



## ***Proclamation***

### **HMCS Kootenay Day October 23, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, the HMCS KOOTENAY, a Destroyer Escort, experienced the worst peacetime accident in the history of the Royal Canadian Navy. On 23 October 1969, an explosion ripped through the engine's starboard gearbox when Kootenay was approximately 200 miles off the South West Coast of England.

As a result of the fire and deadly toxic smoke, created by the explosion, nine crewmen died and fifty-three were seriously injured. Years later, the disaster remains deeply imprinted in the memories of the survivors. In fact, most survivors have been diagnosed with PTSD, for which they are receiving professional counselling.

As a result of the lessons learned from the Kootenay crisis, the RCN, as well as other Navies throughout the world, made significant changes to ensure much higher safety standards, which render naval ships much safer for today's sailors.

Although all two hundred and forty crew members lived in the Halifax area in 1969, there are still several survivors of the tragedy and their family members residing in the HRM today.

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Mayor Mike Savage, do hereby proclaim October 23, 2020 as "Kootenay Day" in an effort to raise awareness of this RCN tragedy of forty-nine years ago, so it will always be remembered and commemorated by the residents of HRM.

Dated at Halifax, Nova Scotia  
this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October 2020



  
Mike Savage  
Mayor