



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 in 1873 the Parliament of Canada established a police force named the North-West Mounted Police to enforce the law in Canada's newly acquired territory in Western Canada, and

WHEREAS in 1919 the Parliament of Canada voted to form a national police force by merging the North-West Mounted Police and the Dominion Police of Eastern Canada, and on February 1, 1920, the newly formed police force was named the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and

WHEREAS on August 15, 1950, the British Columbia Provincial Police was dissolved, and 495 of 525 officers remained to form the Royal Canadian Mounted Police "E" Division, and

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has continued to grow as a police force with jurisdiction in eight provinces and three territories and, through its national police services, offers resources and support to other Canadian law enforcement agencies, and

WHEREAS today the scope of services and operations of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Canada has expanded and includes enforcement against organized crime, terrorism, illicit drugs, economic crimes and offences that threaten the integrity of Canada's national borders, and

WHEREAS the employees of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have given much to our communities in terms of service and sacrifice, and

WHEREAS there is a need to recognize, to show appreciation for and to celebrate the history and role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police force in British Columbia on the centennial anniversary of its inception in Canada;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that February 1, 2020, shall be known as

"Royal Canadian Mounted Police Appreciation 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-second day of November, two thousand nineteen and in the sixty-eighth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.



Attorney General
(counter signature for the Great Seal)



Lieutenant Governor



North Okanagan-Shuswap MP Mel Arnold, from left, Vernon-Monashee MLA Eric Foster and City of Vernon Coun. Kari Gares present Inspector Kevin Keane with the framed proclamation declaring Feb. 1, 2020, RCMP Appreciation Day in British Columbia on Dec. 17, 2019. (Caitlin Clow - Vernon Morning Star)

Province proclaims RCMP Appreciation Day in B.C.

Feb. 1, 2020, to honour RCMP contributions
in time for 100th anniversary

CAITLIN CLOW / Dec. 17, 2019 4:30 p.m. / LOCAL NEWS / NEWS

Vernon-Monashee MLA Eric Foster read from the proclamation Tuesday at the Vernon museum declaring Feb. 1, 2020, as RCMP Appreciation Day in British Columbia.

“It’s just a thank you for the 100 years of service,”
Foster said.

And there's no better time than the present.

On Feb. 1, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will be celebrating its 100th anniversary of dedicated service to Canadian communities.

“Their efforts and commitment to the safety and security of all Canadians are part of the fabric of this nation,” Greater Vernon Museum and Archives executive director Steve Fleck said on behalf of the RCMP Appreciation Committee Dec. 17. “Our committee is also thankful for the support of all levels of government in our community.”

The announcement of Feb. 1 marking RCMP Appreciation Day in the province as a result of local efforts, Fleck said.

RCMP inspector Kevin Keane, who was present to accept the proclamation, said he was humbled and appreciated the support from the community and all levels of government.

North Okanagan-Shuswap Member of Parliament Mel Arnold said this is something he's been pushing for in Ottawa.

In June, he introduced a bill to establish Feb. 1 as a national day to recognize, honour and appreciate Canada's police force and the service they've provided since it was established in 1920.

“As the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Canadians prepare to celebrate the RCMP's Centennial Anniversary on Feb. 1, 2020, I believe it is necessary and fitting for Feb. 1 to be recognized as Royal Canadian Mounted Police Day,” he put forward in a letter in late July.

He noted during the day's special announcement that due to the lengthy process of federal politics and general election this fall, it's unlikely a private bill from any MP could establish this as a nationally recognized day before the anniversary. Arnold reiterated his commitment to reintroduce the bill this year.

The RCMP Appreciation Committee made note of several upcoming events to mark the special occasion scheduled for the new year.

Students of School District No. 22 will be taking part in classroom projects while learning more about the role of RCMP and first responders in the community. Once complete, examples of the projects will be on display at the museum.

The Downtown Vernon Association and Chamber of Commerce will collaborate with the Appreciation Committee and aid in the promotion of the 100th anniversary by encouraging members to display RCMP logos in store windows.

The Vernon Vipers will give the RCMP a nod when they hit the ice Jan. 31. And finally, the Greater Vernon Museum and Archives will be hosting a special recognition event on Feb. 1. The history of RCMP contributions and first responders will be on display throughout the museum.

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