

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi  
Mayor of Edmonton  
2nd Floor, City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
EDMONTON, Alberta T5J 2R7  
Canada

Bergen op Zoom, August 17, 2023

Dear Mayor Sohi,

Thank you very much for your kind and meaningful letter of July 29, 2023, mentioning the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of signing the Bond of Friendship between Edmonton and Bergen op Zoom.

The Bond of Friendship emphasizes the long relationship between our cities. The origin of this relation dates back to the Fall of 1944, when troops of the South Alberta Regiment, now known as the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment, liberated our city from occupation and tyranny. Several plaques, street names and other relicts in Bergen op Zoom refer to that specific and key moment in our history; a history we share with the city of Edmonton via the South Albertas.

The Bond of Friendship is much more than a few words on beautiful framed piece of paper. Both literally as figuratively the text has an important place. Since 2013 the framed text has been placed in our medieval townhall. This townhall still is in use for the gatherings of our city council and therefore the epic centre of local democracy. The wording of the proclamation arising from the Bond of Friendship of 2013 highlights how important it is to look beyond our own borders. The proclamation is a dynamic and in a certain way a living document. The editing invites us to keep in contact with each other and is a catalyzer for the further development of our relationship. In this matter I embrace your letter of July 29, 2023 and the accompanying proclamation.

On behalf of our city council I am honored to let you know that we gladly recognize the proclamation of 29 July 2023. In addition, I fully endorse the last sentence of the last subparagraph of your letter: *'Together we have proven that distance is no barrier to a strong and enduring relationship, and I have no doubt that our partnership will continue to flourish in the years to come'*.

Best regards,



Drs. Margo Mulder (MSc)  
Mayor of Bergen op Zoom

