

A large, multi-tiered stone staircase with arched niches, likely a historical monument or well. The structure is built from light-colored stone blocks and features several arched openings at different levels. The steps are wide and shallow, creating a series of terraces. The overall appearance is that of an ancient or traditional architectural structure.

**Noteworthy  
Canadians of  
Asian heritage**



## **The Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy**

The Honourable Dr. Vivienne Poy is an author, entrepreneur, and philanthropist and the first Canadian of Asian descent to be appointed to the Senate of Canada.

Dr. Poy was born in Hong Kong and studied at McGill University, Seneca College, and the University of Toronto. She served for fourteen years as president of Vivienne Poy Mode, a fashion design company she founded in 1981. In 1998, she was appointed to the Senate where she focused on gender issues, multiculturalism, immigration, and human rights until her retirement in 2012.

**Dr. Poy was also integral to having May recognized as Asian Heritage Month:** it was her motion to recognize Asian Heritage Month that was adopted by the Senate in 2001.



## **The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson**

Madame Adrienne Clarkson, Canada's 26th Governor General of Canada (1999-2005), came to Canada as refugee from Hong Kong in 1942 and settled in Ottawa, Ontario.

Before her role as Governor General, Madam Clarkson was a journalist/television host, writer and an Executive Producer for many CBC news and cultural programs.

Madame Clarkson was sworn in as Governor General on October 7, 1999 and was the first visible minority, first Canadian-Chinese women to be appointed governor general and the second women (after Jeanne Sauvé).

In 1982, she received her first government appointment when she was designated First Agent General for the province of Ontario to France. Her mandate was to promote Ontario to France for business and cultural relations and exchanges.



### **Nsibe Kaur Puri**

Ms. Puri was the first Sikh woman to graduate from high school in B.C. and then went on to be recognized with the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award in 1999.



**Neethan Shanmugarajah (known as Neethan Shan)** is a Tamil Canadian youth worker and politician. Shan was born in Sri Lanka, and came to Canada as a refugee in 1995 when he was a teenager. He earned a degree in Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) in 2003 and then earned his M.Ed in Sociology and Equity Studies in 2012.

In 2017, Shan was elected to represent Ward 42 (Scarborough—Rouge River) and became the first Canadian Tamil to serve on the city council. Shan is the founder of the Tamil Heritage Month and is currently the executive director of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations.



**Thomas Kunito Shoyama** was an economist, journalist, public servant, and one of the architects of Saskatchewan's health care system.

Shoyama earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of British Columbia. He was an avid spokesman for the rights of the Japanese-Canadian community throughout his tenure as editor of *The New Canadian* from 1939 to 1945.

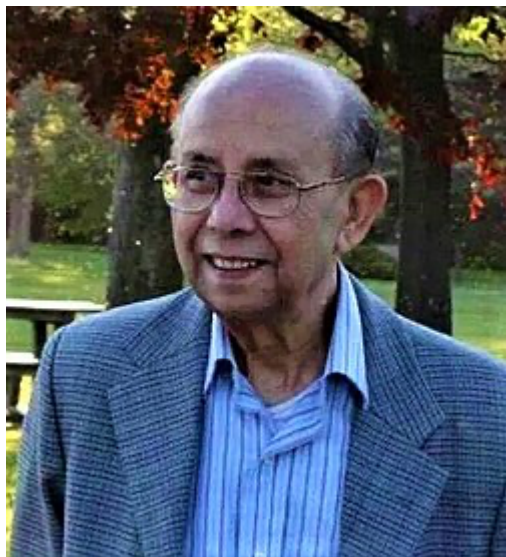
In 1946 he moved to Saskatchewan, where he worked as a public servant in the provincial government until 1964, first as a research economist, then as economic adviser to Premiers Tommy Douglas and Woodrow Lloyd. During this time, he was integral to establishing the Saskatchewan medicare system.

Shoyama was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1978, and was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Public Service of Canada in 1979.



**Phan Thị Kim Phúc** referred to informally as “**the girl in the picture**” is a South Vietnamese-born Canadian woman best known as the child depicted in the Pulitzer Prize–winning photograph, titled *The Terror of War*, taken at Trảng Bàng during the Vietnam War on June 8, 1972.

The image shows a nine-year-old Kim Phúc running naked on a road after being severely burned on her back by a South Vietnamese Air Force napalm attack. The image became one of the most iconic and powerful symbols of the war, influencing global public opinion and anti-war movements.



**Mizan Rahman** was a Bangladeshi-Canadian mathematician and writer. He specialized in fields of mathematics such as hypergeometric series and orthogonal polynomials. He also had interests encompassing literature, philosophy, scientific skepticism, freethinking and rationalism. He co-authored *Basic Hypergeometric Series* with George Gasper. This book is widely considered as the standard work of choice for that subject of study. He also published ten Bengali books.



**Paul Albert Anka** was born in Ottawa, Ontario, to Camelia (née Tannis) and Andrew Emile "Andy" Anka Sr., who owned a restaurant called the Locanda.

According to Paul's autobiography, *My Way*, both of his parents were of Lebanese Christian descent; however, he also said in his autobiography that his ancestors came from Bab Tuma, in Syria. His father came to Canada from Damascus, Syria, and his mother was an immigrant from Lebanon.



**Yuen Pau Woo** is a Canadian politician who has been a senator from British Columbia since 2016. He is the first Malaysian-born senator, and the inaugural facilitator of the Independent Senators Group (ISG), taking on the role from September 2017 until January 2022. He was also the president and CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, a Vancouver-based think-tank on Canada–Asia relations.



**Salma Atallahjan** is a politician, real estate agent, and activist. She was appointed to the Senate of Canada on July 9, 2010

She founded the parents' council at David Lewis Public School in Toronto and has also served as the executive of the Pakistani Canadian Professionals and Academics and as president and vice-president of the Canadian Pashtun Cultural Association. She is also on the executive of the South Asian Regional Council and Citizens Foundation's Toronto chapter.



**Rowena Santos** is a proud Bramptonian inspired by community and driven by a passion to change the culture of politics to move our city forward. She was elected in 2018 to Brampton City Council for Wards 1 & 5. She is the first Filipina on Council.

Rowena holds an H.B.B.A. degree from the Schulich School of Business, and a Masters in Sustainable Development and Environmental Planning from the London School of Economics. Prior to being elected, she worked at the Ontario legislature for over a decade, most recently as a director, and has mentored countless youth to be politically active across the Greater Toronto Area.