



Royal Salute, September 2006



*The Queen's visit to Government House, Halifax Nova Scotia 2010*



# The Honourable Mayann E. Francis, ONS, BA, MPA, (Honourary, DHumL, DCL, LLD, L.L.D)

The 31<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia since Confederation, Mayann Elizabeth Francis is the second woman and the first African Nova Scotian to hold the position. She is from Sydney, Whitney Pier on Cape Breton Island. The daughter of Caribbean immigrants. Her mother was born in Antigua and her father was born in Cuba. She holds Antiguan citizenship.



The Honourable Mayann Francis earned a Bachelor of Arts from Saint Mary's University, a Master's in Public Administration from New York University, a certificate in Equal Opportunity Studies from Cornell University and a certificate in Theological Studies from the Atlantic School of Theology. Committed to equity and social inclusion, she made history as Dalhousie University's first employment equity officer and as director and CEO of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. She was also Ombudsman for the province, the first woman to be appointed to this position. She served on boards and committees of numerous not-for-profit organizations including the United Way, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and Imagine Canada, the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and the Black Business and Professional Association. She was the chair of the board of Governors for the Atlantic School of theology from 2015 to June 2017.

Her numerous awards include a Harry Jerome Award for Professional Excellence, an award from the Multicultural Education Council of Nova Scotia, medals for both the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees and a Luminary Award from the University of the West Indies.



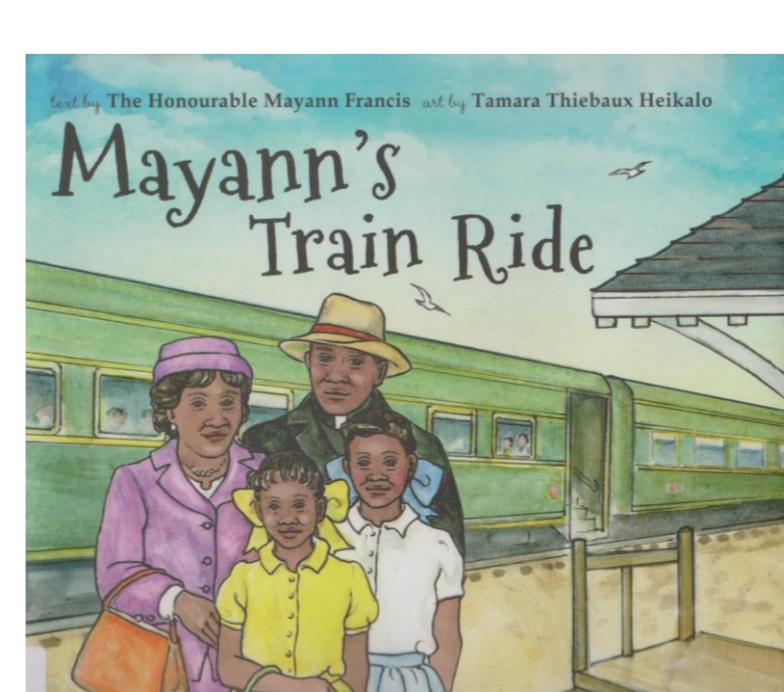
*Receiving a blessing, All Saints Catholic Church Halifax 2006*



*Lieutenant Governor Mayann Francis reads the Speech from the Throne, third session of the 61st General Assembly of the Nova Scotia legislature*



*Lieutenant Governor Mayann Francis signs the official pardon for Viola Desmond as her sister Wanda Robson (left) looks on, Halifax legislature 2010*



In 2008, Ms. Francis received an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Mount St. Vincent University. In 2010, she was featured on the national Black History Month poster. In May 2012, she was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Civil Law from Saint Mary's University. She also holds Honourary Doctorate Degrees from York University in Ontario, in 2014, Dalhousie University, Halifax in 2016 and an Honorary Diploma from the Nova Scotia Community College in 2016.

As Lieutenant Governor she supported the arts, celebrated young people, opened Government House for guest lectures and conferred a posthumous free pardon on Nova Scotia civil rights pioneer and entrepreneur, Viola Desmond. She was the first vice-regal representative in Canada to grant a free pardon. In 2015 The Honourable Doctor Mayann Francis was appointed to the Faculty of Management, School of Public Administration, Dalhousie University, as the first Distinguished Public Service Fellow.