



Photo courtesy of Neville G. Poy

The Hon. Dr. Vivienne Poy

The first Canadian of Asian descent to be appointed to the Senate (1998-2012), Vivienne proposed the Government of Canada's resolution to declare May as Asian Heritage Month (2002).

Born in Hong Kong (1941), she came to Canada in 1959. She studied at Seneca College, McGill University, and the University of Toronto, where she earned her doctoral degree in History.

After founding her own fashion label—Vivienne Poy Mode—in 1981, she enjoyed tremendous success in manufacturing and retail. Vivienne served on a number of Senate Standing Committees—among them, Human Rights; Finance; Foreign Affairs; Fisheries and Oceans; Banking, Trade and Commerce; and Agriculture and Forestry.

She served as Chancellor of the University of Toronto (2003-06), and as honorary co-chair of the Campaign for All Canadians, Canadian Blood Services. She remains active with many community and cultural organizations, has authored five books and co-edited one other, and now works closely with Asian Heritage Month societies across Canada.

