

Youth enrich the fabric of Canada

'Continue to dream big,' Governor General tells Award achievers

Since 1963, all governors general have served as the national chair of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. His Excellency the Rt. Hon. David Johnston recently became the latest to support The Award in his official capacity as The Queen's representative in Canada. Since his appointment in October 2010, His Excellency has presided over two Gold Award ceremonies with a third scheduled for July 2, and has pledged continued support during his term. At the recent Award ceremonies in Toronto and Halifax, he explained why he is pleased to be involved with The Award and how the contributions made by its participants enrich the very fabric of our nation.

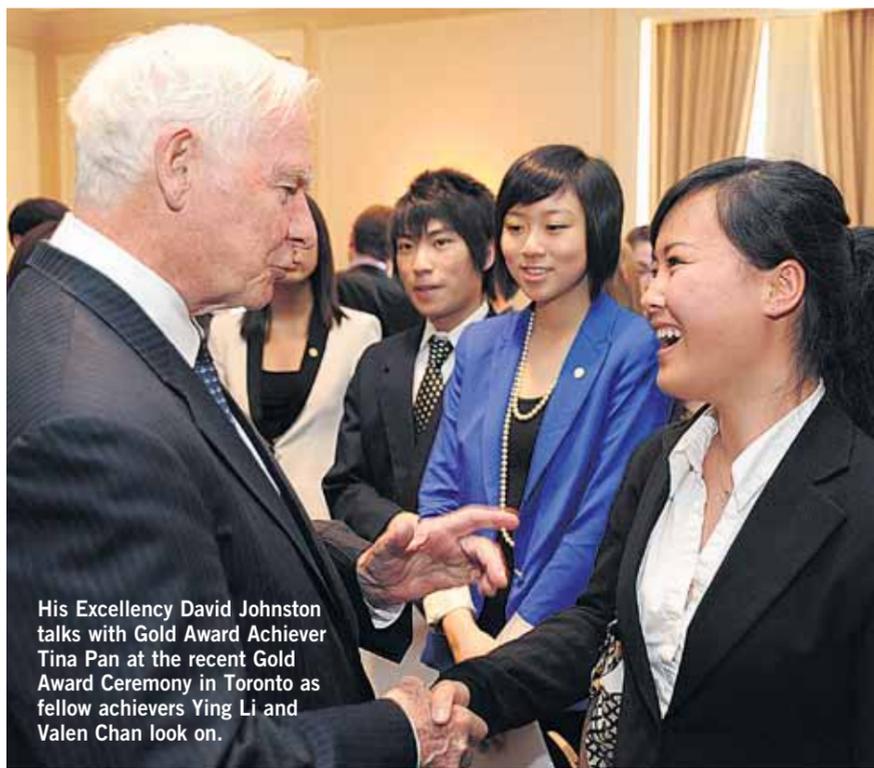
"I am honoured to be involved with a programme such as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. As Governor General, one of my primary objectives is to inspire all Canadians to a richer level of volunteerism, a higher level of community involvement, and a deeper level of public service," said His Excellency.

"The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has given a lasting legacy to all Canadians. It inspires our young people to make a difference, to reach higher and dream bigger, to embark on a lifelong journey of community service, skill development, physical fitness, exploration and adventure. By participating in The Award, young people are proving that

anything is possible, that they can reach beyond themselves, set lofty goals, dream big dreams and strive to realize them. The Award helps youth demonstrate that they are ready to challenge themselves, to take initiative and responsibility for their successes, and that they have what it takes to persevere when times get tough, caring enough to give back to their communities, their country, and the world.

"The Award helps young people recognize their own potential and realize their dreams. Its achievers have demonstrated that they are ready to reach for the stars, that they are focused on succeeding, inspired to dream and dedicated to serve. These are young Canadians who are determined to make a difference. They travel down a road that looks beyond their own capabilities, confirming that mental or physical ability or social circumstance should never preclude someone from achieving his or her desired pursuits."

He added, "I encourage youth to remain true to the course they have set. I urge them to continue reaching beyond the here and now. Continue serving others as you would hope to be served, continue to dream big and to do all you can to help others succeed, continue to seek new adventures and to explore unbeaten paths, and continue to recognize a need and be ready to answer the call."



His Excellency David Johnston talks with Gold Award Achiever Tina Pan at the recent Gold Award Ceremony in Toronto as fellow achievers Ying Li and Valen Chan look on.



The Earl of Wessex will present 150 Gold Awards on July 26 in Toronto.

Royal recognition

Celebrating Canadian youth, volunteers and philanthropists

On July 26, HRH The Earl of Wessex, Chairman of the International Council of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will participate in a series of events in Toronto to celebrate the continued growth and success of The Award in Canada.

During his one-day visit, His Royal Highness will present 150 young Canadians with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, recognising their deep commitment to community service and personal development. Later that day, The Earl will visit the offices of TD Waterhouse in recognition of the tremendous support TD provides to The Award

across Canada, meeting with TD employees who volunteer in the Investing in Youth Initiative and the young people benefitting from it.

The remainder of The Earl's day will be devoted to recognising the volunteers and donors who enable The Duke of Edinburgh's Award to work with tens of thousands of young Canadians each year.

After meeting with the Board of Governors of The Charter for Business (the body that raises funds to assist The Award's work with at-risk youth), The Earl will attend a dinner to welcome new and returning members of The Charter for Business.

About The Award

"The Award transforms not only the young people who participate in it, but also the communities they live in."

Peter Melanson, National President of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an exciting personal challenge for young Canadians. It is a balanced, non-competitive programme of voluntary activities which encourages:

- Personal discovery and growth
- Self-reliance
- Perseverance
- Responsibility
- Service to the community

Since it began in 1956, The Award has become one of the world's most prestigious youth programmes, offered in 130 countries. The Award is amongst the highest accolades a young Canadian can receive, and some 37,000 participate each year.

HOW DOES THE AWARD WORK?

Anyone between the age of 14 and 25 can participate, regardless of their circumstances or abilities. The criteria for achieving an Award are based upon individual effort and improvement. To achieve an Award, each participant must complete four sections:

- Community service helps develop a sense of personal and community responsibility.

- Skills developed by pursuing and persisting in an interest, develop creativity and personal discovery.
- Physical recreation promotes good health and a sense of achievement and satisfaction.
- Adventurous Journey cultivates a spirit of adventure, teamwork, and an appreciation of the environment.

There are 3 levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Young people participate either as individuals or through organizations such as schools, police services and youth groups.

THE CHARTER FOR BUSINESS

A partnership between The Award and the Canadian business community, the Charter for Business was created in 1996 to help expand The Award's work with disadvantaged young people. Some 50 corporations and individuals have become Founding Partners of the Charter, pledging over \$13 million to deliver the benefits of The Award to at-risk youth in five target communities: inner-city youth, aboriginal youth, young offenders, northern and rural youth, and young people with disabilities.

Government reaffirms its commitment to the youth of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Newfoundland and Labrador provincial government has supported The Duke of Edinburgh's Award since 1974, and on June 16 it announced it was investing an additional \$55,000 to reaffirm its commitment to The Award and the youth programme it delivers.

"Our government is pleased to support The Duke of Edinburgh's Award through an investment from the Grants to Youth Organizations program," said The Hon. Darin King, Minister of Human Resources, Labour and Employment and Minister Responsible for Youth Engagement. "The effective operation of programs such as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award relies on having appropriate staffing levels in place. This funding will allow for the hiring of a staff member in the central region as well as the extension of current staff positions in St. John's."

The announcement and presentation was held at the Virginia Park Community centre in St. John's, and illustrates how dedicated the province is to ensure that organizations which engage youth in areas of self-reliance, leadership and citizen development receive funding to sustain their operations. This investment in



Board member Charlie Stacey, Award Executive Director Trudy Carlisle, Divisional President Toby Barnes and Minister Darin King at the presentation ceremony.

The Award is in addition to the \$78,000 The Duke of Edinburgh's Award received in the 2010 budget.

"The funding from the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment will allow us to bring the programme to even more youth who can benefit from the personal development and growth The Award provides" said Toby Barnes, Newfoundland and Labrador Award Divisional President. "It's especially fitting that we are receiving this funding less than a week after the

90th birthday of Prince Philip, the founder of the Award programme. His vision of the programme was to equip youth for life's challenges and we have seen the tremendous opportunities being a participant can bring."

This additional investment will help the Newfoundland and Labrador division of The Award expand its programme to reach youth in rural communities and as well as continue reaching at-risk youth in St. John's.



TD Waterhouse Representative Lisa O'Toole, Cassandra Arthur and Jennifer Reynolds, Ontario Award Division President at the Silver Award Ceremony hosted by TD Waterhouse.

Cassandra's story

Last month, a group of participants from Toronto went on a canoe trip to qualify for their Silver Award. When they were on this adventure one of the expedition leaders asked them to take a moment alone to think about why they were here and why they were doing The Award. This is what participant Cassandra Arthur had to say:

"I joined The Duke of Edinburgh Award not really knowing what I was getting myself into. To be honest, I just wanted to get into the best university and I figured it would really help. But it's so much more than that. I've learned so many meaningful life lessons, made lifelong friends, and now have beautiful memories to look back on when I'm old and grey."

"What was I doing on this trip? The easy answer would be: to get my Silver Award. But that's not it. At least, that's not how I feel. I feel like I really just want to make the most out of my life and be happy. And that's

exactly what being a part of this Award program and going on this trip has done. Going on this Silver trip has really put into perspective how good my life is and how thankful I am for it. I had so much fun getting away from it all and living in harmony with our beautiful world.

"And now that the expedition is over I'm kind of sad. It was a great experience that I wish I could do so many times over. At the same time, I'm happy it's done. I feel like I've learned a lot about myself and what I'm capable of. I feel that I can handle whatever life it going to throw at me now that I've finished my Award."

"In the end, I'm thankful for all the memories The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has given me and I know I made the right choice pushing myself to complete the Silver level. It wasn't easy and at times the stress of it all threatened to swallow me alive, but I survived and now I feel like I am a stronger person because of it."

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