

Using this biography of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, map out her life with pylons to mark significant events and use the chains to connect them chronologically.

CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

Julie Payette was born on October 20, 1963 in Montréal, Quebec. She attended both primary and secondary school, Collège Mont-Saint-Louis and Collège Régina-Assumpta (Ahuntsic-Cartierville (Quebec)), in Montréal. She was one of six Canadians who received a scholarship to attend Atlantic College in Wales, United Kingdom, for the International Baccalaureate. After returning home, Ms. Payette attended McGill University in Montréal to study electrical engineering (Ville-Marie-Le Sud-Ouest-Île-des-Soeurs (Quebec)). Once she obtained a Bachelor of Engineering from McGill, she worked as a system engineer with IBM Canada from 1986 to 1988 before doing her Master's in Computer Engineering at Massey College (University-Rosedale (Ontario)) at the University of Toronto.

In 1992, Ms. Payette was selected from more than 5,000 applicants to be one of four astronauts for the Canadian Space Agency (Longueuil-Saint-Hubert (Quebec)). She underwent hours and hours of training, which included obtaining her military pilot captancy at the Canadian Air Force Base in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre-Lanigan (Saskatchewan)). By 1998, Ms. Payette's initial astronaut training in Houston, Texas was complete. From May 27 to June 6, 1999, she was a mission specialist on board the Space Shuttle Discovery. During this mission, she became the first Canadian to board the International Space Station (ISS).

Ms. Payette became a Knight of l'Ordre National du Québec and was awarded the insignia at the Quebec Parliament Building **in 2002**. (Québec (Quebec)).

From July 15 to 31 in 2009, just a little over 10 years since her first space mission, Ms. Payette served as flight engineer/mission specialist and returned to the ISS on Space Shuttle *Endeavour*. To celebrate the Montreal Canadiens 100th anniversary, she brought along a signed sweater of the Habs' player Maurice Richard, known as the Rocket, and after whom the Quebec provincial electoral riding, Crémazie (overlaps with federal electoral districts, Bourassa and Ahuntsic-Cartierville), has been renamed.

In 2010, Ms. Payette was a flag-bearer during the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver (Vancouver Centre (British Columbia)). She was named an Officer of the Order of Canada that same year and awarded the rank at Rideau Hall (Ottawa-Vanier (Ontario)) **in September of 2011**.

She has held several prestigious positions, such as a Public Policy Scholar at *Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars* in Washington, D.C, and the scientific authority for Quebec in Washington as part of Quebec's Department of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade. She retired from the Canadian Space Agency **in July 2013**.

Since her retirement, Ms. Payette became the Chief Operating Officer of the Montreal Science Centre (Ville-Marie-Le Sud-Ouest-Île-des-Soeurs (Quebec)) as well as vice-president of the Canada Lands Company (Spadina-Fort York (Ontario)). She has held numerous other positions and has been a board member for many important causes, including the Canadian Olympic Committee (Toronto-St. Paul's (Ontario) and Ville-Marie-Le Sud-Ouest-Île-des-Soeurs (Quebec)).

In fall 2017, upon recommendation by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Julie Payette was appointed by the Queen as the 29th Governor General of Canada. She will take up official residence at Rideau Hall (Ottawa-Vanier (Ontario)).