



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 International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is an opportunity to honour everyone—including women, girls, boys, men and gender diverse people—who is actively and courageously working towards an end to this harmful practice, and

WHEREAS 4.1 million girls are still at risk of mutilation each year, including girls in Canada, and

WHEREAS female genital mutilation (FGM) is an issue in more than 90 countries on every continent except Antarctica, and there are at least 200 million FGM survivors in the world, including an estimated 100 000 or more survivors in Canada, and

WHEREAS FGM has no benefits, causes only harm—including death; difficulties with urination, menstruation and sexual intimacy; post-traumatic stress disorder, gender dysphoria and body dysmorphia and increased maternal and child mortality—and is recognized by the United Nations and other global organizations as child abuse and an abuse of a girl's fundamental human rights, and

WHEREAS International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate all national and international efforts, especially grassroots efforts, to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5, which calls for the elimination of FGM and other harmful practices by 2030, and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia supports the human rights of women and girls so they can live a life free from the violence that is female genital mutilation;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that February 6, 2021, shall be known as

“International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation”

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 December, two thousand twenty and in the sixty-ninth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

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

Lieutenant Governor