
CORONATION MEDAL RECOGNIZES VIRCS LEADERSHIP

VIRCS Former Executive Director Awarded King Charles III Coronation Medal for Service to Newcomers

On March 5, Luis G. Aguirre, who previously served as Executive Director from March 2023 to December 2024, was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of his contributions to supporting newcomers in the Greater Victoria Region and across Canada.

The Coronation Medal is awarded to individuals whose work strengthens communities and reflects service, leadership, and commitment to the public good. Luis's recognition highlighted the importance of newcomer support and the collective efforts of community organizations working to build a more inclusive and compassionate society.

In reflecting on the honour, Luis expressed deep gratitude:

"I was profoundly honoured to receive the King Charles III Coronation Medal for my work supporting newcomers in Greater Victoria and Canada during my tenure at VIRCS. My sincere thanks went to Laurel Collins, MP, for her recognition and unwavering advocacy for inclusive communities, and to Amanda Kelly, COO at the Braefoot Community Association, for her invaluable support in the nomination and her dedicated work in the community."



Laurel Collins, MP and
Luis G. Aguirre



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LUIS G. AGUIRRE

He also emphasized that while the medal was awarded to him as an individual, it represented the work of many:

“This recognition was never mine alone. It reflected the dedication, compassion, and professionalism of the remarkable staff and volunteers at VIRCS—those I had the privilege to work alongside, and those who continued the mission after my departure. The impact we

shared values, and a deep commitment to welcoming newcomers with dignity and care.”

Luis also extended his congratulations to the other distinguished medal recipients, acknowledging their meaningful contributions to their communities.

Luis recognized VIRCS team achievements and reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to supporting immigrants, refugees, and newcomers across the region.

In July 2024, Nasim Hamed, VIRCS BC Newcomer Services Program Manager, also received the King Charles III Coronation Medal, further highlighting VIRCS’s long-standing commitment to meeting the needs of immigrants and refugees with compassion and excellence. 