



## Message from the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



As Her Majesty the Queen’s representative in Alberta, it is my pleasure to join in marking the annual celebration of International Mother Language Day.

I have had the good fortune during my lifetime to travel around the world, encountering and learning from many different cultures and lifestyles. This exposure to other nationalities opens your eyes and your heart to endless possibilities, meaningful relationships, and to promoting and fostering a more inclusive, happier and peaceful world.

We are lucky to have this diversity at home, right here in Alberta, in Canada. As a multicultural and inclusive nation, we allow ourselves the opportunity to learn about each other, preserving each of our cultures and developing a deeper understanding of not only others, but ourselves also. Our range of languages – spoken, written and physical – are abundant and plentiful. They are our most powerful instruments in relating with each other. Nelson Mandela once said,

*“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head.  
If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.”*

Our mother language is an important part of our identity, our history and our future, and deserves to be celebrated. Thank you to the Bangladesh PressClub Centre of Alberta and its members and volunteers for highlighting and observing this important event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ethell'.

His Honour Col. (Ret’d) The Honourable Donald S. Ethell OC OMM AOE MSC CD LLD  
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta