

During the Governor General's term of office, he/she travels around the country and visits every province and territory. In this way, the Governor General gets better acquainted with Canadians and their different cultures. Among other things, the Governor General attends Aboriginal events. Also, as a reminder of the Aboriginal peoples' contribution to Canada's rich cultural diversity, two representative items are present on the Rideau Hall grounds. Find out what they are ...

A Window on Aboriginal Culture

A Silent Messenger

An unfamiliar shape can be glimpsed through the trees of Rideau Hall. As we get nearer, its form becomes clear. An unchanging messenger, it seems frozen in time. Imposing and silent, it commands respect and wonder. Only a perceptive traveller will realize its secret— a secret transfixed in stone for generations.

- 1** a) What does the word “inuksuk” mean?
b) To what language does the word belong?
- 2** The inuksuk at Rideau Hall was created by the Inuit artist Kananginak Pootoogook of Cape Dorset (Baffin Island).
 - a) Cape Dorset is part of which territory?
 - b) What does this territory's name mean?
 - c) What is its capital?
 - d) What are its inhabitants called?

Kananginak Pootoogook completes the inuksuk for its official unveiling during National Aboriginal Day, June 21, 1997, at Rideau Hall

Inuksuks have been used for various purposes over many centuries. These stone figures were erected by the Inuit in the vast spaces of northern Canada to guide travellers, warn of danger, help hunters, indicate the location of a sacred site, and so forth. These Arctic messengers performed a human function.



- 3 a) How many territories are there in Canada?
- b) How many provinces?

- 4 Write the name of each province and territory opposite the year in which it joined Confederation.

N.B.: A year may apply to more than one province or territory.

1867 _____

1870 _____

1871 _____

1873 _____

1898 _____

1905 _____

1949 _____

1999 _____



A Kwakiutl elder welcomes the Governor General Edward Schreyer and Mrs. Schreyer to Alert Bay, British Columbia (1980)

A Rare Bird

It is more than 50 years old, four metres tall and has a wingspan of more than three metres. Originally from Vancouver, it crossed the country to find its home at Rideau Hall. Just by blinking it can cause lightning, and if it flaps its wings there will be thunder. The Kwakwaka'wakw dubbed it "Thunderbird", and it is part of the mythology of this West Coast people.

The Thunderbird is one of the symbols decorating the totem pole created by sculptor Mungo Martin. This work of art was presented to Governor General Viscount Alexander, in 1946, when he became Honorary Chief Nakupunkim.

- 5 a) What does the word "mythology" mean?
- b) What does "Honorary Chief" mean?

Governor General Roland Michener is named Chief Running Antelope by southern Alberta's Kainai (then known as Blood) People (1970)

