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**Dear Members,**

As we are in the holiday season, I want to take a moment to thank all the dedicated and committed members of this unique organization that embodies the values of service and devotion to our Canadian Crown.

The year 2024 has been marked by remarkable successes and significant progress. Thanks to your unwavering commitment, our operations have reached new heights of efficiency, and our projects supporting viceregal institutions have yielded outstanding results. From our local initiatives to national efforts, we have demonstrated that together, we can achieve great things from coast to coast. I want to particularly acknowledge the dedication of our members, whose contributions, both big and small, have made this year an exceptional milestone. Your passion for our shared values, hard work, and ability to collaborate harmoniously are at the core of our successes.

During this season of celebration, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on all we have accomplished together. Take this time as well to cherish your loved ones, share the warmth of Christmas, and rest before we embark on a new and promising year.

On behalf of the Crown Society of Canada, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with success and happiness.

Lt(N) Thomas Morin-Cabana, MStJ, BMAsC, rmc  
Founder & National President







# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GRAND COUNCIL

OF THE CROWN SOCIETY OF CANADA

## MEMBERSHIP

### M E M B E R S H I P

# 150%

INCREASE COMPARED TO  
LAST YEAR

# 2

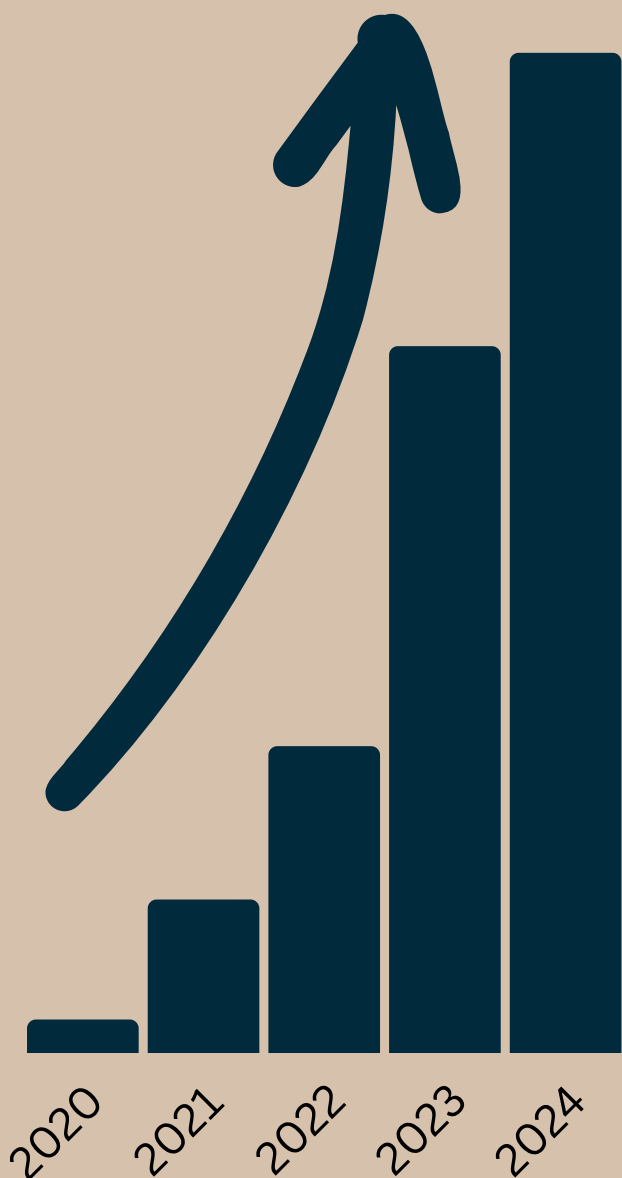
NEW  
PARTICIPATING  
PROVINCES

# 1

NEW OFFICIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE  
IN LONDON

# 1

NEW  
CROWN-INDIGENOUS  
RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE







On February 3, 2024, six individuals with outstanding careers in service to our country were awarded the Medal of the Crown Society of Canada at the Parliament of Canada. The ceremony took place in the presence of the Honourable Steven MacKinnon, who was then the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.



During July and August 2024, the Crown Society of Canada collaborated with various representatives from Canadian Heritage to ensure the proper distribution of the new official portraits of His Majesty King Charles III. Thousands of portraits were distributed across the country.

On November 6, 2024, our president, Mr. Thomas Morin-Cabana, welcomed Mr. J. Greg Peters, MVO, Usher of the Black Rod of Canada, as an honorary member of the Crown Society of Canada. A senior parliamentary officer appointed by order-in-council, the Usher of the Black Rod serves as the Parliament's chief protocol officer and is one of the senior officials of the Senate.



On April 6, 2024, the Crown Society of Canada held a tribute dinner in honour of the Honourable J. Michel Doyon, 29th Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, and LCol (Ret.) Jean-François Provençal, outgoing Chief of Staff. The event was attended by 120 guests.



Throughout 2024, the Public Affairs team of the Crown Society of Canada worked to combat misinformation in various media and on social networks, ensuring that Canadians had access to verified and accurate information.

# NEW MEMBERS ON YOUR G R A N D C O U N C I L

( J A N U A R Y T O D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 4 )



**Captain Javier Rey - Deputy National Membership Coordinator**

Captain in the Canadian Armed Forces, Javier Rey has 34 years of military service, including 8 years in Canada as a Signals Officer. With 28 years of professional experience, he has honed his skills in teamwork, communication, and leadership. Known for his autonomy, creativity, and sense of responsibility, he brings his energy to innovative projects within the Crown Society of Canada.

**Mr. Maxime Grenier - Deputy National Activities Coordinator**

A professional in the fields of national defense, public health, and public safety, Maxime Grenier brings years of experience as both a leader and practitioner across numerous areas of expertise. An accomplished researcher, he has authored several works, including contributions for NATO and the Canadian Department of National Defence.



**Mr. Dominique Bellemare - Co-Coordinator of Educational Services**

Mr. Bellemare, a graduate in biology, law, business, and governance, is a lawyer by profession with 35 years of dedication to charitable work. Passionate about travel, history, geography, and gardening, he has been politically active for over 50 years with the Conservative Party of Canada, serving as a federal candidate three times and as a municipal councilor in Beauharnois.







### **Mr. Derwin Mak - Co-Coordinator of Educational Services**

Mr. Derwin Mak is a retired health care fraud examiner and a long-time volunteer with St. John Ambulance. He currently serves as Chair of the St. John Ambulance Museum Committee in the Toronto Region and Vice-Chair of the Library Committee at the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto. A writer of science fiction novels and short stories, he has won the Aurora Award, a prestigious literary prize for Canadian science fiction.

### **Mr. André Gosselin, CD - National Coordinator for External Affairs**

Mr. Gosselin is a retired Military Police Officer since 2006. He served in four overseas missions before continuing his career with the United Nations until 2016. He then worked as a Security Officer in three federal departments until his final retirement in 2019.



### **Mr. Hans G. Bathija - Advisor, Greater Toronto Region**

Mr. Bathija is a proud Canadian and supporter of the Crown, having settled in Toronto in 1975. A political science graduate from Glendon College, he has led business and technological initiatives in both the private and public sectors. He serves as President of the Rotary Club of Internet & Innovation London Peace Envoys and is an active member of various organizations, including the City of Toronto Honour Guard, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Canada, and the Ontario Historical Society.





**LCol Michel Tousignant, CD, A de C, Official Representative in London, United Kingdom**

LCol Tousignant joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1992. In 1996, he transferred to the Regular Force, where he received his officer commission in 2001. He has held various leadership positions and has been deployed on six overseas missions. Promoted to his current rank in 2018, he leads the CAF Transition Unit (Quebec). He currently serves as Deputy Army Advisor at the Canadian High Commission in London and as Deputy Defence Attaché for the Republic of Ireland at the Canadian Embassy in Dublin.



*Happy  
Holidays !*

# THE DIVERSE FACES OF THE CANADIAN MONARCHY

## THE GOVERNORS GENERAL AND



## THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

A text by Derwin Mak,  
Co-Coordinator of Educational Services



### A quick look back

In July 2021, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon became the 30th Governor General of Canada and, at the same time, the first Indigenous person in Canada to hold the country's highest office. This appointment reflects our inclusive nation, open to cultural and ethnic diversity, in contrast to one of the criticisms of the monarchy—that the monarch is always a white Protestant from a single family in the United Kingdom. Indeed, since 1952, our Governors General have been Canadians from diverse backgrounds, rather than British aristocrats from the days of British rule.

This shift began when the Right Honourable Vincent Massey became the first Canadian Governor General in 1952, marking the start of the monarchy taking on a distinctly Canadian identity. In 1959, the Right Honourable Georges Vanier succeeded him as the first Francophone to hold the position. Since then, Canada's viceregal representatives, including Governors General and Lieutenant Governors, have hailed from a wide range of backgrounds within our country.



*The Right Honourable Vincent Massey  
PC, CH, CC, KStJ, CD, FRSC(hon)*

As the highest-ranking officials of the state or province, they are appointed by the King on the advice of the Prime Minister and therefore hold the supreme authority of the executive power. Furthermore, something rarely known is that they are not subordinate to anyone except the monarch himself. Thus, two amusing facts can arise from this:

1. We could theoretically say that Canada is composed of 11 monarchies: the King is the Head of State for the entire country, but also for each of the 10 provinces in a relatively independent manner. Indeed, provincial laws are enacted in his name through the actions of our viceregal representatives, who are called upon to act on behalf of the King and grant royal assent to these laws.
2. Whether it is the heir to the throne visiting Canada or the Governor General visiting one of the provinces, the Lieutenant Governor of that province holds precedence within their province or territory during a provincial ceremony or event. Therefore, they take precedence over the heir or the Governor General. However, as a matter of custom, such situations are typically avoided to prevent potential awkwardness.

In other words, the Governor General and the Lieutenant Governors are the "eyes and ears" of the King and are integral to the Canadian monarchy just as much as the King himself. Today, they represent a significant diversity in terms of gender, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, religion, as well as professions and occupations, as evidenced by these examples from Canadian history:



**Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, DStJ, AOE, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta (2020 - present)**

Of Ismaili Muslim origin, Her Honour arrived in Canada as a refugee when Uganda expelled its Asian population in 1972. She graduated with distinction in clinical biochemistry from the University of Manchester in the UK, before settling in Edmonton, Alberta, with her husband, where she led a childcare education center. Over the following 44 years, she became deeply involved in numerous philanthropic activities, particularly in support of new immigrants, youth, and women. She was sworn in as the 19th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta on August 26, 2020.



**The Honourable David See-Chai Lam, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, OC, CVO, KStJ, OBC, (1988 - 1995)**

David See-Chai Lam (1923-2010) was a Canadian businessman, philanthropist, and politician of Hong Kong origin. Born in Hong Kong, he emigrated to Canada in 1967 and settled in Vancouver, where he became known as a real estate developer, contributing to the urban development of the region. In 1988, Lam became the 25th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, making history as the first Chinese Canadian viceregal representative in Canada. During his tenure, which lasted until 1995, he focused on promoting multiculturalism, education, and youth. A generous philanthropist, he made substantial donations to educational and cultural causes, including funding projects at the University of British Columbia.



**The Honourable James Bartleman, OC, KStJ, OOnt, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (2002 - 2007)**

A member of the Chippewas of Rama First Nation, the Honourable James Bartleman made history in 2002 by becoming the first Indigenous person appointed as Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Bartleman was particularly dedicated to combating the stigma surrounding mental illness and was a strong advocate for literacy among Indigenous youth. He launched an ambitious book collection initiative that gathered 1.2 million books for First Nations schools, thereby improving access to education. Before his viceregal career, Bartleman served Canada for over 35 years, holding various prestigious positions, including Ambassador and High Commissioner. An author as well, he published several works reflecting on his personal journey, values, and thoughts on Canadian society.



**The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, PC, CC, CMM, COM, DStJ, CD, Governor General of Canada (2005 - 2010)**

The 27th Governor General of Canada, Michaëlle Jean became the first person of Haitian descent to hold this position. Her tenure, which ended in 2010, was marked by her commitment to youth, culture, and reconciliation. Arriving in Canada in the 1960s after her family fled the Haitian dictatorship, Michaëlle Jean distinguished herself with her exceptional journey. She taught Italian at the University of Montreal and played an active role in creating emergency shelters for women victims of domestic violence in Quebec. Prior to her viceregal role, she had a distinguished career in journalism at Radio-Canada, where she hosted news programs and major reports.

**The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, PC, CC, CMM, COM, DStJ, CD, Governor General of Canada (1999 - 2005)**

Arriving in Canada in 1941 as a refugee during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, she charted an extraordinary path, becoming the 26th Governor General of Canada in 1999. She was the first person of a visible minority, as well as the first Canadian of Chinese descent, to hold this position. Her appointment was particularly historic as she had no prior political or military background, breaking with tradition. Prior to her viceregal role, Adrienne Clarkson had a distinguished career at CBC, where she became a respected journalist and host. Her viceregal tenure was marked by her commitment to culture, diversity, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, while also modernizing the office.







**The Honourable Lincoln Alexander, PC, CC, KStJ, OOnt, CD, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (1985 - 1991)**

A politician, lawyer, and Canadian veteran, he served as a wireless operator in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II before earning a law degree. In 1968, he made history by becoming Canada's first Black Member of Parliament, and later, the country's first Black federal cabinet minister. After a distinguished career, he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ontario in 1985, becoming the first Black person to hold a viceregal position in Canada. He served in this role until 1991, focusing on education, youth, and equal opportunities. Lincoln Alexander remains an iconic figure in the fight against racism and the promotion of diversity in Canada. His commitment and contributions continue to inspire current and future generations.

**The Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, PC, CC, CMM, COM, KStJ, CD, Governor General of Canada (1990 - 1995)**

Born in Saskatchewan to Ukrainian heritage, Ramon John Hnatyshyn had a distinguished career as a lawyer, Member of Parliament, and federal minister. In 1990, he was appointed the 24th Governor General of Canada, a position he held until 1995. During his tenure, Hnatyshyn was particularly dedicated to promoting Canadian arts and culture, notably by creating the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards, which honor exceptional achievements in the performing arts. Known for his humility and dedication to public service, he played a key role in celebrating Canada's cultural identity while proudly representing his Ukrainian roots.





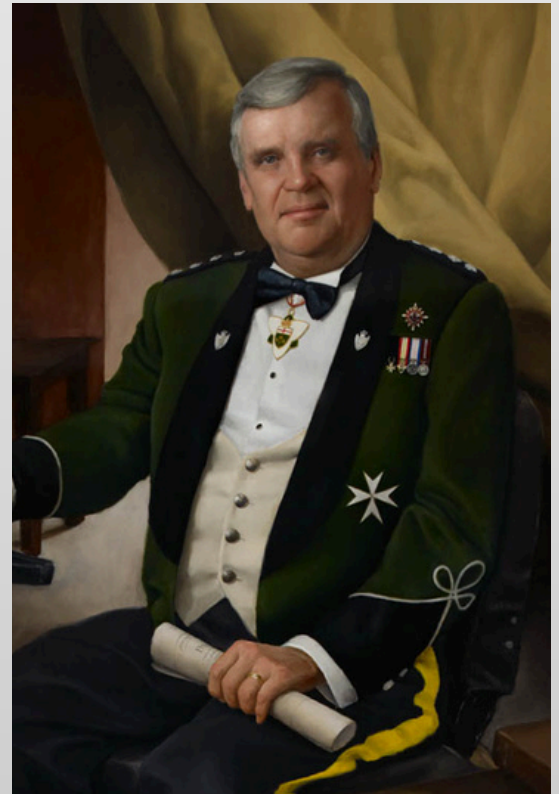


**The Honourable W. Yvon Dumont, KStJ, OM, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba (1993 - 1999)**

An Indigenous leader and Canadian politician of Métis descent, Yvon Dumont was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba in 1993, becoming the first Métis person to hold a viceregal position in Canada. He served until 1999, highlighting the history and culture of the Métis while promoting dialogue and reconciliation between communities. Before his appointment, Yvon Dumont was actively involved in Indigenous politics. He was a founding member of the Assembly of First Nations and worked to defend the rights of Indigenous peoples, particularly the Métis, through his leadership in various organizations. His enduring contribution reflects his dedication to the recognition and empowerment of Indigenous peoples in Canadian society.

**The Honourable David Onley, CM, KStJ, OOnt, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (2007 - 2014)**

David Onley (1950-2023) was a Canadian journalist, author, and statesman. Partially paralyzed by polio during his childhood, he overcame physical challenges to become one of the few Canadian television journalists with a visible disability. A news anchor and weather reporter, he was also a science fiction author, publishing the novel *\*Shuttle\**, making him the only writer in that genre to have held a viceregal position. In 2007, he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, a role he held until 2014. During his tenure, David Onley was a passionate advocate for accessibility for people with disabilities, working to eliminate barriers and promote inclusion. His career and advocacy left a lasting impact, inspiring advancements in accessibility.



# NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## >>> ANNUAL RENEWALS

As you know, your contributions and donations are essential to help us achieve our goals and support the Crown in Canada. That is why, since June 30, it is time, as every year, to proceed with the renewal of memberships:

1. Visit our website:  
<https://monarchistsociety.org/become-a-member>
2. Complete Step 2 only: *"PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE"*

## >>> SPREAD THE WORD !!!

Membership represents a crucial form of support for the Crown Society of Canada. Offering significant benefits at a very modest cost, it is an incredibly valuable proposition.

If every member recruits just one person from among their friends, family, or colleagues, our Society would double in size!

1. Invite your loved ones to visit our website:  
<https://monarchistsociety.org/become-a-member>
2. Help them complete Steps 1 and 2.

## >>> THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS RECRUITING

Are you motivated and eager to make a difference? Would you like to be part of a dynamic team? The Grand Council of the Crown Society of Canada is seeking volunteers for the following positions:

Chancellor of the Grand Council  
Deputy National Coordinator for Public Affairs & Media  
Advisor, Centre-du-Québec Region  
Advisor, Greater Montreal Region  
Advisor, National Capital Region  
Administrator (x2)



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