

**IMPLEMENTATION STAGE OF
INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY
IN BC SCHOOL DISTRICTS
(For Elementary Schools only)**

**A Presentation to the Board of
Surrey School District Trustees
by
Mohammad Aminul Islam
The Mother Language Lovers Of The World Society
November 21, 2018**

What is International Mother Language Day (IMLD)?

- * A day to celebrate all mother languages spoken by First Nations, Aboriginals, Canadians, Immigrants etc. including the linguistic minorities, for example, Braille and Sign language users during the month of February
- * IMLD has been proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999, Province of BC in 2015, and all Municipalities of Lower mainland Vancouver
- * IMLD has been included in the School District's Yearly Calendar of events

Canadian Origin Endangered Mother Languages

- * **The number of indigenous mother languages listed for Canada is 89.....**
- * **Out of these 89 languages, 85 are living and 4 are extinct.....(three from BC origin)**
- * **Out of 85 Canadian living languages, 14 are endangered**
- * **Out of these 14 endangered languages, 7 are from British Columbia.**

Linguistic Alarm in BC

British Columbia is one of the most Linguistic Endangered Zone

We need to protect, conserve and celebrate our mother languages now!

21st February

Has been Included as

“International Mother Language Day”

in the School Yearly Calendar of

Surrey School District - 36

(as well as in all other School Districts of Lower Mainland Vancouver)



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL · LA GOUVERNEURE GÉNÉRALE

Message from the
Hon. Governor
General of Canada
on
International
Mother Language
Day

As we mark International Mother Language Day 2018, I am pleased to send greetings to the students of British Columbia's school districts.

This year, UNESCO has chosen such an inspiring theme: Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development.

When I was young, I wanted to be an astronaut after watching the televised Apollo missions and seeing mankind take its first steps on the moon. It didn't matter that I didn't even speak their language; I wanted to do what those astronauts were doing. I followed my dream, went into space and learned to speak six languages, which proved especially useful during my missions orbiting the Earth. I have also found that in addition to helping us to communicate with one another, languages are powerful vehicles for culture, values and knowledge.

For the sake of that incredible treasure that is diversity, let us commit to preserving and protecting our mother languages. May this day be filled with wonderful discoveries!

Julie Payette

2018

IMLD Celebration -2018
Hon. Judith Guichon, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of BC
Attended as Chief Guest

Annual Celebration of
IMLD

Participated by
Elementary School Students

Funded by the
City of Surrey.



10/22/2018

Province of
British
Columbia
Proclaimed
International
Mother
Language Day



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 a mother language is vital to every individual's sense of identity and development, and

WHEREAS language is the cornerstone of culture and is the means of communication among people, and

WHEREAS 26 percent of people in B.C. speak a language other than English or French as their first language, and

WHEREAS linguistic diversity and multiculturalism enriches the lives of all British Columbians, and respect, dialogue and dignity are integral to Canadian values, and

WHEREAS British Columbia can act as a leader in advocating for languages of First Nations and those brought by generations of immigrants to British Columbia, including Braille and Sign Languages, by respectfully observing International Mother Language Day, and

WHEREAS many of the 6500 languages in this world will cease to be spoken with the passing of the last generation to speak them, and

WHEREAS at the General Conference of the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), it was unanimously agreed to observe International Mother Language Day on February 21 in each and every year;

NOW KNOW YE THAT we do by these presents proclaim and declare that February 21, 2015 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 to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this fourth day of February, two thousand fifteen and in the sixty-third year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

Attorney General and Minister of Justice
(counter signature for the Great Seal)

Lieutenant Governor

Message from the
Premier of
British Columbia

on
International
Mother Language Day



A MESSAGE FROM
PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

As Premier of the Province of British Columbia, it is my pleasure to extend greetings to everyone at the Surrey Arts Centre in honour of International Mother Language Day (IMLD).

British Columbia is proud to be the most culturally diverse province in Canada, a place where people from varying backgrounds can celebrate and share their heritage. That is why International Mother Language Day is so integral; when people are encouraged to speak their mother tongue, cultural identity is protected. In turn, this creates opportunities to share and learn about each other. On this day, we celebrate cultural diversity and multilingualism in a continued effort to raise awareness and understanding.

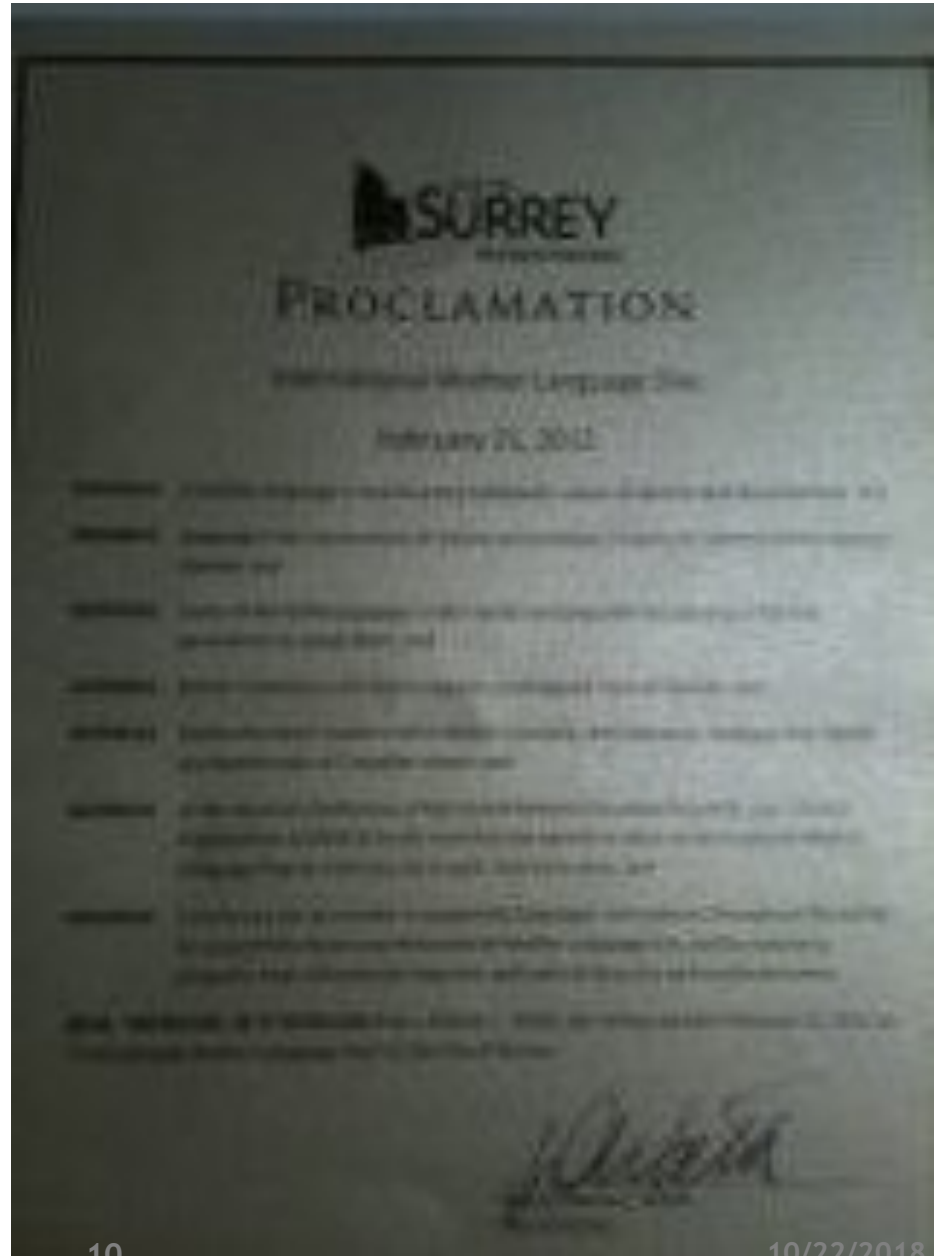
I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Mother Language Lovers of the World Society, BC. Its efforts to raise awareness about mother languages and preserving linguistic diversity in our schools is to be commended.

Please enjoy this celebration of International Mother Language Day.

A blue ink signature of John Horgan, written in a cursive style.

HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

City of Surrey
Proclaimed
International
Mother
Language Day



**Surrey School
District No.36
endorses
International
Mother
Language Day**



December 4th, 2015

Mohammad Aminul Islam
President
Mother Language Lovers of the World Society, BC
Phone: 778.895.4084
Email: aislam_telebangla@hotmail.com

Subject: Annual Recognition of International Mother Language Day – February 21st

Dear Mohammad Aminul Islam:

Thank you for meeting with me as a follow-up to your presentation to the Surrey School District Board of Education on October 27th, 2015. Your delegation requested that our Board recognize International Mother Language Day on February 21st of each year.

I am writing to inform you that the Surrey School District Board of Education will support your request and will direct staff to annually recognize February 21st as International Mother Language Day on the school district calendar.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to thank you for your presentation. The work that your organization is doing to recognize the significance of all languages is commendable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Ryan".

Rick Ryan
Deputy Superintendent

LEADERSHIP IN LEARNING

Surrey Schools – Superintendent's Department | 14033 62nd Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V0V 0E7
Tel: (604) 890-6108 Fax: (604) 895-4599 www.surreyschools.ca

Annual Celebration of

“Mother Language Festival”

Funded by the
City of Surrey

British Columbia Society Reg. # S-0060789



My Language Is My Identity



join us to
uphold our
culture and
linguistic
diversities



Mother Language Festival 2018

Sunday, July 15, 2018 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Venue: Bear Creek Park Plaza, 13750 88th Avenue, Surrey BC V3W 3L1

For more information, please contact Mohammad Aminul Islam - 778 895 4084

Shahana Akter Mohua -778 689 4801 email: motherlanguage lovers@gmail.com



Organized by Mother Language Lovers Of The World Society, BC

Website: motherlanguage lovers.com

Surrey School District Linguistic Diversities

- * 172 Various Mother languages and their speakers have been identified in Surrey School District (In Richmond- 122, In Vancouver - 126)
- * 60% of Surrey speaks a language other than English at home

Beneficiaries

- *The main beneficiary of this Program are the Children of the Schools.**
- *Children are the main carrier of their mother tongue.**
- *They can carry the message and uphold their mother languages generations after generations.**

BC Model for Implementation of IMLD

Surrey was taken as the Model City for BC Model. Surrey School District was pioneer to accept the Model. It has two parts:

- **Part-1: Integretion of IMLD in BC**

This part is to establish/recognize IMLD in various levels of this Province.

- **Part-2: Implementation of IMLD.**

This part is to make awareness among the children about IMLD.

Part-1 of BC Model

Integration of IMLD in BC

- *Surrey is the birth place of IMLD. The theme of IMLD was first initiated from here to UNESCO
- *Almost all the Municipalities of Lower Mainland (Vancouver, Surrey, Richmond, New Westminster, Vancouver, North Vancouver etc.) have proclaimed 21st February as IMLD
- *In 2015 the BC Provincial Government has proclaimed 21st February as IMLD
- *Created “Lingua Aqua” a Mother Language Monument in Bear Creek Park, Surrey
- *Every year we celebrate IMLD and Mother Language Festival funded by the City of Surrey

Implementation of IMLD

Children are the carrier of Mother Languages.

Therefore, the main component of this Program are the Children of the Schools. Children are the target groups. Schools are the platforms to facilitate.

Almost all School Districts of Lower mainland Vancouver have accepted and introduced IMLD into their School Yearly Calendar

Expected Results of the Model

*Surrey School District has 101 Elementary Schools

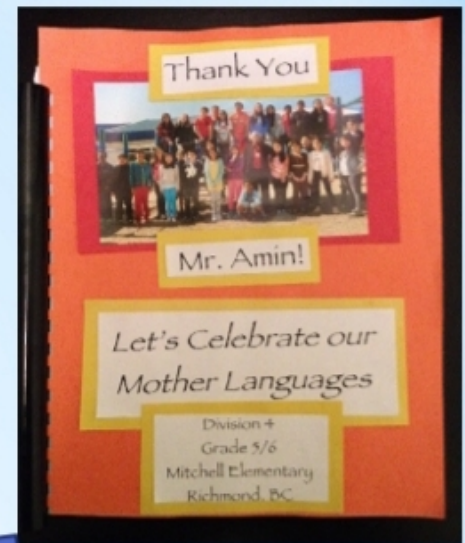
Elementary Student Enrolment:

App. 40,000 Students/year

*Once the model is successfully implemented, at least 40,000 students will be aware of their mother languages

Achievements from a 15min trial a school in Richmond

- * Active participation of **grade 5** students.
- * 30 students in the class speaks **18 different mother languages**.
- * All said **“I love my mother tongue”** in their own mother languages.
- * Produced a **linguistic class book**.
- * All **400 schools students** wrote their names and their mother language on leaves and made an **“Ances-Tree”**
- * Arranged **“Mother Language”** booth at **annual school day** on 16th June.





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for Education

Mr Mohammad Aminul Islam
President
Mother Language Lovers of the World Society
British Columbia
Canada

Ref.: ED/IPS/ESG/17/6140

Dear Mr Aminul Islam,

I wish to thank you for your letter of 1 July 2017 by which you request UNESCO to recognize the "British Columbia Model" in International Mother Language Day (IMLD) implementation and UNESCO's Education 2030 Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4).

We acknowledge with thanks the important amount of work undertaken by the Mother Language Lovers of the World Society to raise awareness about mother languages and preserve linguistic diversity in British Columbia and in Canada.

We are grateful for your support to the implementation of IMLD in the school district of British Columbia and beyond in the Surrey District. It is a great achievement to have IMLD in the British Columbia School Yearly Calendar and curriculum to underline the importance of mother tongues, linguistic diversity and cultural traditions. In this connection, we are pleased to inform you that IMLD has gained in importance, scope and recognition. IMLD 2017 generated a great deal of interest: we registered almost 670,000 impressions on all UNESCO's Twitter accounts and 792 000 interactions on Facebook regarding IMLD.

Concerning the "British Columbia model" in IMLD implementation, I am pleased to inform you that the indicative strategies of the Framework for Action has provision for "bilingual and multilingual education, starting with early learning in the first or home language of children."

The Framework for Action and priorities and strategies for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4), were adopted through the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 by Ministers, heads and members of delegations, heads of agencies and officials of multilateral and bilateral organizations, and representatives of civil society, the teaching profession, youth and the private sector in Seoul (Republic of Korea) in 2015.

UNESCO's Appreciation Letter On BC Model For the implementation of IMLD

Related Delegations & Achievements



- * Our first delegation for the Mother Language Monument project was awarded \$130,000 from the City of Surrey and the **Lingua Aqua** was unveiled in Bear Creek Park in 2009
- * Our 2nd delegation was approved by the City of Surrey, and a **Mother Language Festival** is being celebrated every year during the week of the IMLD
- * Our on going delegation is participation of all School Districts across the Province of British Columbia

Objectives of the Delegation



- * **Creating general awareness about the conservation of all Mother Languages**
- * **Engaging Schools for the preservation of mother languages**
- * **Extending the program to Provincial & eventually to National Level**
- * **Obtaining a Moral Support to create a “Mother Language Institute in British Columbia”**



IMLD Implementation Requests

(Board of School Trustees are at the Steering)

- Schools shall be the starting platform for Language conservation
- **Appoint a Mother Language Ambassador in every School District**
- Appoint a Mother Language Ambassador in every School

Dear Respected Trustees!

We Need Your Firm Recommendation on IMLD

- *IMLD is already in the Website of School District's Yearly Calendar of Events**
- *Your kind Recommendation to the School Staff will accelerate to promote the Study and Celebration of IMLD**

Our Mother Language is Our Identity

**Our Children are the Main Carrier of Mother
languages**

**Multilingualism runs parallel to
Multiculturalism**

**Therefore, please come forward to help our
Children to uphold their Languages, Culture
and Heritage to enrich our Canadian
Multiculturalism**

Thank You

For more information, please contact:

Mohammad Aminul Islam

President,

Mother Language Lovers Of The World Society, BC

Phone: 778-895-4084

Email: maislam@motherlanguage lovers.com