



**Canada**  
**Province of British Columbia**  
**A Proclamation**

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom,  
Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the  
Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

**To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting**

WHEREAS child sexual abuse is a crime and a traumatic, potentially devastating experience for children and youth, and

WHEREAS child sexual abuse is a major social problem, with the most conservative research estimates indicating approximately 10% of boys and 20% of girls are victimized, and

WHEREAS Indigenous girls and LGBTQ2S+ youth are statistically more likely to suffer from violence, including sexual abuse, than other youth, and

WHEREAS child sexual abuse may be associated with a host of personal, social and health problems, including the loss of self-esteem, relationship problems, mental health problems, problematic substance use, economic hardship, homelessness and suicide, and

WHEREAS harmful consequences of child sexual abuse may be lessened or avoided if children and youth are able to disclose their abuse to a trusted person and receive immediate support and treatment when needed, and

WHEREAS community education and clinical services for children, youth and their families, including those services provided by sexual abuse intervention programs throughout British Columbia, are critical components of supports and services to effectively address this issue;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that April 12 to 18, 2021, shall be known as

**“Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Week”**

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this first day of April, two thousand twenty-one and in the seventieth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

Attorney General and  
Minister Responsible for Housing  
(counter signature for the Great Seal)

Lieutenant Governor