



Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia GOVERNMENT HOUSE



Activity Report 2019-2020

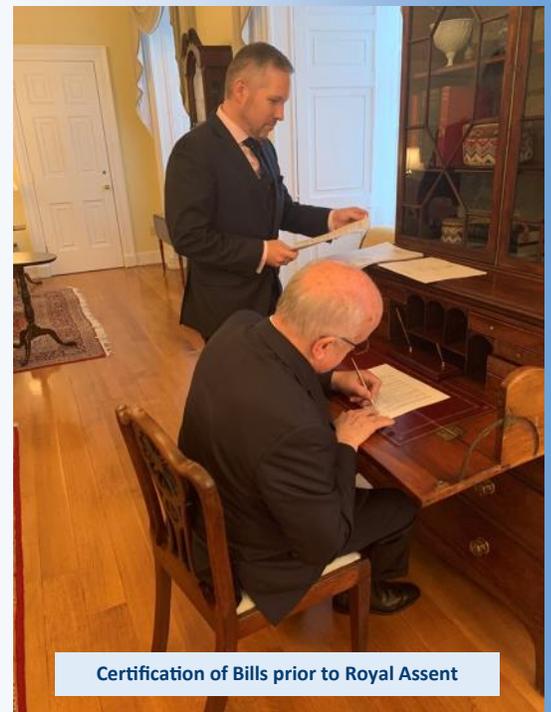




Visit by the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda and Lady Sandra Williams

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Certification of Bills prior to Royal Assent



75th Anniversary of D-Day Commemorations with Her Excellency the Governor General



55th Anniversary of the National Flag

Foreword



GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Dear Friends,

As Her Honour and I mark the halfway point in my time as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, I am pleased to provide this annual accounting of my official activities for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The last year has afforded Her Honour and I the pleasure of participating in more than 322 events at Government House and throughout the province.

As the ceremonial home of all Nova Scotians, I am delighted to note that more than 14,000 visitors came to the historic residence for tours or to attend events. In particular, I was honored to host a number of events that commemorated milestone anniversaries. In June 2019 we marked the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings during the Second World War. I was also happy to host a ceremony with the Dutch Ambassador to Canada and students from Armbrae Academy in which we planted tulip bulbs marking the 75th Anniversary of the start of the military campaign to liberate the Netherlands. As in previous years, we held flag raising ceremonies and receptions to mark National Acadian Day, Treaty Day and the International Francophonie Day.

At Government House, we held 143 events, including diplomatic courtesy calls with Commonwealth and foreign representatives, investitures, awards ceremonies, volunteer recognition receptions, and a dinner to honour the 2019 Order of Nova Scotia appointees. I was also pleased to swear in the new Chief Justice of Nova Scotia Michael J. Wood. At the Annual Garden Party in June 2019, we marked the 50th anniversary of Official Bilingualism in Canada. We were also delighted to host a Pink Tea to celebrate the “Famous Five” and the 90th anniversary of the “Persons Case”.

Her Honour and I were pleased to attend many events and ceremonies around Nova Scotia. These included several events for African Heritage Month including the launch and the unveiling of a postage stamp. We were also impressed by what we saw when we visited the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank and the homeless shelters Metro Turning Point and Frank MacKay House.

Our interaction with the Canadian Armed Forces and the various protective services in Nova Scotia continues to be one of my priorities. Her Honour and I attended the departure on deployment and arrival from deployment ceremonies for several of Her Majesty’s Canadian Ships. Additionally, I have been honored to invest members of the protective services with various Exemplary Service Medals and attend the annual Nova Scotia Fallen Police Officers’ Memorial Service in October 2019.

The end of the fiscal year was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and this resulted in the cancellation of all public activities in the interest of public safety. I have been very impressed with the people in the public and private sectors who were compelled to continue working to ensure that all Nova Scotians were safe, healthy and had access to the basic necessities. We greatly appreciate their dedication and commitment.

Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC
Lieutenant Governor



Launch of African Heritage Month 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

*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 Queen of Canada's representative in Nova Scotia,
and to maintain and enrich the traditions and heritage of Government House Halifax
as the centre of official hospitality for the province and its people.*



Visit to the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank

Corporate 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*
- *Promoting Nova Scotia*
- *Preserving Government House*



Liberation of the Netherlands Tulip Planting



Reception in Honour of Queen Elizabeth II Scholars

Introduction



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 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen 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 programme, awards, patronages and many other

activities undertaken with, and on behalf of, Nova Scotians in communities across the province.

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

The administrative element of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor/Government House reports through the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs and receives its funding from an annual appropriation as part of the same department. As part of 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 Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

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.



Roles and Duties of the Lieutenant Governor

Constitutional/Legal

The Lieutenant Governor granted Royal Assent to 51 bills and presided over three Royal Assent ceremonies. In addition to these duties, the Lieutenant Governor and Administrator signed 369 Orders-in-Council and eleven Proclamations. The Lieutenant Governor also signed and had sealed 113 notary public appointment commissions for the Department of Justice. There was no Speech from the Throne Ceremony/Opening of the Legislature in the fiscal year.

The Lieutenant Governor presided over one swearing in ceremony of the Executive Council, organized by Government House in cooperation with the Executive Council Office.



Crown-Indigenous Relations

In addition to hosting a ceremonial flag raising of the Mi'kmaq flag at Government House, that was followed by a reception, the Lieutenant Governor participated in four main events held on Treaty Day.

His Honour was pleased to co-host a ceremony to launch the Nova Scotia Archives' Online Resource of the Donald Marshall Jr. Royal Commission Archives. Work with Mi'kmaq leaders has also commenced to have a Government House Eagle Feather dedicated by Treaty Day 2020.

Ceremonial

At Government House, the Lieutenant Governor hosted 143 in-house events. His Honour presided over nine investitures for various Canadian honours: Order of St. John, Order of Nova Scotia, Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, RCMP Long Service Medal, Police Exemplary Service Medal, Coast Guard Exemplary Service Medal, Corrections Exemplary Service Medal, Peace Officer Exemplary Service Medal, Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal, Service, Service Medal of the Order of St. John and Corps of Commissionaires Long Service Medal).

A total of 114 citizens were invested with national and provincial honours over the course of the year, and were accompanied by 541 guests.

On 7 November 2019, His Honour was pleased to present the A.G. Huntsman Award for Excellence in the Marine Sciences on behalf of the Royal Society of Canada, and he presented the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards on 2 December 2019.

Each year the Lieutenant Governor presides over citizenship swearing-in ceremonies where new Canadians take their oath of citizenship.



Community Engagement

In addition to internal Government House events, the Lieutenant Governor presided over three investitures outside of Government House; one in partnership with the Protocol Office for the Order of Nova Scotia and two other external investitures in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Bridgewater Fire Department Band respectively. The Lieutenant Governor undertook 179 external events over the course of the fiscal year and delivered 139 speeches.



Overall Activity Level

The various activities undertaken by the Lieutenant Governor are divided into five separate categories, along with speeches which are delivered at many events. Constitutional Duties, consist of such events as the Speech from the Throne, meetings with the Premier, Executive Council Officials and signing orders-in-council, statutory and non-statutory instruments. In-House Events, consists of receptions, dinners, investitures, performances, presentations, meetings, and ceremonies held at Government House which are presided over by the Lieutenant Governor. External Events Hosted by Government House, consist of events presided over by the Lieutenant Governor which are organized and arranged by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor but which are held at an outside venue such as the presentation of the Lieutenant Governor's Education Medals and the Lieutenant Governor's Respectful Citizenship Award. External Events Organized by Government House but not attended by the Lieutenant Governor, relate to tours and other events.

Table 1.1. Overall Activity Level

Event Type	1 April - 31 March 2019-20	1 April - 31 March 2018-19	1 April - 31 March 2017-18*
Constitutional Duties	75	81	73
In-House Events	102	111	78
External Events Hosted by Government House	5	5	2
External Events	179	164	134
Events organized by Government House but not attended by the Lieutenant Governor	36	45	21
TOTAL EVENTS	397	406	308

*Only includes activities undertaken by Lieutenant Governor LeBlanc since being sworn into office on 28 June 2017.

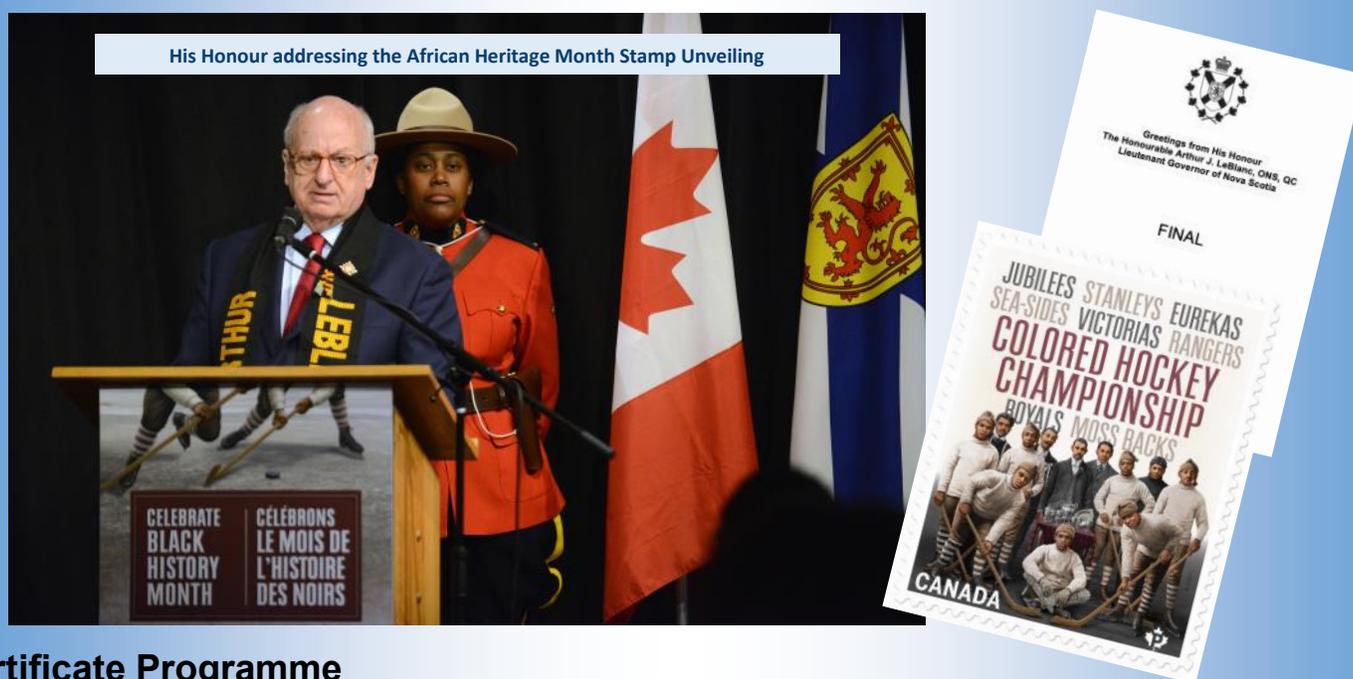
Speeches

Over the course of the year the Lieutenant Governor delivered 139 speeches and in addition to this, 19 press releases were issued and 57 special statements were published on the Lieutenant Governor's website and other social media platforms that include Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and Instagram. The number of speeches was slightly lower than in the previous fiscal year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of all the Lieutenant Governor's public engagements; nevertheless, as a result of the pandemic a renewed focus has been placed on the Lieutenant Governor's YouTube channel.

Table 1.2 Speeches delivered

Event Type	1 April - 31 March 2019-20	1 April - 31 March 2018-19	1 April - 31 March 2017-18*
Speeches delivered	139	145	103

*Only includes activities undertaken by Lieutenant Governor LeBlanc since being sworn into office on 28 June 2017.



Certificate Programme

The Lieutenant Governor's Commemorative Certificate Programme which recognizes milestone birthdays, wedding anniversaries and military retirements resulted in 720 certificates being produced and mailed. This total was slightly lower than the previously fiscal year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a disruption in the provision of information by partner organizations.

Table 1.3 Certificate Programme

Event Commemorated	1 April - 31 March 2019-20	1 April - 31 March 2018-19	1 April - 31 March 2017-18
Milestone Birthdays	392	379	490
Wedding Anniversaries	217	265	345
Military Retirement	111	141	131
TOTAL	720	785	966

Continuing Public Access

For the eighth year, in addition to periodic tours booked by members of the general public, Government House was open during the summer months of July and August for half-hourly guided tours of the main floor state rooms. The programme runs each Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. A total of 3,833 visitors from Nova Scotia, every province and territory in Canada and 44 different countries toured Government House as part of the summer tour programme. Tour guides are shared with Province House, as part of a cost sharing arrangement.

Throughout the July/August summer tour programme, the Canadian Armed Forces' 5th Canadian Division provided sentries who paraded during each tour day, as part of the Sentry Programme, which was inaugurated in 2012. The sentries, drawn from CAF reserve units from throughout the province, provide a changing of the guard accompanied by a bagpiper, every hour during the day.

Table 1.4 Summer Tour Programme Visitors

	Summer 2019	Summer 2018	Summer 2017	Summer 2016	Summer 2015	Summer 2014
Visitors	3,833	3,794	3,569	2,992	2,967	2,274

Outside of the summer months, Government House was open for tours booked by school groups, civic organizations (Scouts, Guides and Cadets) and seniors' organizations.



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Ceremony



Welcoming home HMCS HALIFAX following its 6 month deployment with NATO

Overall, including events such as Nocturne: Art at Night, the annual Garden Party, New Year's Day Levée and other events hosted by the Lieutenant Governor at Government House, approximately 14,000 people visited the historic residence. Outside of the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Lieutenant Governor made official visits to numerous locations in Nova Scotia including: Antigonish, Chapel Island, Eskasoni First Nation, Glace Bay, Louisbourg, Port Hawkesbury, Port Williams, Sainte Anne, Sydney and Yarmouth. Outside of the Province, His Honour attended a number of events in New Brunswick, notably the state funeral for the Honourable Jocelyn Roy-Vienneau and the installation of her successor the Honourable Brenda Murphy as Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick.



Unveiling of the portrait of Brigadier-General the Honourable J.J. Grant, 32nd Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia



Evenings@Government House presentation by Dr. Afua Cooper

Volunteer Service

The cadre of 30 Honorary Aides-de-Camp, comprised of members of 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, volunteered 1,722 hours aiding the Lieutenant Governor in discharging his duties throughout Nova Scotia. This is the equivalent of 2 FTEs. In January 2020, as part of their ongoing professional development, the Aides-de-Camp undertook cultural sensitivity training when they received briefings from Indigenous Elder Deborah Eisan and Iman Abdallah Yousri from Ummah Mosque in Halifax.



Honorary Aides-de-Camp at the Annual Garden Party



Elder Eisan conducting AdeC training

Promoting Nova Scotia

Aside from national and provincial honours, the Lieutenant Governor recognizes excellence in a diverse array of fields through the various Lieutenant Governor's Awards.

Table 1.5 Lieutenant Governor's Awards Conferred

Award	Partner	No. Bestowed 2019-20	No. Bestowed 2018-19	No. Bestowed 2017-18
LG's Education Medal	Department of Education	146	166	154
LG's Award for Excellence in Public Administration	Institute of Public Administration Canada	3	3	3
LG's Award for Design in Architecture	Nova Scotia Association of Architects	*	8	7
LG's Award for Excellence in Engineering	Engineers Nova Scotia	3	4	4
LG Award for Conservation	Nova Scotia Salmon Trust	1	1	1
LG's Nova Scotia Talent Trust Award	Nova Scotia Talent Trust	8	8	8
LG's Greenwing Award	Ducks Unlimited	*	1	1
LG's Prêt à écrire! Award	Canadian Parents for French	*	1	1
LG's Masterworks Arts Award	Arts Award Foundation	5	6	6
LG's Community Spirit Award	Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage	4	4	4
LG's Person with Disabilities Employer Partnership Awards	Collaborative Partnership Network	*	6	7
LG's Award for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines	Winery Association of Nova Scotia, Taste of Nova Scotia	4	4	3
LG's Respectful Citizenship Award	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development	78	93	*
LG's Award for Culinary Excellence	Nova Scotia Community College	6	n/a	n/a

**Not presented in the respective Fiscal Year.*

A policy of serving Nova Scotian produce, fish and meat (when seasonally available), was instituted for functions at Government House in 2011 and continues to be in place. Since 2009, all wine served has been Nova Scotian in origin. Winning wines that have received the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in



In cooperation with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, in 2019, His Honour presented the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit award to four communities; Glace Bay, Petite Rivière, Port Williams and Potlotek First Nation. As part of a long-term partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, during May, the Lieutenant Governor presented the Lieutenant Governor's Education Medals at three ceremonies; one at Government House for the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial schools, one organized by Government House at the Halifax Central Library for Nova Scotia's mainland schools and the final ceremony was held in Port Hawkesbury for the Cape Breton schools.

Milestone Events for 2019-20

The Lieutenant Governor undertook nine courtesy calls or meetings with Commonwealth and foreign representatives. The Lieutenant Governor also swore in the newly appointed Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, the Honourable Michael J. Wood.

As The Queen's representative and on behalf of all Nova Scotians, the Lieutenant Governor was also present at 286 events hosted by a wide range of cultural, sporting, civic, heritage, military and volunteer communities. Some of the highlights included:

- Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings with the Governor General
- Christmas Tree decorating by members of the l'Arche community and Support Services Group
- Visit by the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda
- Presentation of the A.G. Huntsman Award for the Marine Sciences
- Launch of the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Culinary Excellence
- Closing ceremonies of the International Acadian World Congress, Dieppe New Brunswick
- Reception in honour of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute



- Pink Tea
- Fête national de l'Acadie Flag Raising
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Ceremony
- One Citizenship Swearing in Ceremony
- Treaty Day Flag Raising and Reception
- 150th anniversary of the Princess Louise Fusiliers
- Visit to the Maritime Brain Tissue Bank
- Celtic Colours Festival
- Remembrance Day

Preserving Government House

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal managed repairs to the stone façade of Government House along with routine maintenance and repairs to the building and Carriage House. The Government House Crown Collection saw three major pieces added:

- 1) a portrait of former Lieutenant Governor Brigadier-General the Honourable J.J. Grant, CM, CMM, ONS CD, which was donated through funds subscribed by his family and former staff;
- 2) Donation of a mahogany desk formerly owned by Lieutenant Governor Victor de B. Oland, from Commander Richard Oland;
- 3) Purchase at auction of a pair of signed presentation portraits of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall & York (the future King George V and Queen Mary) which were presented to a Nova Scotian during the 1901 Royal Tour.

Provincial Budget

The budget is voted by the House of Assembly as a line in the budget of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. This budget covers the operation of the Lieutenant Governor's programme, salaries for the Household Staff, security services and the operational expenses associated with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. The salaries and benefits portion cover the salaries for the 9.5 FTE staff, while the cost for security services (a Commissionaire on duty 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 365 days a year) is covered under the Supplies and Services category.

Table 1.5 Provincial Budget Expenditures

	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
Salaries & Benefits	664,877	653,614	667,063
Supplies & Services	305,018	289,167	221,610
Other	11,796	24,573	13,472
Recoverable from other departments	(363)	(1,484)	(9,632)
TOTAL	981,329	971,755	894,555

Federal Budget

Since 1867, the salary of the Lieutenant Governor has been covered by the Federal Government. In addition to this, since 1951, the Federal Government has granted funds to help cover certain costs incurred by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor in the discharging of the Lieutenant Governor's official duties. These funds are granted through a lump sum payment known as a named grant to the Lieutenant Governor. The funds are administered on the Lieutenant Governor's behalf by the Private Secretary/Executive Director. Since the 2004-2005 fiscal year, the Department of Canadian Heritage has provided \$64,199 annually in funding towards supporting the role of the Crown in the province. This amount has remained constant and is not indexed or linked to the CPI or annual inflation rate. These funds are used to cover certain expenses that are not covered by funding granted by the province. Expenditures are divided into three categories; Travel/Accommodation, Hospitality and Operational/Administrative Expenses.



78th Highlanders Freedom of the City Parade

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 Lieutenant Governor's attendance at the annual conference of the Governor General, Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners. This category is also used to cover travel and accommodation expenses incurred by the driver and the Honorary Aide-de-Camp who accompany the Lieutenant Governor to official events.

The hospitality category covers funds spent on foodstuffs and beverages served at official functions held by the Lieutenant Governor – either at Government House or at other venues where an official event is being hosted by the Lieutenant Governor. The Operational/Administrative category covers expenses such as official gifts, musicians for events, hourly stipends for casual stewards who work at formal dinners.

Table 1.6 Federal Named Grant Expenditures

	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
Travel/Accommodation	16,824	11,847	23,597*
Hospitality	24,400	27,268	25,029
Operational/Administrative	22,974	25,083	14,285
TOTAL	64,199	64,199	62,901

*the fiscal year 2017/18 included the travel and accommodation for the Lieutenant Governor, his wife and Private Secretary to visit the United Kingdom for an audience with HM The Queen and HRH The Prince of Wales.



COVID-19 Pandemic

The declaration by the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020, that the COVID-19 virus had become a pandemic resulted in the curtailing of the Lieutenant Governor’s schedule to include only events of a legal/constitutional nature. On 13 March it was decided to cancel all of the Lieutenant Governor’s engagements, both inside Government House and events with external organizations.

In cooperation with the Executive Council Office, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor’s pandemic business continuity plan was implemented on 16 March to ensure the continued ability of the Lieutenant Governor to discharge his legal and constitutional duties. Between 13 March and the end of the 2019-20 fiscal year on 31 March, a total of four external and three internal events were cancelled – resulting in approximately 230 fewer visitors to Government House; this included two Evenings@Government House presentations, an event with veterans and one event with the African Nova Scotian community. Nevertheless, on 20 March in honour of International Francophonie Day, the Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. LeBlanc presided over a ceremonial flag raising which was widely circulated on electronic media – in the absence of the traditional ceremony and reception which is held at Government House annually.



Launch of Cadet Week at Province House



Reception in Honour of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day



Annual Garden Party

This report was prepared by the Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, Christopher McCreery, MVO, with the assistance of Communications Advisor, Craig Walkington, MSM, CD.

VISIT US

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