



The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta)

History of Commemorative Medals

Commemorative medals have a long and rich tradition that goes back to the Middle Ages. It became customary for monarchs to have medals struck to commemorate their coronation and other important events. For instance, during a coronation ceremony, velvet pouches were passed down the aisles of Westminster Abbey so that all those in attendance could select a medal as a personal memento of the historic event. Medals were awarded to the members of the Royal Family and their servants, to officers of the state and the government, to mayors, civil servants, members of the armed forces and the police who took part in the celebrations of the Coronation.

Beginning with the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887, the medals were suspended from a ribbon and worn on the chest in the same fashion as military medals. Medals were issued for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, King Edward VII's Coronation in 1902, King George V's Coronation in 1911 and his Silver Jubilee in 1935, King George VI's Coronation in 1937 and the present Queen's Coronation in 1953. Medals have also been issued for several special royal visits. Since 1935, a larger number of medals have been struck and are awarded more equitably throughout the population.

Since 1967, Canada has carried on the tradition of issuing commemorative medals. These are distinct honours that recognize the work and dedication of Canadians, particularly on joyous occasions such as royal events and national anniversaries. Modern Canadian commemorative medals include the Canadian Centennial Medal in 1967, The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, the 125th Anniversary of Confederation Medal in 1992, The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

In 2005, the first officially recognized provincial commemorative medals created by Alberta and Saskatchewan, marked the 100th anniversary of their entry into Confederation. The medals were created through provincial legislation and received Royal Assent by the Lieutenant-Governor. They were also approved for wear by the Government of Canada and have been integrated in the order of precedence for orders, decorations and medals.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 is the first occasion when a significant royal milestone has not been commemorated with a national commemorative medal. Seeing a need for recognition, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, several Canadian provinces have created their own Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, following a similar pattern and design.

The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) was created in 2022 by the Government of Alberta through the *Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Recognition Act*. The medal is being awarded to 7000 deserving Albertans through collaboration with provincial partners to ensure an equitable representation of all regions and all fields of endeavor.

The Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Alberta) is a tangible way to publicly acknowledge the work and dedication of those Albertans, who are actively contributing to our province and country and to pay tribute to the example set by Her late Majesty throughout her lifetime.