



News Release

February 2, 2012

**MANITOBA TO JOIN NATIONAL CELEBRATION
OF QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

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**Events Honour 60 Years of Service, Dedication
To Canada: Premier, Lieutenant-governor**

Lt.-Gov. Philip Lee and Premier Greg Selinger today announced that Manitoba will join Canada's other provinces and territories in marking the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II's reign as Queen.

"For 60 years, Her Majesty has set the standard for public service," said Lee. "By celebrating this historic and significant anniversary, we recognize our heritage and the institutions that define who we are as Manitobans and Canadians. I am delighted that the first Diamond Jubilee event will be held this afternoon at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba in Brandon as part of the Lieutenant-governor's Winter Festival."

Other planned events and commemorations include the unveiling of a Diamond Jubilee ice sculpture in front of the Legislative Building on Monday, Feb. 6, the day of the Queen's accession to the throne. A special architectural lighting display of the building will be turned on that evening and the Queen's Canadian flag will fly at the Legislative Building all day. Churches throughout the province are also being asked to ring their bells for two minutes at 6 p.m. that evening.

A commemorative book of celebration for the public to sign to congratulate Her Majesty and the Royal Family, and a special royal visit photo exhibit will be set up in the foyer of the Legislative Building where they will remain for three months. A special commemorative book will also travel to several communities throughout the province later in the year. In addition, a page on the provincial government's website (www.manitoba.ca) will be available beginning Monday so people can offer congratulations online.

As part of the anniversary preparations, the Royal Canadian Mint in Ottawa is striking 60,000 Diamond Jubilee medals, which will be awarded to civic-minded Canadians throughout 2012. Around 900 Manitobans are expected to receive this honour.

“It will truly be an exciting year for the province and the nation as we commemorate Elizabeth II’s accession as Queen six decades ago,” said Selinger. “We invite all Manitobans to participate in the events planned for the weeks and months ahead.”

Queen Elizabeth II is the second-longest reigning monarch in British history after Queen Victoria, who reigned for more than 63 years.

Contact: Dwight MacAulay, 204-945-3939, or Phyllis Fraser, 204-945-2752, co-chairs,
Manitoba Diamond Jubilee Committee

A SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED OF PUBLIC DIAMOND JUBILEE EVENTS ON FEB. 6 AT
THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

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Monday, Feb. 6, Legislative Building

7:30 a.m. Military cadets will raise the Queen's Canadian flag at the front of the Legislative Building. This flag will be flown for only one day and will later be put on display in Government House.

Noon Lt.-Gov. Philip Lee and Premier Greg Selinger will be first to sign the public book of celebration. They will then tour the Royal Photo Exhibit, which opens at noon and shows past royal visits to Manitoba.

5:45 p.m. The lieutenant-governor and premier will unveil the Diamond Jubilee ice sculpture located near the statue of Queen Victoria on the north lawn of the Legislative Building.

6:00 p.m. Her Majesty's Canadian flag will be lowered by cadets, folded and presented to the lieutenant-governor.

Churches throughout the province that have accepted the invitation will ring their bells for two minutes.

An architectural lighting display of the Legislative Building will begin. This display can be seen each evening from 6 to 10 p.m. until Sunday, Feb. 12.