



Canada
Province of British Columbia
A Proclamation

CHARLES THE THIRD, by the Grace of God, King of Canada
and His other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth

To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting

WHEREAS Diwali, the festival of lights, is celebrated across South Asia and the world as the triumph of light over darkness, hope over despair, and joy over sadness and is considered an auspicious time to mark new beginnings, and

WHEREAS the diverse cultural and religious heritage of British Columbians is a fundamental characteristic of British Columbian society, and Diwali and the diversity it promotes bring unique advantages to the province, and

WHEREAS since 2004, Diwali Fest, organized by the Diwali Celebration Society, has helped provide community and connection to old and new residents of British Columbia and is a unique platform for artists from different regions in South Asia to display their talent and break cultural barriers, and

WHEREAS Diwali Fest promotes the diverse arts, culture, heritage and contributions of the South Asian community in British Columbia by hosting Diwali celebrations across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley through engagement with multi-ethnic communities and promotion of cross-cultural understanding, and

WHEREAS the government of British Columbia acknowledges the historic and current contributions of the South Asian community and supports Diwali Fest and other Diwali celebrations in their promotion of arts, culture, community participation, inclusiveness, and social and cultural connectedness;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that October 20 to November 15, 2023, shall be known as

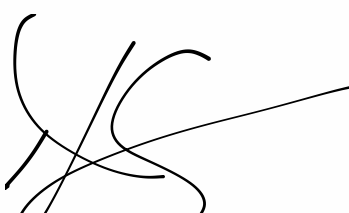
“Diwali Fest Days”

in the Province of British Columbia.

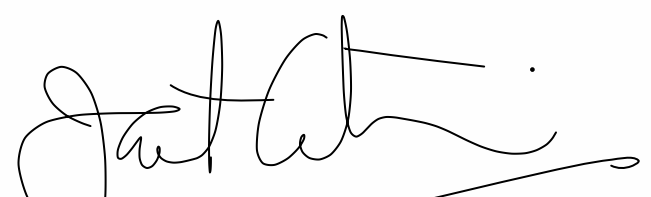
IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this twenty-eighth day of September, two thousand twenty-three and in the second year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.



Attorney General



Lieutenant Governor