



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO
BUREAU DE LA LIEUTENANTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

Media advisory

For immediate release

Lieutenant Governor's message on the International Day for Biological Diversity

Toronto, May 24, 2016. Her Honour the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, has released the following message on the occasion of the International Day of Biological Diversity.

A healthy and diverse environment is the basis for life on Earth and is crucial to our social and economic development. The theme of this year's International Day for Biodiversity—**Mainstreaming Biodiversity; Sustaining People and their Livelihoods**—recalls the crucial link between the natural world and the continued prosperity of all those who inhabit it.

During my travels throughout the province, it is clear that Ontarians take biodiversity seriously. Countless individuals and organizations are making strides in raising the profile of biodiversity issues. Traditional knowledge, the lived experiences of communities, and expertise from all disciplines are rapidly transforming our understanding of the intricacies of our environment.

However, the evidence of biodiversity loss is an alarming reminder that we must do more to balance the advancement of our industrial society with the imperative of serving as stewards of our environment. Halting biodiversity loss is key to ensuring our collective future, and I am inspired by the ongoing innovation and work of Ontarians to address this challenge in our communities and across the world.

Whether through cataloguing new species, investigating vulnerability and resilience, or caring for this corner of the world, we can all walk more lightly upon the Earth. I know that Ontarians are up to the task.

Note: The International Day for Biological Diversity is marked annually on May 22.

Follow LGLizDowdeswell on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Contact: John Gross
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
john.gross@ontario.ca
416-325-7786