



LG31

The Honourable Wendy Cocchia  
CM, OBC, LLD (Hon)  
31<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



*Above: One of my favourite roles as Lieutenant Governor is acting as Chancellor of the Order of British Columbia, celebrating some of the most extraordinary citizens of our province*

## HELLO FROM HER HONOUR

Across British Columbia, I continue to be inspired by the people and communities I have the honour to serve as Lieutenant Governor, a role that continues to deepen in purpose and momentum.

Since my installation, I have had the great privilege of meeting thousands of British Columbians across our province. Their leadership, resilience, and commitment to this extraordinary province are a constant source of encouragement to both me and His Honour.

Many of their experiences align with my Mandate in Motion to advance meaningful inclusion, drive innovation in health, and champion economic opportunity.

These priorities, grounded in unwavering commitment to reconciliation and steadfast support for our Armed Forces, guide my work and inform my engagements throughout British Columbia.

I am pleased to share a few highlights from recent months.

# FIRST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

## Celebration

*Showcasing the extraordinary achievements of British Columbians*

### BC Reconciliation Awards

A powerful evening filled with inspiration and resilience recognizing those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in furthering reconciliation. I was truly moved by the stories and songs shared that night and was honoured to be joined by the Honourable Steven Point, 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and founder of the award.



### Ingenious+

This Rideau Hall Foundation-led program, giving young innovators the chance to realise their ideas through financial support, mentorship and learning opportunities, led to an inspiring afternoon at Government House celebrating incredible winners from BC and Yukon.

### Long Service Awards

I was delighted to welcome BC Public Service employees to Government House for a celebration of significant milestone years of service for 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of employment, showcasing the myriad ways the Public Service supports our province.





## Community

*Highlighting organizations and institutions doing meaningful work*

### The Greater Vancouver Food Bank

Serving around 16,000 clients a week, with about 80% fresh food, and using programs like "Fresh Start" to connect food clients with other partners supporting areas such as employment, immigration and mental health, and making good use of food waste.



### Woolwerx

An artisanal wool studio that's making a difference! Created by the Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver, Woolwerx provides training and employment to women transitioning out of the legal system, homelessness and substance use challenges and uses donated wool from BC sheep farms to create handy wool-based products like dryer balls.

### Marina Bay Café

Proudly Deaf-owned and operated! Owners Maria and Salah bring their perspectives as members of the Deaf community to provide a unique experience for their staff (a mix of deaf and hearing) and customers, showcasing what deaf people are capable of and providing a space for the Victoria Deaf community to gather.





## Convening

*Creating space for ceremony, conversation, and connection*

### 25th anniversary of the Nisga'a Final Agreement

I was honoured to host President Eva Clayton, the Nisga'a Lisims Government, and representatives of our provincial and federal government for a dinner at Government House, marking British Columbia's first modern treaty.



### The Speech from the Throne

A solemn opening of the 43rd parliament of the Province of British Columbia, acknowledging the tragedy that took place in Tumbler Ridge. I was honoured to share messages of support and love from His Majesty King Charles, Her Majesty The Queen, and Governor General Mary Simon, and my thoughts are still with those grieving.

### Spring Reception for the Friends of Government House Gardens Society

It's "Tools Up" time for the Friends! We celebrated the annual return to gardening for the 300+ active members of the Friends, whose volunteer efforts help make the grounds and gardens of Government House a beautiful oasis for locals and visitors.





## MANDATE IN MOTION



### Meaningful Inclusion

I'll be launching province-wide inclusion initiatives, including the rollout of several thousand paper-plane-making kits— a hands-on activity and accompanying educational programme that emphasizes the power of kindness and inclusion.

A Grade 3 level children's book titled *Room for Everyone* will be published this summer, and shared in classrooms and libraries across BC. The book is illustrated by a neurodiverse designer, and will cover the themes of empathy, acceptance, and kindness.

### Innovation in Health

I will host a series of health-focused hackathons, which will convene top technology and health leaders to develop innovative solutions. This endeavour is the first of its kind to be launched by a Lieutenant Governor in BC.



**Above:** With Tamara Vrooman, President and CEO, YVR, and Chair of the Lieutenant Governor's Future Ready Workforce and Economic Opportunity Council

Since the start of my mandate, I've also convened provincial, national, and global leaders from health, technology, government, and other sectors to accelerate solutions that strengthen the health and well-being of British Columbians.

### Economic Opportunity

In partnership with The King's Trust Canada, I've launched a first-of-its-kind Future Workforce Readiness Council, placing youth leadership at the centre of BC's workforce strategy. This work will shape a growing pipeline of initiatives that position British Columbia as a national leader in future skills and workforce readiness.

I look forward to marking the 15th anniversary of The King's Trust Canada in September, with celebrations taking place across Canada.



**Left:** A lunch and discussion with Jeffrey Orridge, CEO, The King's Trust Canada, and young leaders about their experiences and challenges in today's work force.



## *HONORARY PATRONAGE HIGHLIGHT*

### *The Garth Homer Society – Victoria*

A nonprofit organization providing services and opportunities to help people with developmental disabilities build meaningful lives, homes, and a sense of belonging in their communities. Delivering individualized, person-centred supports across areas such as employment, community participation, residential living, and aging care, the Garth Homer Society focuses personal growth, independence, and inclusion while fostering purpose, dignity, and connection.

## *PHOTO GALLERY*



**Above:** An emotional vigil in Tumbler Ridge, joined by leadership from across Canada in honouring the victims of the tragic shooting that took place there.



**Top Row - Left:** Signing in at the New Years Day Levee at the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada armoury in Vancouver to ring in 2026; **Centre:** True innovation in health at the BCIT Burnaby campus Health Sciences centre, the largest simulation health education centre in western Canada; **Right:** Lots of fun visiting the iconic Granville Island, home to many small local businesses, including Artisan SakeMaker, creator of award-winning, hand-made small batch and fresh sake, the first of its kind in Canada, using rice grown in Abbotsford.

**Middle Row:** Connecting with the passionate team at the Office of the Ombudsperson.

**Top Row - Left:** Joined by the Honourable Steven Point, 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia; the Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; and the recipients and jury members for the 2025 BC Reconciliation Awards; **Right:** His Honour's Italian heritage on full display at the Da Vinci Centre in Victoria, the "home of Italian culture" in Victoria

## OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE

[Invite the Lieutenant Governor to an event](#)

*Celebrating, inspiring and connecting British Columbians across the province*

[Apply for Honorary Patronage under the Lieutenant Governor](#)

*Supporting and encouraging worthy endeavours and organizations*

[Nominate an individual or an organization for a BC Reconciliation Award](#)

*Nominations are open year-round; nominate now for the 2027 award cycle*



## CLOSING NOTE



**Above:** A visit to Firehall 2 and Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, with special guest Yoda from BC Guide Dogs, who supports firefighters with occupational risks of the job, such as PTSD.

It's my sincere honour to serve as your Lieutenant Governor. I look forward to the coming months and to the inspiration that will come from meeting, learning and connecting with my fellow British Columbians.

Sincerely,

*Wendy Cocchia*

**The Honourable Wendy Cocchia**

Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



## STAY CONNECTED

