A New Design

Iona Campagnolo was the first woman to hold the office of Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. In 2007, at the end of her term of office, Campagnolo generously donated her uniform to the Royal BC Museum. Campagnolo designed the uniform herself at her own expense. The elegant garment reflects not only gender, but also the unique character of the province, through some meaningful symbols.

Her Honour selected silver to represent the moon, a female symbol. The stand collar and cuff designs are botanical samples of Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*). This is the tree traditionally used for First Nation houses, canoes and clothing. An embroidered Pacific Dogwood blossom (*Cornus nuttallii*), is included as it is the provincial flower. Other flowers represent the province's many peoples. Claymore Clothes of Vancouver produced the close-fitting, fine wool jacket and ankle-length skirt.

The midnight-blue jacket also symbolizes two First Nations gifts of names given previously to Her Honour. Saan aag X'wha (Person Who Sits High) was given by Chief Skidegate, Clarence Collinson of the Haida Nation. This name is represented by Bill Reid's Haida Eagle design. The name Notz-whe-Neah (Mother of the Big Fin) was given by Chief Haq be quot'o, Kenneth Harris of the Tsimshian Nation. This name is represented by a Skeena River Killer Whale design of Tsimshian/Haida artist Roy Henry Vickers. Milliner Alfreda Chick designed a matching bowler-style hat for use when reviewing Honour Guards.

Cultural, natural and personal symbols blend within this new uniform, a twenty-first century treasure of the Royal BC Museum's collection.

"I wear all these symbols proudly in the silver of the moon, as a daughter of this magnificent land which gives to all its citizens the choices necessary to work toward our own best selves."
–Her Honour Iona Campagnolo

Left: The new uniform. (RBCM 2007.44.1a-c) Right: Iona Campagnolo wearing the uniform. Courtesy of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor