

Statement

For immediate release
March 1, 2021

Statement on the Anniversary of the March 1st Independence Movement

*We herewith proclaim the independence of Korea
and the liberty of the Korean people.
We tell it to the world in witness of the equality of all nations
and we pass it on to our posterity as their inherent right.*

“After a decade of brutal and tyrannical colonial rule by the Empire of Japan, on March 1, 1919, those secretly prepared words were read aloud in Seoul’s Pagoda Park. Words that would continue to echo in the hearts and minds of Koreans in the years to follow.

“Japanese retribution was swift, and countless Koreans would pay the ultimate price in their quest for freedom. March 1st remains embedded in the Korean psyche as a call to resist oppression, to protect hard won democratic freedoms, and to honour those who died in the pursuit of Korean independence.

“Today, I ask that you join me in remembering the 33 courageous patriots who stood and read the March 1st Proclamation without fear. We must also remember they were not alone, and others like Canadian Dr. Frank Schofield, who has been recognized by the Republic of Korea as the 34th patriot, stood by the country and people he loved.

“Let us commemorate March 1st as the beginning of a long and arduous road to independence. A road filled with brave men and women who took a stand, who fought against communist oppression and who refused to be silenced. We must also thank our friends and allies from around the world who stood by Korea in its march to freedom.

“In 2021, as we continue to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, let us also remember the sacrifices made by Canadian veterans, past and present, for the Republic of Korea and her people. We will remember them. Nous nous souviendrons d’eux. 우리는 그들을 기억할 것입니다.”

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