

Press Release

The Consulate General of Pakistan, Toronto organized an exhibition of Arabic / Urdu calligraphy at the Ontario Legislative Assembly on 13 April 2017. On display were 40 pieces of art by Pakistani artists including the Chief Calligrapher of the Prophet's Mosque, Ustad Shafiquzzaman, Asghar Ali, Rana Riaz, Asghar Ali, Ashraf Heera, Mussarrat Arif, Ajab Khan, Rashid Seyal, Kashif Khan, Maqsood Lashari, Abdul Razzaq Razi, Irfan Ahmed Khan, Ahmed Ali Bhutta and others.

Among others, the exhibition was visited by the members of Ontario Parliament as well as the Speaker of the House and members of Diplomatic Corps in Toronto. Premier of Ontario, Kathleen Wynne was the Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony of the exhibition and Honourable Patrick Brown, the Leader of the Official Opposition was the Chief Guest at the closing ceremony.

Lt Governor of Ontario Province, Elizabeth Dowdeswell also visited the exhibition and showed great interest in art pieces on display. A large number of Pakistan origin Canadians who travelled from as far as Windsor, Hamilton, Burlington and Mississauga to attend the inauguration and closing ceremonies of the exhibition expressed their pride in their Pakistani heritage and Pakistan's cultural accomplishments.

Introducing the event, Consul General Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui said that the theme of the exhibition was "Harmony, Cooperation and Peace". The meaning of Islam was peace and the message of all the faiths was also cooperation and peace. "Lets us celebrate our commonalities", he stressed.

High Commissioner H.E, Mr. Tariq Azeem Khan also highlighted the importance of peace and cooperation and thanked various dignitaries for visiting this important event.

Honorable Kathleen Wynne, the Premier of Ontario thanked the Consul General for selecting the Parliament to host the event. While referring to commonalities among all the religions, she underscored the need for greater cooperation among states. Wynne praised the creativity of Pakistani artists.

Later at the closing ceremony, the Leader of Opposition Mr. Patrick Brown fondly recalled his visit to Lahore and hoped to visit the city again for a longer duration. He too thanked the Consul General for hosting this exhibition at the Parliament. The High Commissioner thanked Mr. Brown for being a great friend of Pakistan and invited him to visit Pakistan as soon as possible.

The visitors showed great interest in the colourful brochure of the exhibition. The Consulate General of Pakistan, Toronto is planning Pakistani art expo in other cities of Ontario in the days ahead.

Toronto,
13 April 2017