



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 Nowruz, meaning “New Day,” marks the vernal equinox and the beginning of spring, and is about celebrating renewal, connecting with loved ones and honouring nature, and

WHEREAS Nowruz marks the start of the new year for many communities in British Columbia, including Iranian, Afghan, Tajik, Kurdish, Balouch and Azeri communities; faith communities such as Zoroastrian, Muslim, Jewish, Christian and Baha’i peoples; and those who trace their heritage to many locations—including from Persepolis to Balkh, Kashgar to Delhi, Bukhara to Herat, Tabriz to Kermanshah, Diyarbakir to Zabol, the Fergana Valley to Zanzibar, and the Persian Gulf to the Balkans, and

WHEREAS Nowruz marks the day that Jamshid, the mythical King of the Persian Empire in the Epic of Shahnameh, saved humankind from a hard winter destined to kill life, and

WHEREAS the spirit of Nowruz is embodied in the Haft-Seen table, an arrangement of seven elements symbolizing life, hope and nature, which is complemented by other traditions such as Haft Mewa, a compote of seven fruits representing growth and rejuvenation, and

WHEREAS many who celebrate Nowruz honour nature with traditions such as jumping over fire on the last Tuesday night before the new year to symbolically burn bad deeds and purify souls to welcome the new year; or holding a Farmers’ Festival on the second day of Nowruz; or gathering with families and friends in nature to conclude the festivities on Sizdah be dar, the thirteenth day of Nowruz, and

WHEREAS after a year of darkness and being apart from one another, Nowruz is the messenger of better, brighter days ahead and a reminder of what connects all British Columbians as a community;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that March 20, 2021, shall be known as

“Day of Nowruz”

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 eleventh day of March, 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