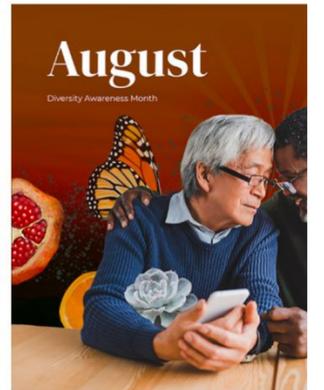
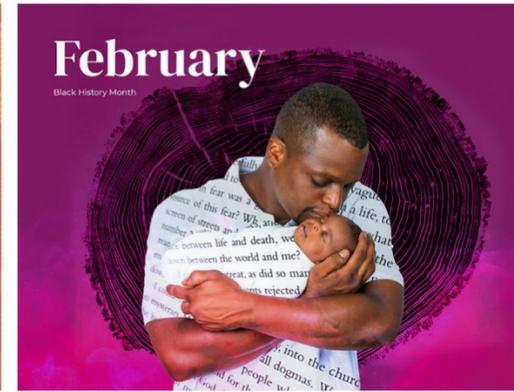




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# 2023 Multi-Cultural Calendar

**Our objective is to provide a complete and accurate multicultural calendar that captures and accurately depicts Canada's diversity. Nevertheless, this calendar could not include all important religious and cultural holidays.**

# JANUARY

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 World Braille Day	5	6 Epiphany	7 Christmas / Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox / East)
8	9	10	11	12	13 Lohri	14 Orthodox New Year
15 Pongal	16 Pongal / Martin Luther King Jr Day	17 Pongal/ Raoul Wallenberg Day	18 Pongal	19	20	21 Lincoln Alexander Day
22 Lunar New Year	23	24 International Day of Education/ World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture	25	26 Vasant Panchami	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day	28
29 National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia	30	31	1	2	3	4

# January

Alzheimer's Awareness Month (Canada)

Tamil Heritage Month (Canada)

**15 - 18 Pongal**

A harvest celebration known as Pongal is observed by the Tamil population. It is a time to give thanks to the Sun, Mother Nature, and all the farm animals who helped produce a bumper crop. (Hinduism)

**1 New Year's Day**

The first day of the year of the modern Gregorian calendar. (International)

**4 World Braille Day**

observed in order to increase understanding of the value of braille as a tool for communication in the full realisation of the rights of those who are blind or partially sighted. celebrates the birthdate of Louis Braille, who created braille. (International)

**6 Epiphany**

A Christian celebration that principally honours the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus Christ. Several Orthodox churches observe Christmas on January 7, but others observe it on January 19. (Christianity)

**7 Christmas / Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox / Eastern)**

The Julian calendar date that corresponds to December 25. On or around this date, a large number of Orthodox Christians observe Christmas day. The Orthodox Church

**13 Lohri**

A well-known wintertime Punjabi folk event that is mostly observed by Sikhs and Hindus in the Punjab area of India. Hinduism and Sikhism

### **16 Martin Luther King Jr Day**

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is observed as a federal holiday in the United States. The third Monday in January, which is close to King's real birthday on January 15th, marks the occasion. (The United States)

### **17 Raoul Wallenberg Day**

Wallenberg, Raoul Day celebrates the life of Raoul Wallenberg, the first honorary citizen of Canada, who is credited with saving the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews. (Canada)

### **21 Lincoln Alexander Day**

An annual celebration honouring The Hon. Lincoln Alexander, who was the first black member of the House of Commons, the first black federal minister, and the first black chair of the Ontario Worker's Compensation Board. Alexander was a trailblazer in the fight for racial fairness in Canada. (Canada)

### **22 Lunar New Year / Spring Festival**

The start of a lunar calendar year is known as the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year, often known as Chinese New Year, is observed in several Asian nations, including Mongolia, Korea, and Vietnam. In China, the Spring Festival is a fifteen-day festival that starts on the lunar calendar's New Year's Eve and concludes with the Lantern Festival. (International)

### **24 International Day of Education**

UN-designated day to advance SDG 4, which calls for inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of opportunities for lifelong learning for all. (International)

### **24 World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture**

World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture, established by UNESCO, celebrates the numerous rich cultures of the African continent and the African Diasporas around the world and promotes them as a powerful tool for sustainable development, communication, and peace. (International)

## **26 Vasant Panchami**

**A Hindu festival honouring the goddess Saraswati, the embodiment of knowledge, wisdom, learning, and the arts, which celebrates the arrival of spring. (Hinduism)**

## **29 National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia**

**A day set aside to remember the Islamophobic attack in Quebec City's Grand Mosque, which claimed six lives and left 19 others critically injured. The Canadian government created this remembrance day in 2021 to pay tribute to the deaths and provide support for the survivors of this catastrophe. (Canada)**

# FEBRUARY

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 White Cane Week/ World Interfaith Harmony Week/ World Hijab Da	2 White Cane Week/ World Interfaith Harmony Week/ Groundhog Day	3 White Cane Week/ World Interfaith Harmony Week	4 White Cane Week/ World Interfaith Harmony Week/ World Cancer Day
5 White Cane Week/ World Interfaith Harmony Week/ Lantern Festival Thaipusam	6 World Interfaith Harmony Week/ International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	7 White Cane Week/ World Interfaith Harmony Wee	8	9	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science
12	13 World Radio Day	14 \Valentine's Day	15 National Flag of Canada Day/ Parinirvana / Nirvana Day	16	17	18 Maha Shivaratri/ Lailat al Mira
19	20 World Day of Social Justice/ Family Day/ Islander Day/ Louis Riel Day/ Nova Scotia Heritage Da	21 International Mother Language Day / Losar (Tibetan New Year)	22 Lent (Western)/ Pink Shirt Day/ Ash Wednesda	23	24	25
26	27	28	1	2	3	4

# February

Black History Month (Canada)

African Heritage Month (Nova Scotia)

1 - 7 White Cane Week

To raise public awareness of the reality of life for Canadians who are blind or visually impaired, the Canadian Council of the Blind launched White Cane Week, which takes place the first full week of February. (Canada)

1 - 7 World Interfaith Harmony Week

The General Assembly established World Interfaith Harmony Week in 2010, and it now occurs annually during the first week of February. In order to foster harmony among all people, regardless of their religious affiliation, the General Assembly established World Interfaith Harmony Week and stressed that interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding are essential elements of a culture of peace.

22- April 8 Lent (Western)

A forty-day fasting regimen before Easter (excluding Sundays). Giving up particular foods, drinks, and activities, increased prayer, making personal improvements, and contributing to charity are observed throughout this period (almsgiving). (Christianity)

1 World Hijab Day

Nazma Khan created World Hijab Day to honour the millions of Muslim women who choose to wear the hijab as well as to encourage religious tolerance and understanding by allowing women (both Muslims and non-Muslims who are not hijabis) to experience the hijab for a single day. (International)

2 Groundhog Day

Pennsylvania Dutch superstition gave rise to a well-liked custom in both Canada and the United States. On this day, if a groundhog comes out of its burrow and sees its shadow, winter is predicted to last six more weeks; if it doesn't, spring is predicted to arrive early. (International)

4 World Cancer Day

A day designated by the Union for International Cancer Control to raise cancer awareness and encourage action towards the disease's eradication. (International)

### 5 Lantern Festival

The Lantern Festival honours departed ancestors and fosters reconciliation, peace, and forgiveness. It is observed in China and other Asian nations by decorating houses and public spaces with vibrant lanterns. The celebration, which commemorates the first full moon of the new lunar year and the conclusion of the Spring Festival, falls on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month. (International)

### 5 Thaipusam

A Hindu holiday that the Tamil diaspora abroad and the Tamil people in India both observe. The event honours the triumph of right over wrong, light over dark, and knowledge over ignorance. (Hinduism)

### 6 International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

To encourage the abolition of female genital mutilation, increase attention to human rights, gender equality, sexual education, and the needs of women and girls who experience its effects. (International)

### 11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science

A day set aside to combat gender stereotypes, specifically to eliminate structural and institutional bias against women in science. (International)

### 13 World Radio Day

An international holiday honouring radio's continuing influence in fostering the diversity, pluralism, and representation necessary to create a world that is more tolerant and inclusive. (International)

### 14 Valentine's Day

A day of romance when people honour their romantic relationships. This event has a fifth-century history and is named for the Christian martyr St. Valentine. (International)

### 15 National Flag of Canada Day

A day set aside to honour the unveiling of the Canadian flag in 1965. Observances of the day include flying the flag, sporadic public rituals, and instructional initiatives in schools. (Canada)

### 15 Parinirvana / Nirvana Day

An annual festival celebrated by Mahayana Buddhists that honours the passing of the Buddha and his entry into Nirvana, which is thought to be a release from the cycle of birth and death. (Buddhism)

### 18 Maha Shivaratri

Maha Shivaratri, which translates to "Big Night of Shiva" in Sanskrit, is an annual Hindu festival honouring the deity Shiva. One of the most important spiritual festivals in Hinduism, the festival is commemorated with fasting, jagran (an all-night vigil), and worship. (Hinduism)

### 18 Lailat al Miraj

a Muslim festival that honours the Prophet Muhammad's overnight trip from Mecca to Jerusalem, during which he attained heaven, underwent purification, and received the command to offer Salat (ritual prayer) five times daily. Also known as Al Isra'wal Miraj, Laylat al Miraj, and Isra and Mi'raj. starts before dusk. (Islam)

### 20 World Day of Social Justice

A day honouring the "Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization" of the International Labor Organization. It is predicated on the idea that achieving and maintaining peace and security both inside and between nations require social development and social justice. This is accomplished by advocating for issues such as gender equality, the rights of migrants and indigenous peoples, or by joining forces to break down obstacles that people encounter due to their gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or

### 20 Family Day

Civic holiday in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick, which celebrates the importance of family. (Canada)

### 20 Islander Day

A civic holiday observed in Prince Edward Island in celebration of family and community. (Canada)

### 20 Louis Riel Day

Civic holiday in Manitoba which commemorates the life of Louis Riel, Métis leader of the Red River Resistance of 1869-70 and the driving force behind Manitoba becoming Canada's fifth province. (Canada)

### 20 Nova Scotia Heritage Day

Civic holiday in Nova Scotia to remember the province's storied past and honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to the province's unique heritage. (Canada)

### 21 International Mother Language Day

A worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. (International)

### 21 Losar (Tibetan New Year)

a festival marking the start of the new year that takes place on the first day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar, which falls in either February or March by the Gregorian calendar. It is one of the most joyous times of the year, marked by numerous religious and cultural celebrations. (Tibet)

### 22 Pink Shirt Day

An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying. (International)

### 22 Ash Wednesday

Marks the first day of Lent. The name is derived from the symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence. (Christianity)

# MARCH

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	1 Zero Discrimination Day/ Self-harm Awareness Day	2	3 Employee Appreciation Day	4
5	6 Magha Puja	7 Chötrul Düchen/ Purim	8 Hola Mohalla/ International Women's Day/ Holi	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 International Day to Combat Islamophobia	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18
19	20 International Francophonie Day/ Spring Equinox/ International Day of Happiness	21 Nowruz / International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination/ World Down Syndrome Day	22 Ramadan/ Ugadi / World Water Day	23	24 International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victim	25 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
26 Khordad Sal/ Purple Day	27	28	29	30 Ram Navami	31 International Transgender Day of Visibility	1

# March

Women's History Month (International)

Irish Heritage Month (Canada)

Bangladeshi Heritage Month (Ontario)

Multiculturalism Month (Newfoundland and Labrador)

## 2 - 20 Nineteen Day Fast

A period when adult Bahá'ís fast from sunrise to sunset each day, coinciding with the 19-day Bahá'í month of Alá (loftiness) and immediately preceding the Bahá'í new year. This period of fasting is a time of prayer, meditation, and spiritual rejuvenation. Begins at previous sundown. (Bahá'í)

## 8 - 10 Hola Mohalla

This annual festival was started by the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, as a gathering of Sikhs for military exercises and mock battles on the day following the festival of Holi (sometimes coinciding with Holi). The festival exists to remind people of valor and defense preparedness. (Sikhism)

## 22 - April 20 Ramadan

In Islam, Ramadan is the holy month whereby Muslims fast during daylight hours. It is a period that aims to cleanse one's body and soul from impurities and re-focus oneself to the worship of God. (Islam)

## 1 Zero Discrimination Day

Zero Discrimination Day celebrates the right of everyone to live a full and productive life—and live it with dignity. It highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace, and a movement for change in order to end all forms of discrimination. (International)

## 1 Self-harm Awareness Day

Self-harm Awareness Day (also known as Self-injury Awareness Day) is dedicated to ending the stigma around self-harm and raising awareness about available supports and alternative coping methods. (International)

## 3 Employee Appreciation Day

Employee Appreciation Day falls on the first Friday of March and acts as a reminder of the importance of showing appreciation to employees and building a culture of appreciation. (International)

## 6 Magha Puja

An important Buddhist festival, celebrated on the full moon day of the third lunar month in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Sri Lanka and on the full moon day of Tabaung in Myanmar. It celebrates a gathering between the Buddha and 1,250 of his first disciples. (Buddhism)

## 7 Chötrul Düchen

Chötrul Düchen, the “Festival of Miracles”, takes place on the 15th day of the first Tibetan lunar month during the full moon. It is one of the four Buddhist festivals commemorating four events in the life of the Buddha and celebrates the first fifteen days of the year when Buddha displayed a different miracle on each day. (Buddhism)

## 7 Purim

The festival of Purim commemorates the heroism of Esther, and the salvation of the Jewish people from Haman in the Achaemenid Empire (Persian Era). Begins at previous sundown. (Judaism)

## 8 International Women’s Day

A global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. (International)

## 8 Holi

A Hindu spring festival celebrated predominantly in India by both Hindu and non-Hindu people, also known as the "festival of colours" or the "festival of love". Holi represents the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil, and on this one day, the usual rankings of caste, gender, status, and age are ignored in favour of celebrating together by throwing colored water and powders on one another. (Hinduism)

## 17 Saint Patrick’s Day

St. Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish culture on March 17, the anniversary of the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. (International)

## 20 International Francophonie Day

A day to celebrate the French language, culture, and values. (International)

## 20 Spring Equinox

In the Northern Hemisphere, the Spring Equinox (also known as the vernal equinox or March Equinox) occurs when the sun crosses the equator line, heading north. This event marks the start of the spring season in the northern half of the globe. (International) 20 International Day of Happiness Since 2013, the United Nations has celebrated the International Day of Happiness as a way to recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world. (International)

## 21 Nowruz / Norouz (Bahá'í / Zoroastrian / Iranian / Persian New Year)

The word "Nowruz" (spelling varies by region: Now Ruz, Naw-Ruz, Now Roz, Novruz, Navruz, Nooruz, Nevruz, or Nauryz) translates to "new day". It marks the first day of spring and is celebrated as the beginning of the new year by more than 300 million people all around the world. Nowruz has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions. Originally celebrated by the Zoroastrians, it is also a holy day in the Bahá'í, Sufi, and Ismaili faiths. (International)

## 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Declared by the UN, this day remembers the damaging effects of racial discrimination and is a reminder to continue building a world with justice and equality. (International)

## 21 World Down Syndrome

Day A day to raise public awareness of Down syndrome and the effective and meaningful inclusion and participation of all people with Down Syndrome in spaces where decisions are being made about matters relating to or affecting their lives. (International)

## 22 Ugadi / Yugadi Ugadi

Yugadi is derived from two Sanskrit words, "yuga" (age) and "ādi" (beginning), to mean "the beginning of a new age". It is celebrated as the first day of the year as it is believed that it was on this day that Lord Brahma created the universe. (Hinduism)

## 22 World Water Day

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. (International)

## **25 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**

This is a United Nations international observation that offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. First observed in 2008, the international day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today. (International)

## **26 Purple Day**

Purple Day is an international grassroots epilepsy awareness initiative created in Nova Scotia by Cassidy Megan. People are encouraged to wear purple on March 26 to promote epilepsy awareness worldwide. (International)

## **30 Ram Navami**

Ram Navami is a Hindu celebration of commemorating the birth of Lord Rama, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu and son of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya. (Hinduism)

## **31 International Transgender Day of Visibility**

The International Transgender Day of Visibility recognizes the struggles, sacrifices and achievements of those who fought, and continue to fight, for gender equity. This day highlights our friends, family, colleagues and neighbours who contribute to the diversity in Canada, and it encourages us to recognize that transgender and non-binary individuals continue to resist oppression by simply being exactly who they are. (International)

# APRIL

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Holy Week/ World Autism Awareness Day/ Palm Sunday	3	4 National Caregiver Day	5	6 Passover/ Theravada New Year//Maundy Thursday/ International Day of Sport for Development and Peace/ International Asexuality Day	7 Good Friday/ International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda/ World Health Day	8 Vesak (Buddha Day)
9 Easter / Day of Valour	10	11	12 International Day of Pink	13	14 Vaisakhi Sinhala and Tamil New Year	15 Vishu
16 National Volunteer Week	17	18 Laylat al-Qadr (Shi'ah)/ Yom HaShoah	19	20	21 Ridván/ Eid Al-Fitr/ World Creativity and Innovation Day	22 Earth Day/ Laylat al-Qadr (Sunni)
23 Canadian Infertility Awareness Week/ St. George's Day	24 Armenian Genocide Memorial Day	25	26	27 Girls in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Day	28 Day of Mourning/ World Day for Health and Safety at Work	29
30 Journey to Freedom Day	1	2	3	4	5	6

# April

Autism Acceptance Month (International)

Celebrate Diversity Month (International)

Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month (Canada)

Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month Sikh Heritage Month (Canada)

Parkinson Awareness Month (Canada)

**2 - 8 Holy Week (Orthodox / Eastern)**

A period of continued fasting and religious observance following the Great Fast (Great Lent), beginning on Palm Sunday and ending with the feast of Pascha. (Christianity)

**6 - 13 Passover / Pesach**

Passover celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. The first two nights are commemorated with telling the story of the exodus from Egypt over a special meal called a Seder. Begins at previous sundown. (Judaism)

**6 - 8 Theravada**

New Year Celebrated for three days following the first full moon in April, Theravadan Buddhists celebrate the new year by going to the temple, offering prayers, wearing new clothes, cleaning their homes, and hosting feasts. The date and length vary among different countries and the diaspora. (Buddhism)

**2 World Autism Awareness Day**

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society. (International)

## 2 Palm Sunday

A Christian celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the week prior to his death and resurrection, which marks the start of Holy Week. (Christianity)

## 4 National Caregiver Day

Unanimously adopted by the Members of Parliament of Canada to recognize the importance of the "invisible" unpaid work, this day provides an opportunity for formal recognition of caregivers and their contributions. (Canada)

## 6 Holy Thursday / Maundy Thursday (Western)

Falling on the Thursday before Easter, Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ. (Christianity)

## 7 World Health Day

A global observance day where each year draws attention to a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world. (International)

## 8 Vesak (Buddha Day)

"Vesak", the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May, is the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the world. It was on the Day of Vesak two and a half millennia ago, in the year 623 B.C., that the Buddha was born. It was also on the Day of Vesak that the Buddha attained enlightenment, and it was on the Day of Vesak that the Buddha in his eightieth year passed away. (Buddhism)

## 9 Easter (Western)

Also called 'Pascha', this is one of the holiest days in the Christian (Western) calendar. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death, three days after his crucifixion. (Christianity)

## 12 International Day of Pink

Celebrated on the second Wednesday of April, this is a day when people around the world are encouraged to put on a pink shirt and stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ2S+ community to continue fighting for equality and acceptance.

## 14 Vaisakhi / Baisakhi

The first day of the solar year, this is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest, especially in North India. Tamils and Sri Lankans celebrate their New Year on this day. In Kerala, South India this day is called Vishu. Especially important to the Sikhs, it marks this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, established the order of 'Khalsa'. The festival is a mixture of feasting, dancing, and worship. (Sikhism)

## 15 Vishu

Vishu is a spring festival observed by Malayali Hindus in Kerala and in adjacent areas of Tamil Nadu, India. Vishu (Sanskrit: "equal") celebrates the vernal equinox when day and night are roughly equal length. (Hinduism)

## 18 Laylat al-Qadr (Shi'ah)

Laylat al-Qadr (Arabic: "Night of Power") is an Islamic festival that commemorates the night on which God first revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel (Jibril). It is most commonly observed on the 23rd night of Ramadan for Shi'ah Muslims and on the 27th for Sunni Muslims. It begins the previous evening. (Shi'ah Islam)

## 18 Yom HaShoah

Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) is an international day of commemoration, started in Israel, on which the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust are memorialized. Begins at previous sundown. (Judaism / international)

## 21 Eid Al-Fitr

A Muslim celebration to mark the end of Ramadan, the holy month of dawn to sunset fasting. This day is celebrated with feasts, gifts, and prayers in honour of God. Begins at previous sundown. (Islam)

## 22 Earth Day

Earth Day aims to raise awareness and demonstrate support of environmental protection, with many events held around the world. (International)

# MAY

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1 Ridván	2	3 World Press Freedom Day	4	5 Dutch Heritage Day/ South Asian Arrival Da	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 International Day of Living Together in Peace	17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia	18 Feast of the Ascension	19	20
21 International Day for Cultural Diversity, for Dialogue and Development	22 National Patriots' Day/ Victoria Da	23	24	25	26 Birthday of Buddha	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

# May

Asian Heritage Month (Canada)

Jewish Heritage Month (Canada)

National Speech and Hearing Month (Canada)

Vision Health Month (Canada) Sexual Assault Awareness Month (Canada)

Dutch Heritage Month (Ontario)

## 5 Dutch Heritage Day

Dutch Heritage Day is a time to honour the sacrifices made by past members of the Canadian armed forces in the liberation of the Netherlands during the Second World War. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions that generations of Dutch Canadians have made—and continue to make—to this country we all know and love. (Canada)

## 5 South Asian Arrival Day

South Asian Arrival Day and South Asian Heritage Month recognize the presence of South Asian people in Ontario, celebrates their heritage, and commemorates their arrival from the Indian subcontinent to the Americas beginning on May 5, 1838. (Ontario)

## 16 International Day of Living Together in Peace

A day that embraces the principle of peace, non-violent conflict resolution and the elimination of all forms of conflict and intolerance including those based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

(International)

### **17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia**

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia was created in 2004 to draw the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics. (International)

### **21 International Day for Cultural Diversity, for Dialogue and Development**

A day to educate people on the importance of cultural diversity and to raise awareness of the related issues faced in today's society. (International)

### **22 Victoria Day**

Victoria Day is celebrated in honour of the birth of Queen Victoria, the first sovereign of Canada, postConfederation. (Canada)

### **26 Birthday of Buddha**

On April 8, Mahayana Buddhists celebrate the commemoration of the birth of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, thought to have lived in India from 563 B.C. to 483 B.C. (Buddhism)

# JUNE

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1 Global Day of Parents/ Intergenerational Day	2 Indian Citizenship Act of 1924	3
4	5	6	7 Clean Air Day	8	9	10
11 Race Unity Day	12 Loving Day	13	14	15	16	17
18 Father's Day/ International Day for Countering Hate Speech	19 Juneteenth	20 World Refugee Day	21 National Indigenous Peoples Day	22 Summer Solstice	23	24 St. Jean Baptiste Day
25	26 The Hajj	27 Helen Keller's Birthday/ Canadian Multiculturalism Day	28 Eid al-Adha	29	30	1

# June

Canadian Men's Health Month (Canada)

Deafblind Awareness Month (Canada)

Filipino Heritage Month (Canada)

Indigenous History Month (Canada)

Italian Heritage Month (Canada)

Portuguese Heritage Month (Canada)

Pride Month (International)

## 1 Global Day of Parents

A day for appreciating all parents for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship. (International)

## 2 - Indian Citizenship Act of 1924:

This act granted Native Americans born in the U.S. citizenship. However, they were not given the right to vote until 1957

## 7 Clean Air Day

Clean Air Day is an annual event to recognize the importance of clean air for public health and the environment. It is an opportunity to encourage Canadians to do their part to help keep the air clean, as well as to create awareness of the Government of Canada's clean air initiatives. (Canada)

## 11 Race Unity Day

## 12 Loving Day:

This day is the anniversary of the court decision that legalizes interracial marriage

## **19 Juneteenth**

Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of African American slaves and is also an opportunity to celebrate African-American culture. It has been celebrated annually on June 19 in various parts of the United States since 1865 and is now starting to be recognized in Canada because of our history of slavery. (United States)

## **20 World Refugee Day**

A day which recognizes the rights of forcibly displaced persons be it refugees, asylum seekers, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and to remind the public that refugees can contribute to society and that every action counts in the effort to create a more just, inclusive, and equal world. (International)

## **21 National Indigenous Peoples Day**

This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. (Canada)

## **21 Summer Solstice**

In the Northern Hemisphere, the Summer Solstice (also known as the June Solstice) occurs when the sun travels along its northernmost path in the sky. The Summer Solstice is the day with the most hours of sunlight in the whole year, making it the “longest day” of the year. This marks the astronomical start of summer in the northern half of the globe. (International)

## **24 St. Jean Baptiste Day**

On June 24, on Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day and the National Day of Quebec, Francophones across the country show their pride by celebrating their language and their traditions. (Canada)

**26 to July 1 – The Hajj:**

This day begins the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims must take once in their lives

**27 Helen Keller's Birthday**

This day celebrates the birth of Helen Kellen, an individual who was both blind and deaf. She was a leading humanitarian in the 20th century as well as one of the co-founders of the ACLU

**28 – Eid al-Adha (Muslim)**

# JULY

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Canada Day
2	3 Asala (Dharma Day)	4	5	6	7	8
9 Martyrdom of the Báb	10	11 World Population Day	12	13	14 International Non-Binary People's Day	15 World Youth Skills Day
16	17	18 Nelson Mandela Day	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 International Day of Friendship	31	1	2	3	4	5

# July

July 19 - August 17

**Muharram** The first month of the Islamic calendar, during which warfare is forbidden. It is one of the four sacred months of the year, held to be the second holiest month after Ramadan. (Islam)

**1 Canada Day**

A day commemorating the enactment of the Constitution Act in 1867 thereby establishing Canada as a new federation with its own constitution. (Canada)

**3 Asala (Dharma Day)**

This celebration marks the day when the Buddha started teaching. Dharma Day is considered a time to reflect on the scriptures and express gratitude for the Buddha's teachings. (Buddhism)

**9 Martyrdom of the Báb**

Commemorates the anniversary of the execution of the Báb in 1850. (Bahá'í)

**11 World Population Day**

A day which is annually observed to reaffirm the human right to plan for a family. It encourages activities, events, and information to help make this right a reality throughout the world. (International)

**14 International Non-Binary People's Day**

July 14 is recognized around the world as International Non-Binary People's Day. This occasion shines a light on those who identify as non-binary and celebrates the rich diversity of the community. (International)

### **15 World Youth Skills Day**

The aim of World Youth Skills Day is to encourage youth to celebrate the value of acquiring and developing skills through technical and vocational education and training. (International)

### **18 Nelson Mandela Day**

Declared by the UN, Mandela Day is a day to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his values, through volunteering and community service, to fight poverty and promote peace, reconciliation, and cultural diversity. (International)

### **30 International Day of Friendship**

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities. (International)

# AUGUST

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 1 Emancipation Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People	10	11	12 International Youth Day
13	14	15 The Assumption of Mary into Heaven	16	17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Women's Equality Day
27	28	29	30 Raksha Bandhan	31 Ganesh Chaturthi	1	2

# August

## 1 Emancipation Day

August 1 is now recognised across Canada as Emancipation Day, marking the end of slavery in the British Empire in 1834. Emancipation Day celebrates the strength and perseverance of Black communities in Canada. (Canada)

## 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People

Pronounced by the UN, this is a day to promote and protect the rights of the world's Indigenous populations and recognize the achievements and contributions that Indigenous peoples make to improve world issues such as environmental protection. (International)

## 12 International Youth Day (IYD)

Held on August 12, this is a day to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions, and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal, and equitable engagement. (International)

## 15 The Assumption of Mary into Heaven (Often shortened to the Assumption)

This refers to Mary's death and ascent to heaven and is celebrated by Catholic and Orthodox Churches. (Christianity)

## 19 World Humanitarian Day

This day is dedicated to humanitarians worldwide, as well as to increase public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities. (International)

### **26 Women's Equality Day:**

This day marks the anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in the year 1920

### **30 Raksha Bandhan**

The Hindu festival celebrates the love, bond and duty that exists between brothers and sisters. It can also be used to celebrate any brother-sister-like relationships even for those who are not biologically related. (Hinduism)

### **31 Ganesh Chaturthi**

This Hindu festival celebrates Lord Ganesha's birth

# SEPTEMBER

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4 Labour Day	5 International Day of Charity	6	7 Ukrainian Heritage Day	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 International Day of Democracy	16
17 Rosh HaShanah	18	19 Ganesh Chaturthi	20	21 International Day of Peace	22	23 Fall Equinox
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day

# September

Acne Awareness Month (Canada)

6 - 7 Krishna Janmashtami

Celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna and his rescue from potential death by the demon Kansa. Lord Krishna was born in a prison, then carried by his father to another village where he was secretly exchanged with a cow herder's daughter for his safety. (Hinduism)

4 Labour Day

Labour Day, the first Monday in September, has been a statutory holiday in Canada since 1894. It originated in the first workers' rallies of the Victorian era. (Canada)

5 International Day of Charity

This is a UN designated day which promotes charitable efforts made to alleviate poverty worldwide. (International)

7 Ukrainian Heritage Day

Ukrainian Heritage Day was created in March 2011, when the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed Bill 155 – the Ukrainian Heritage Day Act, which proclaimed September 7 of each year Ukrainian Heritage Day. September 7, 1891 is the date on which the first Ukrainian immigrants, Vasyl Eleniak and Ivan Pylypiw, arrived in Canada. (Ontario)

15 International Day of Democracy

17 Rosh HaShanah

Rosh HaShanah celebrates the creation of the universe. Begins at previous sundown. (Judaism)

19 Ganesh Chaturthi

This Hindu festival honours one of Hinduism's major deities, Ganesh, the elephant-headed god. He is known as the 'remover of all obstacles' and is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings. (Hinduism)

## **21 International Day of Peace**

This is a day to recognize the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace. It is also considered to be a day of ceasefire – personal or political. (International)

## **23 Fall Equinox**

In the Northern Hemisphere, the Fall Equinox (also known as the Autumnal Equinox or September Equinox) occurs when the sun crosses the equator line, heading south. This event marks the start of the fall or autumn season in the northern half of the globe. (International)

## **30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day**

The day honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. The creation of this federal statutory holiday was through legislative amendments made by Parliament. September 30 is also Orange Shirt Day, a day to wear an orange shirt as a way to remember the story of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, whose orange shirt was taken away from her when she was sent to a residential school at age six. The date was chosen because this was the time of year children were taken from their homes and placed in residential schools. (Canada)

# OCTOBER

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 International Day of Older Persons / National Seniors Day	2	3	4	5 World Teacher Day	6	7
8	9 Thanksgiving	10 World Mental Health Day	11 National Coming Out Day	12	13	14
15	16 Birth of the Báb	17	18 International Pronouns Day	19	20	21
22 International Stuttering Awareness Day	23	24 Dussehra	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween	1	2	3	4

# October

ADHD Awareness Month (International)

Autism Awareness Month (International)

Canadian Islamic History Month (Canada)

Disability Employment Awareness Month (Canada)

German Heritage Month (Canada)

Global Diversity Awareness Month (International)

Healthy Workplace Month (Canada)

Hispanic Heritage Month (Ontario)

Latin American Heritage Month (Canada)

Mark it Read for Dyslexia Awareness Month (Canada)

Mi'kmaq History Month (Nova Scotia)

Women's History Month (Canada)

## 1 International Day of Older Persons / National Seniors Day

An international day to recognize the contributions of older persons / seniors and examine the issues that affect their lives. (International)

## 5 World Teacher Day

A day that celebrates the role teachers play in providing quality education to all levels. This enables children and adults of all ages to learn to take part in and contribute to their local community and global society. (International)

## 9 Thanksgiving

A day of giving thanks to the harvest and blessings of the previous year. (Canada)

## 10 World Mental Health Day

A day with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. (International)

## 10 Indigenous People's Day

## 11 National Coming Out Day

National Coming Out Day in the United States was established in 1988 on the second anniversary of the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay rights. Now expanded into Canada, this day serves as an opportunity to celebrate LGBTQ2S+ identities, decrease stigma, increase awareness, and advocate for change. For some LGBTQ2S+ folks this day is an opportunity to celebrate their identities publicly. (International)

## 16 Birth of the Báb

Celebrates the birth of the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í community. In the Bahá'í calendar, the Birth of the Báb and the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh are celebrated one after the other in one festival referred to as the "Twin Holy Days". (Bahá'í)

### 18 International Pronouns Day

International Pronouns Day is about respect, sharing, education and normalizing personal pronouns. (International)

### 22 International Stuttering Awareness Day

International Stuttering Awareness Day is intended to raise public awareness of stuttering, which affects one percent of the world's population. (International)

### 24 Dussehra

A Hindu celebration on the last day of Navaratri, celebrating the victory of good over evil. (Hinduism) 26 Intersex Awareness Day A day to encourage dialogue and raise awareness on the human rights violations faced by intersex people. (International)

### 31 Halloween

Halloween, which takes place on October 31, is thought to have originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, though it shares important ties with various other celebrations from several faiths and cultures, including Día de los Muertos (or the Day of the Dead), All Saints Day, and All Souls Day. Halloween made its way over to the United States with British and Irish colonists, eventually becoming the holiday we know today, with traditions of door-to-door trick-or-treating and decorations. (International)

# NOVEMBER

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1 All Saints' Day	2 2 Day of the Dead	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Diwali (Hindu)	10	11 Remembrance
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 International Men's Day	20 Transgender Day of Remembrance / National Child Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Guru Nanak Gurpurab	28	29	30	1	2

# November

Diabetes Awareness Month (International)

Family Violence Prevention Month (Alberta and Northwest Territories)

Financial Literacy Month (Canada)

Indigenous Disability Awareness Month (Canada)

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Canada)

## 1 All Saints' Day

All Saint's Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, Feast of All Saints, or Solemnity of All Saints, is a Christian festival celebrated in honour of all the saints, known and unknown. (Christianity)

## 2 Day of the Dead

In Mexico and, to a lesser degree, elsewhere in Latin America, the Day of the Dead (or Día de los Muertos) is an opportunity for family and friends to honor and remember deceased loved ones. The observation of the day likely has roots in the rituals of the pre-Hispanic people of Mexico. After Spanish colonization and the arrival of Catholicism, the holiday became intertwined with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day and is celebrated on All Saints' Day, November 1. (International)

## 9 Diwali (Hindu)

Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is one of the most important festivals in Indian religions. It symbolises the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". The festival is widely associated with conflagrations between good and evil entities.

## 11 Remembrance

Day Commemorates the members of the armed forces who have sacrificed their lives during the World Wars and other military efforts in history and currently. (Canada)

## 19 International Men's Day

International Men's Day celebrates the positive value men bring to the world, their families, and communities, highlights positive role models, and raises awareness of men's well-being and mental health. One of the six pillars of International Men's Day is to improve gender relations and promote gender equality for men and women.

## 20 Transgender Day of Remembrance

A day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia and to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community. (International)

## 20 National Child Day

Canada has declared November 20th as National Child Day to celebrate the rights of children. November 20th was chosen as the day to celebrate National Child Day because the United Nations adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) on November 20, 1989. (Canada)

## 27 Guru Nanak Gurburab

One of the most sacred festivals in Sikhism, Gurburab celebrates the birth of the first Sikh gurus Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism. Guru Nanak is highly revered by the Sikh community and was one of the most celebrated Sikh gurus. (Sikhism)

# DECEMBER

/ 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	1 World AIDS Day	2
3 international Day of Persons with Disabilities	4 International Volunteer Day	5	6	7	8 Bodhi Day	9
10 Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day / Zartosht No-Diso / Death of Prophet Zarathustra	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

# December

Universal Human Rights Month (International)

## 1 World AIDS Day

Designated on December 1 every year since 1988, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease. (International)

## 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Promoted by the UN, this day is to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. (International)

## 4 International Volunteer Day

The United Nations Volunteers Programme coordinates International Volunteer Day on December 5 every year to recognize and promote the tireless work, not just of UN Volunteers, but of volunteers across the globe.  
(International)

### **8 Bodhi Day**

Bodhi Day celebrates the day Siddhartha Gautama, Sakyamuni Buddha, achieved enlightenment. Known as Rohatsu or Jodo-e in Japan and elsewhere by other names, this holiday is widely observed in the Mahayana traditions of East Asia and across the globe. (Buddhism)

### **10 Human Rights Day**

A day to honour the UN General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on December 10, 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights. (Internationale)

### **21 Winter Solstice**

In the Northern Hemisphere, the Winter Solstice occurs when the sun travels along its southernmost path in the sky. The Winter Solstice is the day with the fewest hours of sunlight in the whole year, making it the “shortest day” of the year. This marks the astronomical start of

### **25 Christmas Day**

A holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is recognized as a public holiday in many nations around the world and is also celebrated secularly by many non-Christians. (Christianity)

### **26 Boxing Day**

The day after Christmas Day was traditionally celebrated as the day tradesmen and servants would receive gifts from their employers. (International)

### **26 Zartosht No-Diso / Death of Prophet Zarathustra**

This day marks the death of the founder of the Zoroastrian faith. (Zoroastrianism)