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File : 29-1

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Prime Minister:

I write regarding concerns about the issue of a commemorative medal to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II that will occur in 2022.

Information received from several sources has indicated that your Liberal government is not planning to issue a Platinum Jubilee Medal to mark this most significant milestone in Her Majesty's reign. Such a historic occasion deserves appropriate recognition and what better way than to acknowledge Canadians who have also dedicated themselves to public service by bestowing upon them this medal. Handing out a commemorative pin that has purportedly been contemplated will simply not achieve this.

As the representative of the nearly 250,000 members of The Royal Canadian Legion, I ask you to reconsider any negative decision that you have made and to take steps to authorize the issue of a Platinum Jubilee Medal.

There is a long tradition of issuing commemorative medals to recognize significant milestones in the reign of Her Majesty:

- the Coronation Medal was issued to mark her coronation on 2 June 1953 and while this was not a Canadian issue, it was awarded to 12,500 Canadians
- the Silver Jubilee Medal issued in 1977 to commemorate 25 years since she ascended to the Throne on 6 February 1952 was the first Canadian issue of a Jubilee Medal
- the Golden Jubilee Medal issued in 2002 commemorated the 50th anniversary of her reign
- the Diamond Jubilee Medal issued in 2012 observed 60 years of her reign

As is evident by the dates above, both Liberal and Conservative governments had chosen to observe milestones in Canadian history by issuing commemorative medals throughout Her Majesty's reign. Yet your government is opposed to such an issuance as is attested to by the cancellation of the Canada 150 Medal. Many Legion members

and Canadians do not understand why and would welcome the issue of a Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Having discussed this tradition of medal issuance, the purpose of doing so also needs to be considered. Primarily, it is to create a tangible object to mark a significant milestone, such as the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's Reign. Equally important is to recognize the contributions of a large number of Canadians to the past, present and future of our country.

While other medals exist, such as the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, they are awarded in relatively small numbers. Like the medals before them, a Platinum Jubilee Medal would reach tens of thousands of Canadians whose contributions might otherwise go unrecognized. It would be a very real, visible and much appreciated acknowledgement of their efforts to improve our country. As well, it would be a fitting addition to any Platinum Jubilee celebrations that are being planned. In fact, Platinum Jubilee celebrations would be an excellent way to raise the spirits of Canadians as they leave the COVID-19 pandemic behind them!

I hope that you will respond in a positive manner to this appeal and issue a Platinum Jubilee Medal to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty's ascent to the Throne as Queen of Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas D. Irvine', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas D. Irvine, CD
Dominion President

c.c. His Excellency the Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Administrator of
the Government of Canada
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage
The Honourable Erin O'Toole, Leader of the Official Opposition
The Honourable Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party
Ms. Annamie Paul, Leader of the Green Party