

2025 DIVERSITY CALENDAR

Holidays and Cultural Observances

JANUARY

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|-------|--|---|
| | | | New Year's Day 1 | | 2 | 3 World Braille Day National Ribbon Skirt Day 4 |
| 5 | Epiphany 6 Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti | Christmas / Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox / Eastern) 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | Lohri 13 | Pongal 14-17 Orthodox New Year 14 | 15 | 16 | Raoul Wallenberg Day 17 | 18 |
| 19 | Martin Luther King Jr Day 20 | Lincoln Alexander Day 21 | 22 | 23 | International Day of Education / World Day for African & Afrodescendant Culture 24 | 25 |
| Lailat al Miraj 26-27 26 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day 27 | Lunar New Year / Spring Festival 28 | National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack & Action Against Islamophobia Sadeh 29 | 30 | 31 | |

- Alzheimer's Awareness Month (Canada)
- Tamil Heritage Month (Canada)

JANUARY 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|--------|--|--|
| 14 -17 | Pongal | Pongal is a harvest festival celebrated by the Tamil community. It is a celebration to thank the Sun, Mother Nature and the various farm animals that help to contribute to a bountiful harvest. (Hinduism) |
| 1 | New Year's Day | The first day of the year of the modern Gregorian calendar. (International) |
| 4 | World Braille Day | Observed to raise awareness of the importance of braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people. Celebrated on Louis Braille's birthday, the inventor of braille. (International) |
| 4 | National Ribbon Skirt Day | National Ribbon Skirt Day was declared by parliament in 2022 after Isabella Kulak, a young girl from the Cote First Nation in Saskatchewan, was shamed for wearing a ribbon skirt at her school. Ribbon skirts represent an important part of the identity and history of Indigenous women and girls. On National Ribbon Skirt Day, Indigenous women and girls across Canada are encouraged to wear ribbon skirts to celebrate their culture, strength, and connection. (Canada) |
| 6 | Epiphany | A Christian festival that primarily commemorates the coming of the Wise Men (Magi) to the infant Jesus Christ. Celebrated on January 19 in some Orthodox churches that celebrate Christmas on January 7. (Christianity) |
| 6 | Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti | Honors the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th and last human Guru. Date varies based on the Hindu Bikrami and lunar calendars; also celebrated on December 27, 2025. (Sikhism) |
| 7 | Christmas / Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox / Eastern) | The equivalent of December 25 on the Julian calendar. Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas day on or near this date. (Orthodox Christianity) |
| 13 | Lohri | A popular wintertime Punjabi folk festival, celebrated primarily by Sikhs and Hindus from the Punjab region of Indian subcontinent. (Sikhism / Hinduism) |
| 14 | Orthodox New Year | The start of the new year under the Julian calendar. (Orthodox Christianity) |

JANUARY 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| 17 | Raoul Wallenberg Day | Raoul Wallenberg Day honours Raoul Wallenberg, Canada's first honorary citizen, who is credited with saving the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews. (Canada) |
| 20 | Martin Luther King Jr Day | An American federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. It falls on the third Monday of January, close to King's actual birthday on January 15. (United States) |
| 21 | Lincoln Alexander Day | A day commemorating The Honourable Lincoln Alexander, who was a pioneer in the fight for racial equity in Canada as the first Black Member of Parliament in the House of Commons, the first Black federal Minister, and the first Black Chair of the Worker's Compensation Board of Ontario. (Canada) |
| 24 | International Day of Education | United Nations designated day to advance Sustainable Development Goal 4, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. (International) |
| 24 | World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture | Established by UNESCO, World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture celebrates the many vibrant cultures of the African continent and African Diasporas around the world and promotes them as an effective lever for sustainable development, dialogue and peace. (International) |
| 26 (sundown) - 27 | Lailat al Miraj | A Muslim holiday that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to recite Salat (ritual prayer) five times a day. Also known as Isra and Mi'raj, Al Isra'wal Miraj or Laylat al Miraj. (Islam) |
| 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day | Designated by the United Nations (UN), this day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and commemorates the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism. (International) |
| 28 (evening) - 29 | Lunar New Year / Spring Festival | Beginning of a calendar year based on the lunar calendar. While commonly known as Chinese New Year, LNY is celebrated in many Asian countries including Mongolia, Korea & Vietnam. In China, the Spring Festival is a celebration that begins on New Years Eve of the lunar calendar and lasts for fifteen days, ending with the Lantern Festival. (International) |
| 29 | National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia | A day commemorating the Islamophobic attack that took place at the Grand Mosque in Quebec City, which took the lives of six people and seriously injured 19 others. The Government of Canada established this commemorative day in 2021 to honour the victims and express solidarity with the survivors of this tragedy. (Canada) |
| 29 | Sadeh | An ancient Persian mid-winter festival, celebrating the end of the coldest days. Sadeh, meaning "one hundred" in Farsi, marks 50 days and 50 nights before the beginning of spring. (Persian/Iranian/Zoroastrianism) |

FEBRUARY

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | World Interfaith Harmony Week 1-7 World Hijab Day Imbolc / Imbolg / Oimealc / Candlemas 1 |
| White Cane Week 2-8 Groundhog Day Vasant Panchami 2 | 3 | World Cancer Day 4 | 5 | International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | International Day of Women & Girls in Science Thaipusam 11 | Lantern Festival Māgha Pūjā 12 | World Radio Day 13 | Valentine's Day 14 | National Flag of Canada Day Parinirvana / Nirvana Day 15 |
| Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week 16-22 16 | Family Day Islander Day Louis Riel Day Nova Scotia Heritage Day 17 | 18 | 19 | World Day of Social Justice 20 | International Mother Language Day 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | Pink Shirt Day Maha Shivaratri 26 | 27 | Nineteen Day Fast Losar (Tibetan New Year) Ramadan 28 | |

- Black History Month (Canada)
- African Heritage Month (Nova Scotia)

FEBRUARY 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 1-7 | World Interfaith Harmony Week | World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February, after General Assembly designation in 2010. The General Assembly pointed out that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace and established World Interfaith Harmony Week as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith. (International) |
| 2-8 | White Cane Week | White Cane Week, occurring the first full week of February, was created by the Canadian Council of the Blind to raise public awareness of the reality of life for Canadians living with vision loss. (Canada) |
| 16-22 | Aromantic Spectrum Awareness | Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week (ASAW) is an annual, international event meant to spread awareness and acceptance of aromantic spectrum identities and the issues we face, as well as making more people aware of our existence while celebrating it. (International) |
| 28 (sundown) – March 19 | 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. (Bahá'í) |
| 1 | World Hijab Day | Founded by Nazma Khan, World Hijab Day recognizes the millions of Muslim women who choose to wear the hijab and was created to foster religious tolerance and understanding by inviting women (non-Hijabi Muslims/non-Muslims) to experience the hijab for one day. (International) |
| 1 | Imbolc / Imbolg / Oimelc / Candlemas | Imbolc is a festival of the returning light when days are getting noticeably longer, and signs of new plant life emerge. “Imbolc” comes from an archaic Gaelic expression “in the belly”, which signaled the first stirrings of life within the womb of mother earth. Traditionally, Imbolc is a time of cleansing and purification. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid) |
| 2 | Vasant Panchami | A Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring, and is dedicated to the Hindu Goddess Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, wisdom, learning, and art. (Hinduism) |
| 2 | Groundhog Day | A popular tradition in Canada and the United States derived from Pennsylvania Dutch superstition. If a groundhog emerges from its burrow on this day and sees its shadow, winter is said to continue for six more weeks; if it does not see its shadow, spring is said to arrive early. (International) |
| 4 | World Cancer Day | An international awareness day led by the Union for International Cancer Control to raise worldwide attention and inspire action for a cancer-free world. (International) |

FEBRUARY 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|------|---|--|
| 6 | International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation | To promote the elimination of female genital mutilation, and to engender greater focus on human rights, gender equality, sexual education, and attention to the needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences. (International) |
| 11 | International Day of Women and Girls in Science | A day designated for the dismantling of gender stereotypes – specifically to end institutional and systemic gender imbalances in science. (International) |
| 11 | Thaipusam | A Hindu festival celebrated by the Tamil community in India and by the Tamil diaspora worldwide. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and wisdom over ignorance. (Hinduism) |
| 12 | Lantern Festival | The Lantern Festival, celebrated in China and other Asian countries by decorating homes and streets with colourful lanterns, honours deceased ancestors and promotes reconciliation, peace, and forgiveness. The holiday occurs on the 15 th day of the first month of the lunar calendar and marks the first full moon of the new lunar year and the end of the Spring Festival. (International) |
| 12 | Māgha Pūjā | 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 Tabauing in Myanmar. It celebrates a gathering between the Buddha and 1,250 of his first disciples. (Buddhism) |
| 13 | World Radio Day | An international day for recognizing the enduring power of radio to promote the pluralism, representation, and diversity that is needed to build a more peaceful and inclusive world. (International) |
| 14 | Valentine's Day | A day of romance when people celebrate their love for one another. The origin of this holiday dates back to the 5th century and is named after a Christian martyr, St. Valentine. (International) |
| 14 | 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) |
| 15 | National Flag of Canada Day | A day that commemorates the inauguration of the Canadian flag in 1965. The day is marked by flying the flag, occasional public ceremonies, and educational programs in schools. (Canada) |

FEBRUARY 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 15 | Parinirvana / Nirvana Day | An annual Mahayana Buddhist festival that commemorates of the death of Buddha and his entry into Nirvana, which is believed to be a release from the cycle of death and rebirth. Sometimes celebrated on February 8 th . (Buddhism) |
| 17 | Family Day | Civic holiday in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick, which celebrates the importance of family. (Canada) |
| 17 | Islander Day | A civic holiday observed in Prince Edward Island in celebration of family and community. (Canada) |
| 17 | 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) |
| 17 | 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) |
| 20 | World Day of Social Justice | A day which recognizes the International Labour Organization's 'Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization'. It is premised on the tenet that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among nations - by removing barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or disability. (International) |
| 21 | International Mother Language Day | A worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. (International) |
| 26 | Pink Shirt Day | An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying. (International) |
| 26 | Maha Shivaratri | Sanskrit for "Great Night of Shiva", Maha Shivaratri is a Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of the god Shiva. The festival is one of the one of the most significant Hindu spiritual festivals, and is observed by fasting, jagran (all-night vigil), and worship. (Hinduism) |
| 26 (sundown) - 27 | Lailat al Miraj | A Muslim holiday that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to recite Salat (ritual prayer) five times a day. Also known as Isra and Mi'raj, Al Isra'wal Miraj or Laylat al Miraj. (Islam) |
| 28 | Losar (Tibetan New Year) | A new year's festival celebrated on the first day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar, which corresponds to a date in Feb. or Mar. in the Gregorian calendar. It is one the most festive periods of the year observed with many religious & cultural events. (Tibet) |

MARCH

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | Zero Discrimination Day 1 Self-harm Awareness Day Disability Day of Mourning Nineteen Day Fast Feb 28-19 Ramadan Feb 28-Mar. 29 |
| | 2 Black Mental Health Day & Week 3-9 Lent (Western) 5-Apr 17 Great Lent/Fast 3-Apr 12 (Orthodox / Eastern) | 3 Shrove Tuesday 4 Mardi Gras | 4 Ash Wednesday 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 International Women's Day |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Purim 13-14 Holi 13-15 | 14 Hola Mohalla 14-16 Chötrul Düchen | 15 International Day to Combat Islamophobia |
| 16 | 17 St. Patrick's Day Neurodiversity Celebration Week 17-23 | 18 Chaharshanbe Suri | 19-20 Nowruz / Norouz | 19 Two-Spirit & Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day Int. Day of Happiness Int. Francophonie Day Ostara / Eostre / Spring Equinox | 20 World Down Syndrome Day Int. Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | 21 World Water Day 22 |
| 23 Laylat al-Qadr (Shi'ah) 23-24 | 24 Int. Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations & for the Dignity of Victims | 25 Int. Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery & the Transatlantic Slave Trade Feast of the Annunciation | 26 Khordad Sal Purple Day | 27 Laylat al-Qadr (Sunni) 27-28 Muslim Women's Day | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Ugadi / Yugadi Eid Al-Fitr 30-31 | 31 International Transgender Day of Visibility | | | | | |

- [Women's History Month](#) (International)
- [Irish Heritage Month](#) (Canada)
- [Bangladeshi Heritage Month](#) (Ontario)
- [Multiculturalism Month](#) (Newfoundland and Labrador)
- [Epilepsy Awareness Month](#) (Canada)

MARCH 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|---|--|---|
| Feb. 28 (sundown) - Mar. 29 (estimate) | 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. Prayers begin in the evening and fasting begins on the next day. (Islam) |
| 3-9 | Black Mental Health Week | Started in 2021, Black Mental Health Week aims to provide greater opportunity to cultivate greater awareness of the impacts of anti-Black racism on Black communities, families and individuals. (Toronto) |
| 5 - Apr. 17 | Lent (Western) | A 40-day period of fasting (excluding Sundays) in preparation for Easter. This period is observed by abstaining from certain foods, drinks, and activities, increased prayer, personal improvement, and participating in charity (almsgiving). (Christianity) |
| 17-23 | Neurodiversity Celebration Week | A worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. It aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported, and recognizing the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent, while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual. (International) |
| 3 - Apr. 12 | Great Lent, or the Great Fast (Orthodox / Eastern) | A 40-day period of fasting (including Sundays) in preparation for the feast of Pascha. This period is observed by abstaining from certain foods, drinks, and activities, increased prayer, personal improvement, and participating in charity (almsgiving). Fasting is continued during the Great and Holy Week between Lent and Pascha. (Orthodox Christianity) |
| 14-16 | 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) |
| 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) |

MARCH 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Disability Day of Mourning | Every year on March 1st, the disability community comes together to remember the victims of filicide – people with disabilities killed by their family members. Vigils are held on the Day of Mourning in cities around the world. (International) |
| 3 | Black Mental Health Day | First recognized in 2020 by the City of Toronto, Taibu Community Health Center, CAFCAN and Strides Toronto, Black Mental Health Day is observed each year on the first Monday in March. Black Mental Health Day is a call to recognize the ongoing impact on mental health that results from experiences of anti-Black racism and to raise awareness of the specific mental health needs of Black communities. (Toronto) |
| 4 | Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras | Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day or Mardi Gras, is the day before Ash Wednesday, signifying the start of Lent in Christian traditions. On this day, people historically “shrove” or confessed their sins before the fasting period of Lent. Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras are now commonly associated with indulging in rich foods to use up ingredients like eggs and butter before the Lenten fast. In New Orleans and other parts of the world with large Roman Catholic populations, Mardi Gras, Carnival, or Carnaval, is celebrated as a lively, colourful event marking the end of the festive season before Lent. (Christianity) |
| 5 | Ash Wednesday | Marks the first day of Lent. The name is derived from the symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence. (Christianity) |
| 7 | 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) |
| 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) |
| 13 (sundown) - 14 | 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) |
| 14 | 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) |
| 15 | International Day to Combat Islamophobia | In 2022, the UN General Assembly decided to proclaim March 15 the International Day to Combat Islamophobia and called for strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and the diversity of religions and beliefs. (International) |

MARCH 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|------------------------|--|--|
| 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) |
| 18 | Chaharshanbe Suri | An ancient Persian festival dating back to 1700 BCE, marks the eve of the last Wednesday before the New Year (Nowruz). The celebration symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and purity over pollution. (Persian/Iranian/Zoroastrianism) |
| 19 (sundown) -20 | Nowruz / Norouz | The word "Nowruz" (spelling varies: 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. Date may vary based on faith; may also be celebrated on March 21, 2025. (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 | Ostara / Eostre / Spring Equinox | Ostara, named for the Norse goddess Eostre, celebrates the Spring Equinox and the warming days. Celebrations focus on the themes of fertility, birth, and new beginnings. After planning and gathering energy earlier in the year, Ostara marks a time for action. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid) |
| 20 | International Francophonie Day | A day to celebrate the French language, culture, and values. (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 | 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) |

MARCH 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| 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) |
| 20 | Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day | Advocated by the Two-Spirit community and created in partnership with the Two-Spirit Program at the CBRC, this annual event will recognize and celebrate the diverse sexualities and gender expressions that exist within Indigenous communities. (Canada) |
| 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) |
| 24 | International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims | This day was started in remembrance of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador who was assassinated in 1980 for denouncing violations of human rights. Its purpose is to honour the memories of victims and heroes whose lives were devoted or lost in the pursuit of human rights or its denial therein. (International) |
| 23 (sundown) - 24 | 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'ān to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel (Jibrīl). It is most commonly observed on the 23rd night of Ramadan for Shi'ah Muslims and on the 27th for Sunni Muslims. (Shi'ah Islam) |
| 13 (evening) - 25 | Holi | Hindu spring festival celebrated predominantly in India by both Hindu and non-Hindu people, also known as the "festival of colours" or "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) |
| 25 | Feast of the Annunciation | Annunciation commemorates the day Jesus's mother, Mary, was visited by an angel to inform her that she was blessed and chosen to be the mother of Christ. (Christianity) |
| 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) |

MARCH 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| 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) |
| 27 | Muslim Women's Day | Muslim Women's Day was launched in 2017 by muslimgirl.com with the aim to elevate stories and share experiences from the community in the mainstream media. (International) |
| 27 (sundown) – 28 | Laylat al-Qadr (Sunni) | Laylat al-Qadr (Arabic: “Night of Power”) is an Islamic festival that commemorates the night on which God first revealed the Qur’ān to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel (Jibrīl). Laylat ul Qadr falls on odd nights during the last ten days of Ramadan (in the Hijri calendar). It is most commonly observed on the 23rd night of Ramadan for Shi’ah Muslims and on the 27th for Sunni Muslims, but an exact date is not specified and many muslims will dedicate additional prayers on all odd nights during this period. (Sunni Islam) |
| 30 | 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) |
| 30 (sundown) – 31 | 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. Eid Al-Fitr falls on the sighting of the crescent moon at the end of the month of Ramadan, which may vary between 29 and 30 days. The exact date remains uncertain until the night before and may differ among countries due to variations in moon sightings. Celebrations may last up to 3 days. (Islam) |
| 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

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | National Caregiver Day ¹ Lent (Western) Mar 5-Apr 17 Great Lent/Fast Mar 3-Apr 12 (Orthodox / Eastern) | World Autism Day ² | | | |
| Int. Day of Sport for Development & Peace Int. Asexuality Day ⁶ | Int. Day of Reflection on 1994 Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda World Health Day ⁷ | Birthday Budha ⁸ International Roma Day | Day of Valour / Araw ng Kagitingan Int. Day of Pink ⁹ | Mahavir Jayanti / Mahavir Janma Kalyanak ¹⁰ | | Passover / Pesach 12-20 ¹¹ ¹² |
| Palm Sunday ¹³ (Western / Orthodox / Eastern) Theravada New Year 13-15 Holy Week (Western) 13-19 Great & Holy Week 13-20 (Orthodox / Eastern) | Vaisakhi / Baisakhi ¹⁴ Sinhala & Tamil New Year Vishu | | Equal Pay Day ¹⁶ | Holy Thursday / Maundy ¹⁷ Thurs. Holy Thurs. (Orthodox / Eastern) | Good Friday / Holy ¹⁸ Friday (Orthodox / Eastern) | |
| Easter / Pascha ²⁰ (Orthodox / Eastern) Canadian Fertility Awareness Week 20-26 Ridván 20-May 2 | Easter Monday ²¹ World Creativity & Innovation Day | Earth Day ²² | St. George's Day ²³ Yom HaShoah | Armenian Genocide ²⁴ Memorial Day Girls in ICT Day | | |
| National Volunteer ²⁷ Week 27-May 4 | Day of Mourning ²⁸ World Day for Health & Safety at Work | | Journey to Freedom ³⁰ Day | | | |

- Arab Heritage Month
- Autism Acceptance Month
- Celebrate Diversity Month
- Genocide Remembrance Month
- Limb Loss and Limb Difference Awareness Month
- Sikh Heritage Month
- Parkinson Awareness Month

APRIL 2025

| Date | Name | Description |
|----------------------|--|--|
| 2 (sundown) - 20 | 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. (Judaism) |
| 13-15 | 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) |
| 13-19 | Holy Week (Western) | period of continued fasting and religious observance following Lent, beginning on Palm Sunday and ending with Easter. (Christianity) |
| 13 - 20 | Great and Holy Week (Orthodox / Eastern) | A period of continued fasting and religious observance following the Great Fast (Great Lent), beginning on Lazarus Saturday and ending with the feast of Pascha. (Orthodox Christianity) |
| 20 - 26 | Canadian Fertility Awareness Week | A week to raise awareness and recognize the unique difficulties experienced by people affected by infertility. (Canada) |
| 20 (sundown) - May 2 | Ridván | "Ridván" translates to "paradise". The 12-day festival is the holiest time for Bahá'ís. It commemorates the 12 days that Baha'u'llah spent in the Garden of Ridvan in the last days of his exile in Baghdad and announced that he was the prophet whose coming had been foretold. Bahá'ís do not work on the 1st, 9th or 12th days of Ridvan. (Bahá'í) |
| 27 - May 4 | National Volunteer Week | National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 24 million volunteers. (Canada) |
| 1 | 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. |
| 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) |
| 3 | Sizdah Be-dar | Also known as Nature Day, this festivity marks the end of the Nowruz celebrations, and is often celebrated by picnicking outdoors in nature. (Persian/Iranian/Zoroastrianism) |

MAY

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|------|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | Beltane / May Eve / May Day 1 Ridván Apr 20-May 2 National Volunteer Week Apr 27-May 4 | 2 | World Press Freedom Day 3 |
| | 4 Dutch Heritage Day 5 South Asian Arrival Day Red Dress Day | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Mother's Day 11 | Vesak (Buddha Day) 12 | 13 | 14 | Int. Day of Families 15 Global Accessibility Awareness Day Lag Ba'Omer 15-16 | Moose Hide Campaign 16 Day Int. Day of Living Together in Peace | Int. Day Against 17 Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia |
| Québec 18 Intergenerational Week 18-24 | National Patriots' Day 19 Victoria Day | 20 | World Day for Cultural 21 Diversity, for Dialogue and Development | Declaration of the Báb 22 22-23 | 23 | Pansexual and 24 Panromantic Visibility Day |
| Africa Day 25 National AccessAbility Week 25-31 | Anti-Racism 26 Awareness Week 26-30 | 27 | Ascension of Baha'u'llah 28 Red Shirt Day of Action for AccessAbility and Inclusion | Feast of the Ascension 29 | Provincial 30 Francophonie Day World MS Day | 31 |

- 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)
- Polish Heritage Month (Canada)
- MS Awareness Month

JUNE

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Global Day of Parents 1 Intergenerational Day Cdn Environment Week 1-7 Shavu'ot 1-3 | 2 | 3 | Treaty Day (New Brunswick) Clean Air Day Hajj 4-9 | 4 | 5 | Eid al-Adha 6-9 6 7 |
| Pentecost 8 | 9 | Action Anxiety Day / World Anxiety Day 10 | Saga Dawa Düchen 11 | Independence Day, Philippines / Araw ng Kasarinlán 12 | International Albinism Awareness Day 13 | 14 |
| Father's Day 15 National Public Service Week 15-21 | Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev 16 | 17 | International Day for Countering Hate Speech 18 | Juneteenth 19 | World Refugee Day 20 Summer Solstice / Litha / Midsummer | National Indigenous Peoples Day 21 |
| 22 | International Widows' Day 23 | St. Jean Baptiste Day 24 | 25 | 26 | Canadian Multiculturalism Day 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

- 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 Season (International; may vary from June to September)



JULY

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|----------|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| | | Canada Day 1 Beaumont Hamel Memorial Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | Ashura 5 |
| Ashura 6 | 7 | Martyrdom of the Báb 8 | Nunavut Day 9 Martyrdom of the Báb | Asalha Puja 10 (Dharma Day) | World Population Day 11 Imamat Day | Orangemen's Day 12 |
| 13 | International Non- Binary People's Day 14 | World Youth 15 Skills Day | 16 | 17 | Nelson Mandela Day 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | International 24 Self-Care Day | 25 | Islamic New Year / 26 Hijri New Year |
| 27 | World Hepatitis Day 28 Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval Chökhör Düchen | 29 | International Day of 30 Friendship | 31 | | |

- Disability Pride Month
- Tibetan Heritage Month (Ontario)

AUGUST

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | Emancipation Day 1 Lammas / Lughnasadh / Lughnasad World Breastfeeding Week 1-7 | Tisha B'Av 2-3 2 |
| 3 | Civic Holiday 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | Int. Day of the World's Indigenous People Raksha Bandhan 9 |
| 10 | 11 | International Youth Day 12 | Obon 13-15 13 | 14 | The Assumption of Mary into Heaven National Acadian Day 15 | Krishna 16 Janmashtami |
| 17 | Discovery Day 18 Public Service Pride Week 18-22 | World Humanitarian Day 19 | 20 | Paryushana 21-28 21 | 22 | International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 23 |
| 24 | 25 | Onam 26-Sep 4 26 | Ganesh Chaturthi 27 | Das Lakshan 28 28-Sep 6 | 29 | 30 |
| International Overdose Awareness Day 31 | | | | | | |

SEPTEMBER

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----|
| | Labour Day 1 Onam Aug 26-Sep 4 Das Lakshan Aug 28-Sep 6 | 2 | 3 | Mawlid al-Nabī / Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi 4-5 | International Day of Charity 5 | 6 |
| Ukrainian Heritage Day 7 | International Literacy Day 8 | 9 | World Suicide Prevention Day 10 | Ethiopian New Year / Enkutatash 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Mennonite Heritage Week 14-20 | 15 | 16 | 17 | International Equal Pay Day 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Int. Day of Peace 21 Gender Equality Week 21-27 | Fall Equinox / Mabon / Harvest Home 22 Rosh HaShanah 22-24 Int. Week of Deaf People 22-28 Navratri / Navaratri 22-Oct 2 | Int. Day of Sign Languages Bi Visibility Day 23 | 24 | Franco-Ontarian Day 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | National Day for Truth & Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day 30 | | | | |

- Acne Awareness Month (Canada)

OCTOBER

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 Int. Day of Older Persons / National Seniors Day Treaty Day (Nova Scotia) Yom Kippur Navratri / Navaratri | 2 Yom Kippur Dussehra / Vijayadashami Navratri / Navaratri | | 3 National Day of Action for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, & 2SLGBTQI+ people St. Francis Day |
| 5 World Teachers' Day Mental Illness Awareness Week 5-11 | 6 Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Cake Festival) Sukkot 6-13 | 7 | 8 International Lesbian Day | 9 | 10 World Mental Health Day | 11 International Day of the Girl Child National Coming Out Day |
| 12 Workplace Bullying Awareness Week 12-18 | 13 Thanksgiving Shemini Atzeret | 14 Simchat Torah 14-15 | 15 Int. Day of Rural Women International Pronouns Day | 16 | 17 | 18 Persons Day |
| 19 Invisible Disabilities Week 19-25 Ace Week 19-25 | 20 Diwali 20-25 Bandi Chhor Divas 20-25 | 21 Birth of the Báb 21-22 | 22 Int. Stuttering Awareness Day Birth of Bahá'u'lláh 22-23 | 23 | 24 Bandi Chhor Divas | 25 |
| 26 Intersex Awareness Day | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Halloween Samhain / Samhuinn / Hallows | |

- ADHD Awareness Month (International)
- Alternative & Augmentative Communication (AAC) 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)

NOVEMBER

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | All Saints' Day ¹ Samhain / Samhuinn / Hallows Day of the Dead |
| Day of the Dead ² All Souls Day Treaties Recognition Week 2-8 | XXXXXXXX ³ | ⁴ | Veterans' Week ⁵ 5-11 | ⁶ | ⁷ | Indigenous Veterans ⁸ Day |
| ⁹ | ¹⁰ | Remembrance Day ¹¹ Lha Bab Düchen | ¹² | ¹³ | World Diabetes Day ¹⁴ | Guru Nanak ¹⁵ Gurpurab |
| International Day for ¹⁶ Tolerance Restorative Justice Week 16-22 | ¹⁷ | ¹⁸ | International Men's ¹⁹ Day | Transgender Day of ²⁰ Remembrance National Child Day | ²¹ | National Housing Day ²² Holodomor Memorial Day |
| National Addictions ²³ Awareness Week 23-29 | Martyrdom of Guru ²⁴ Teg Bahadur Canada History Week 24-30 | Int. Day for the Elimination ²⁵ of Violence Against Women 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence 25-Dec 10 | ²⁶ | ²⁷ | ²⁸ | ²⁹ |
| ³⁰ | | | | | | |

- Diabetes Awareness Month (International)
- Family Violence Prevention Month (Alberta & Northwest Territories)
- Financial Literacy Month (Canada)

- Hindu Heritage Month (Canada and Ontario)
- Indigenous Disability Awareness Month (Canada)
- National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Canada)

DECEMBER

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|--|------------------|---|--|
| | World AIDS Day 1 Advent 1-24 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Nov 25-Dec 10 | International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2 | International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3 | 4 | International 5 Volunteer Day | National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women 6 St. Nicholas Day / Feast of Saint Nicholas |
| 7 | Bodhi Day / Rōhatsu 8 Pansexual Pride Day Feast of Immaculate Conception | 9 | Human Rights Day 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Chanukah / 14 Hanukkah 14-27 | 15 | Day of 16 Reconciliation | International 17 Migrants Day | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Winter Solstice / Yule 21 Yaldā / Chella | 22 | Tibbs Eve 23 | Christmas Eve 24 | Christmas Day 25 | Boxing Day 26 Zartosht No-Diso / Death of Kwanzaa Prophet Zarathustra Kwanzaa 26-Jan1 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

- Universal Human Rights Month (International)