

B.C. honors 23 for pursuit of excellence

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VICTORIA — Rock star Bryan Adams, athlete Rick Hansen, businessman Jim Pattison and historian Margaret Ormsby were among 23 people invested with the new Order of B.C. in a legislature ceremony Thursday.

The award, in recognition of outstanding service, is conferred on individuals nominated through a public process who have "served with great distinction, excelled in their field of endeavor and benefited the people of this province or elsewhere."

The ceremony was held in the legislative chamber in front of invited guests and 38 of the province's 69 MLAs.

Three of the recipients — veteran social and political activist Grace MacInniss, former chief justice of B.C. Nathan Nemetz, and ex-soldier and prosecutor J. Oscar Orr — were unable to attend the ceremony and will be invested in a private ceremony at a later date.

The other recipients are:

● Gerald Andrews, a former surveyor-general of B.C.;

● Henry P. Bell-Irving, who was lieutenant-governor in B.C. from 1978 to 1983;

● Dr. David Boyes, the recently retired director of the Cancer Control Agency of B.C. and one of the world's leading authorities on cervical cancer;

● Vernon Brink, a veteran conservationist;

● Phyllis Chelsea, who played a pivotal role in stopping alcohol use among her fellow Alkali Lake Indian Band members;

● Joseph Cohen, a Vancouver businessman and philanthropist;

● Helmut Eppich, the co-founder of Ebco Industries.

● Lori Fung, a rhythmic gymnast who won the gold medal in the 1984 Olympics.

● Gurdev Gill, the first Indo-Canadian to practise medicine in Canada.

● Walter Koerner, one of the leading foresters in B.C.

● Robert H. Lee, a Vancouver businessman and real estate developer who is actively involved in many charities.

● Anne Macdonald, who has been active in the arts community for the past 30 years;

● Howard Petch, a veteran educator who is currently president of the University of Victoria;

● Leslie Peterson, a lawyer and former attorney-general of B.C.;

● Robert Rogers, lieutenant-governor of B.C. from 1983 to 1988;

● Ian Ross, who developed the world-famous Butchart Gardens in Victoria;

● Jack Shadbolt, an influential Canadian artist;

● Erwin Swangard, a veteran newspaperman and president of the Pacific National Exhibition from 1977 to 1989;

● Peter Wing, who became the first mayor of Chinese origin in North America when he was elected mayor of Kamloops in 1966.