Benefits line accounts for salaries paid to 9.5 FTE staff. The cost for security services, which are provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (totaling $274,422), is accounted for in Supplies and Services budget line.

Line Item	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Salaries & Benefits	$766,357	$722,551	$695,096
Supplies & Services	$351,250	$327,688	$305,968
Other	$20,530	$20,976	$12,382
Recoverable from other Departments	(6,921)	(11,359)	(1,545)
TOTAL	**$1,131,216**	**$1,059,856**	**$1,011,901**

Federal Expenditures

Since 1867, the salary of the Lieutenant Governor has been covered by the Federal Government. Federal funds are also granted to account for certain costs incurred by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor in the discharging of official duties. The above mentioned funds are granted through a lump sum payment know as a named grant to the Lieutenant Governor.

Since the 2004-05 fiscal year, the Department of Canadian Heritage has provided $64,199 annually in funding towards supporting the role of the Crown in Nova Scotia. This amount has remained consistent and is not indexed or lined to the CPI or the annual inflation rate.

Federal funds are used to cover certain expenses that are not covered by funds granted by the province. Expenditures are divided into three categories: Travel/Accommodation, Hospitality and Operational/Administrative Expenses.

Please note that the travel category is used to cover expenses related to the Lieutenant Governor's official travel outside of Halifax to attend events. This includes the annual vice-regal conference. This category is also used to cover travel and accommodation expenses incurred by the driver and the Honorary Aide-de-Camp-in-Waiting, who accompany the Lieutenant Governor to official events.

Line Item	2023-24	2022-23*	2021-22
Travel/Accomodation	$19,003	$12,815	$9,986
Hospitality	$22,210	$23,681	$8,117
Operational/Administrative	$29,388	$28,242	$47,574
TOTAL	**$70,601***	**$64,739**	**$65,677**

*The Department of Canadian Heritage provided $6,403 in funding to support King Charles III Coronation Events held by the Lieutenant Governor. This is included in the 2023-24 figure above.

Acknowledgements



Their Honours at Government House. June 22, 2023.

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We thank you for your continued support and interest in programming provided by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

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