



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 loss of one's freedom due to a wrongful conviction is a major human rights issue that has far-reaching effects, and

WHEREAS the pernicious effects of wrongful convictions, including but not limited to personal, social and legal costs, devastate individuals and societies as a whole, and

WHEREAS wrongful convictions are serious miscarriages of justice that call into question the legitimacy, integrity and fairness of our criminal justice system, and, unless corrected, undermine the trust of societies in their criminal justice systems, and

WHEREAS it is important to inform the broader community on the causes, consequences, and complications associated with wrongful criminal convictions. The prevention of injustice is a valuable service to the citizens of this community, and

WHEREAS Innocence Canada (also known as the Association in Defence of the Wrongly Convicted) is a national, non-profit organization dedicated to identifying, advocating for and assisting individuals who have been wrongly convicted of crimes they did not commit, while also taking measures to prevent future wrongful convictions through awareness, education and justice system reform, and

WHEREAS British Columbia recognizes the serious effects of wrongful convictions and the importance of avoiding miscarriages of justice, and is dedicated to making its criminal justice system function in a professional, fair and equitable manner for all of its citizens, and

WHEREAS British Columbia Crown Counsel take very seriously their obligation to detect and prevent wrongful conviction and, if detected, to take steps to correct wrongful conviction as soon as possible, and

WHEREAS the British Columbia Prosecution Service has undertaken measures to address the causes of wrongful convictions in a systematic and meaningful way through the implementation of related policies and practices, and through the education of Crown Counsel and ongoing participation in the national Heads of Prosecution Wrongful Conviction Working Group, and

WHEREAS it is deemed desirable to designate a day for British Columbians and the public at large to recognize and pay special tribute to those forced to endure the tremendous consequences brought by flaws within our justice system, and to focus on and discuss the causes and remedies concerning wrongful convictions;

NOW KNOW YE THAT, We do by these presents proclaim and declare that October 2, 2018 shall be known as

“Wrongful Conviction 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 Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this thirteenth day of August, two thousand eighteen and in the sixty-seventh year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.



Attorney General
(counter signature for the Great Seal)



Lieutenant Governor