



**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 the last day of February is recognized as Rare Disease Day internationally, with the purpose to bring about awareness of rare diseases and their impact on patients' lives amongst the general public and decision-makers, and

WHEREAS a rare disease is defined as a condition affecting fewer than one in 2,000 people, and

WHEREAS there are more than 7,000 diagnosed rare diseases and about one in 12 people (nearly three million Canadians) have a rare disease, and

WHEREAS despite the numbers, there is no cure for the majority of rare diseases and many go undiagnosed, and

WHEREAS International Rare Disease Awareness Day improves knowledge amongst the general public of rare diseases while encouraging researchers and decision makers to address the needs of those living with rare diseases, and

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia values our citizens with rare diseases and their families, and

WHEREAS the Rare Disease Foundation is dedicated to promoting awareness, research and education, and supporting individuals with rare diseases and their families, and

WHEREAS the Rare Disease Foundation is requesting the Province of British Columbia join in dedicating one day in the year to rare disease awareness. Please join us in spreading the word;

NOW KNOW YE THAT, We do by these presents proclaim and declare that February 28, 2018 shall be known as:

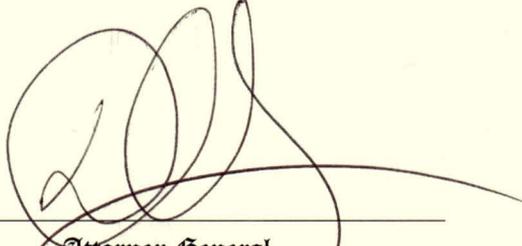
**“International Rare Disease Awareness Day”**

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 Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this twenty-third day of February, two thousand eighteen and in the sixty-seventh year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

  
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Attorney General  
(counter signature for the Great Seal)

  
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Lieutenant Governor