



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 a mother language is vital to every individual's sense of identity and development, and

WHEREAS language is the cornerstone of culture and provides a means of communication among people, and

WHEREAS at the General Conference of the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it was unanimously agreed to observe International Mother Language Day on February 21 in each and every year, and

WHEREAS linguistic diversity and multiculturalism enriches the lives of all British Columbians, and respect, dialogue and dignity are integral to Canadian values, and

WHEREAS British Columbia can act as a leader in advocating for languages of Indigenous Peoples and those brought by generations of immigrants to British Columbia, including Braille and Sign Languages, by respectfully observing International Mother Language Day, and

WHEREAS many of the 6,500 languages in this world will cease to be spoken with the passing of the last generation to speak them;

NOW KNOW YE THAT, We do by these presents proclaim and declare that February 21, 2019 shall be known as

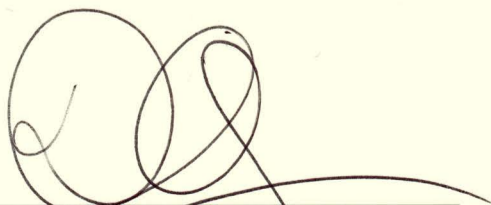
**“International Mother Language Day”**


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 thirteenth day of February, two thousand nineteen and in the sixty-eighth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

  
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Attorney General  
(counter signature for the Great Seal)

  
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Lieutenant Governor