



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 British Columbia is a culturally and ethnically diverse province that includes many peoples and communities of the African diaspora, and

WHEREAS slavery was practised throughout the British Empire, including Canada, since the 17th century, and recognizing emancipation is a step forward in recognizing African Canadian history as part of Canada's story and teaching the next generation about the shameful and forgotten parts of the past that must not be repeated, and

WHEREAS people of African descent are a fundamental part of British Columbia and continue to shape the cultural, economic, political and social development of the province, and

WHEREAS in the 1850s, Emancipation Day celebrations were held annually in the City of Victoria in recognition of the many enslaved individuals who, for centuries, were forced to sacrifice their freedom and human dignity in the name of colonization, and the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Vancouver have recognized Emancipation Day since 2021, 2008 and 2020, respectively, and

WHEREAS recognizing Emancipation Day in British Columbia is an initial step towards reconciliation and recognition of the damaging effects of enslavement and ongoing anti-Black racism against people of African descent;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that August 1, 2021, shall be known as

“Emancipation Day”

in the Province of British Columbia.

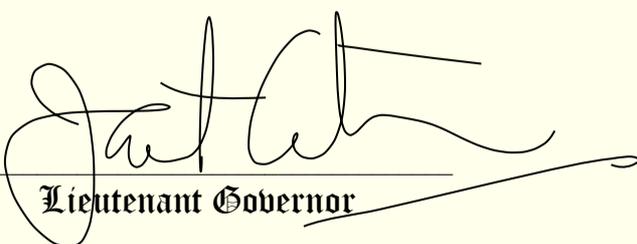
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this twenty-third day of July, 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