

English.news.cn




Search

Advanced Search

Editions

[Services](#) | [Database](#) | [Markets](#) | [Weather](#) | [Site Index](#) | [RSS](#) | [Feedback](#)
[Global Edition](#) | [China](#) | [World](#) | [Business](#) | [Culture & Edu](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Science & Technology](#) | [Health](#) | [Travel](#) | [Odd News](#) | [In-Depth](#)

## World

**Most Searched :** •DPRK •Pension reform •U.S. hikers •Israel •Direct talks

## Canadian governor general thanks Canada before becoming UN envoy for Haiti

[English.news.cn](#) 2010-10-01 06:12:54

[Feedback](#) | [Print](#) | [RSS](#) RSS | [Share](#)


Canada's Governor General Michaëlle Jean (L) attends a military farewell ceremony at the National War Museum in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on Sept. 29, 2010. Jean received military honors and delivered her final address as governor general. Jean ends her mandate as the 27th Governor General on Oct. 1, 2010. (Xinhua/Christopher Pike)

by Mark Bourrie, Zhang Dacheng

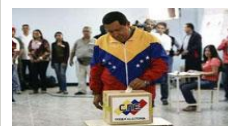
OTTAWA, Sept. 30 (Xinhua) -- Before becoming a UN envoy to Haiti which was devastated by a powerful earthquake in January this year, Canadian Governor General Michaëlle Jean, who arrived in Canada as an immigrant from Haiti during her childhood, said thank you to Canadians Thursday for their support during the five years that she has held the viceroy position in Canada .

In a short speech earlier this week, Jean said she feels lucky to have been allowed to pursue her dreams in a country where " anything is possible."

On Thursday, she issued a thank-you letter to her country and fulfilled her last day of duties.

"You are not born the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, you answer the call of destiny with a desire to serve your fellow Canadians and invest years of your life and all your energy

## Video &gt;&gt;



Venezuela holds parliamentary election



Tropical storms plague Central America

## Photos &gt;&gt;



Ecuador's president attacked by police



Tropical Storm Matthew hit N Nicaragua, causing floods

## Top World News

## Latest World News

- 1 Ecuadorian President denounces "coup attempt"
- 2 U.S. slaps sanctions on Iranian oil company
- 3 South Korea urged to apologize for provocations against DPRK
- 4 Economic issue to dominate upcoming Asia-Europe meeting
- 5 U.S. Senate OKs defense pacts with Britain, Australia

## Special Reports &gt;&gt;



### Ninth Anniversary of 9/11 Terror Attacks



### Afghanistan Situation

to become these," she said in her farewell letter.

"With all of you by my side, all of you who have inspired me, I was able to embark on this adventure with the greatest hope and all the conviction I needed. THANK YOU

"I can only hope I have helped fuel the dialogue between the women, men and youth of this country," said Jean.

Earlier in the week, she told parliamentarians at a reception that Canada, where she arrived as an immigrant at the age of 11, gave her unlimited opportunities.

"Breaking down solitudes, according to my motto, ending isolation and building on our desire to live together: these were and remain the objectives of the governor general who stands before you today, a woman born in a country where the social foundations had collapsed, where power was exercised brutally to the detriment of all, a woman who was extraordinarily lucky to be able to pursue her dreams in a country where anything is possible, our country."

She said in the Parliament that she hopes they do not forget her when she leaves the job at the end of this month, and they help her in her advocacy of Haitian reconstruction.

Michaëlle Jean was chosen governor-general in 2005 by the then Prime Minister Paul Martin for a five-year term. Later this fall, she will start work as special envoy to Haiti for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

She is the first black person to hold the position. In November, 2009, Jean shed tears after entering the "room of no return" at Elmina Castle in Ghana, the last African institution that captives passed through before they were loaded on slave ships destined for the Americas.

She was one of the most vocal Canadian officials in the campaign to raise money for Haiti earthquake relief and visited the Caribbean country just days after the disaster, despite warnings she might be in danger from aftershocks or criminals.

In her farewell letter to Canadians, she praised Canadians for their help with her campaign.

"In one of the most heartbreaking moments of my life, faced with the unbearable images of the devastation caused by the Jan. 12 earthquake that killed nearly 300,000 people in Haiti, the country of my birth, the priceless range of the generosity you showed, individually and collectively, was both astounding and completely reassuring," she wrote.

"It is also very comforting to see that the reconstruction of the poorest country in the Americas is important to you and that, like me, you want to see it succeed."

In her most controversial political decision, Jean ended a parliamentary standoff in December 2009 by granting Prime Minister Stephen Harper his request to close down the session of Parliament rather than face a vote by MPs that would have forced him out of office. Opposition parties had agreed to defeat Harper's government and form a coalition.

Jean could have asked Michael Ignatieff, the leader of the opposition Liberal Party, to form a government.

As governor-general, Jean constitutionally represents Queen Elizabeth II when the monarch is not in Canada. In reality, the person holding the position acts as Canada's head of state, makes the final decision on whether an election will be called, and chooses whether a political party leader can try to form a government.

The governor-general also reads the speech from the throne, which spells out the government's priorities for the parliamentary session, accepts the credentials of ambassadors to Canada,

represents Canada abroad and dispenses national honors.

Jean is also commander-in-chief of Canada's armed forces, a position that carries important ceremonial duties but no active military decision-making.

On Wednesday, Canada's top military officials gave her an official send-off, with emotional speeches and a 21-gun salute.

At a reception at the Hall of Honor in Parliament Hill's Center Block, which was hosted by Senate Speaker Noel Kinsella and House of Commons Speaker Peter Milliken, Jean was praised for her successes.

Kinsella called her "the best there is of the Canadian dream."

As an outspoken activist for native culture and rights, Jean made international headlines when she helped Inuit women in the Arctic cut up a seal carcass and consumed a piece of its heart. Jean butchered the seal in the face of a European Union ban on Canadian seal products.







Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 1957, Jean was brought by her parents to the French-speaking province of Quebec when she was 11. Soon afterwards, her parents separated and Jean lived with her mother in a small town.

She became a reporter and documentary film maker with the state- owned Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Editor: Mu Xuequan

## Related News

[Home](#) >> [World](#)

 Feedback |  Print |  RSS |  RSS |  

## Photos >>



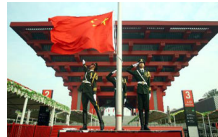
Chinese Premier promises more open policies for foreign talent



Ecuadorian President denounces "coup attempt"



Dow finishes best September in 71 years on down note



National flag raised to mark China's National Pavilion Day



Contador stresses innocence over dope test



U.S. legendary actor Tony Curtis dies



Xichang ready for China's 2nd lunar probe



Researchers engineer microbes for low-cost production of anti-

**Most Popular**

**We Recommend**

**Top News >>**

- 1 Workers in Europe protest austerity measures
  - 2 S Korea, DPRK hold military talks
  - 3 Russia to launch space hotel
  - 4 Chinese gov't gears up for cooling housing market
  - 5 LV opens new store in SE China
- China to keep housing price at reasonable, stable level: Wen
  - 50 injured in Ecuador unrest
  - HP names Apotheker as new CEO
  - Italian PM wins confidence vote
  - Dow ends at best Sept. in 71 yrs

**Back to Top**

[Home](#) | [China](#) | [World](#) | [Business](#) | [In Depth](#) | [Culture & Edu](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Travel](#) | [Odd](#) | [Photos](#) | [Video](#) | [Special Reports](#)  
[Gov.cn](#) | [About China](#) | [About Us](#) | [Services](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS](#) | [Weekly Review](#)

Copyright © 2000-2010 Xinhua News Agency. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.