



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 language is the cornerstone of culture and provides a means of communication among people, and a mother language is vital to every individual's sense of identity and personal development, and

WHEREAS the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) unanimously agreed to observe International Mother Language Day on February 21 each year, and

WHEREAS linguistic diversity and multiculturalism enrich the lives of all British Columbians, and respect, dialogue and dignity are integral to Canadian values, as represented by Lingua Aqua, Canada's first mother language monument in British Columbia, commissioned in recognition of International Mother Language Day, and

WHEREAS in British Columbia, many school districts now include International Mother Language Day in yearly calendars and curriculums to emphasize the importance of mother languages and diverse cultural traditions in early schooling, 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, and

WHEREAS the respectful observance of International Mother Language Day in British Columbia is an opportunity to lead advocacy for the languages of First Nations and Indigenous peoples and languages brought by generations of immigrants to British Columbia, including Braille and sign languages;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that February 21, 2022, 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 twenty-seventh day of January, two thousand twenty-two 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