

2026 DIVERSITY CALENDAR

Holidays and Cultural Observances

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			New Year's Day 1	2	3	World Braille Day 4 National Ribbon Skirt Day
5	Epiphany 6 Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti	Christmas / Feast of the Nativity 7 (Orthodox / Eastern)	8	9	10	11
12	Lohri 13	Pongal 14-17 14 Orthodox New Year	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 2026

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 2026

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 / Oimelc / 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 26 Maha Shivaratri	27	Nineteen Day Fast Losar (Tibetan New Year) Ramadan 28	

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

FEBRUARY 2026

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 2026

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 Tabaung 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 2026

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

Lent (Western) 1 - 31
Ramadan
Great Lent, or the Great Fast (Orthodox / Eastern)
Zero Discrimination Day
Self-harm Awareness Day
Disability Day of Mourning)

1

Black Mental Health Week 2 - 8
Nineteen Day Fast
Black Mental Health Day
Purim

2

Māgha Pūjā
Lantern Festival
Chötrul Düchen

3

Hola Mohalla 4 - 6
Holi
Employee Appreciation Day

4

5

6

7

International Women's Day

8

Laylat al-Qadr

9

10

11

12

Hola Mohalla 14-16

13

14

International Day to Combat Islamophobia

15

Neurodiversity Celebration Week 16 - 22

16

Saint Patrick's Day
Chaharshanbe Suri

17

18

Navratri / Navaratri
Ugadi / Yugadi
Nowruz / Norouz

19

Nowruz / Norouz
Eid Al-Fitr
Ostara / Spring Equinox
International Francophonie Day
International Day of Happiness
Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day

20

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
World Down Syndrome Day

21

World Water Day

22

23

International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims

24

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

25

Khordad Sal
Purple Day
Ram Navami

26

Muslim Women's Day

27

28

Holy Week (Western)
Palm Sunday (Western)

29

30

Mahavir Jayanti / Mahavir Janma Kalyanak
International Transgender Day of Visibility

31

MARCH 2026

Date	Name	Description
All Month	Women's History Month (International) Irish Heritage Month (Canada) Bangladeshi Heritage Month (Ontario) Multiculturalism Month (Newfoundland and Labrador) Epilepsy Awareness Month (Canada) Endometriosis Awareness Month (Nova Scotia & Ontario)	
2-8	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)
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. (Bahá'í)
16-22	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)
Feb 23 - Apr. 11	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)
4-6	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)
9-19	Laylat al-Qadr	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)

MARCH 2026

Date	Name	Description
Feb. 17 (sundown) - Mar. 19	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)
Feb 18 - Apr. 2	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)
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)
2	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	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)
4	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)

MARCH 2026

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)
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)
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)
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)
29	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)

MARCH 2026

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 (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)
19	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 19-22 sundown	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
			Lent (Western) Great Lent, or the Great Fast (Orthodox / Eastern) Holy Week (Western) Passover / Pesach	1 Theravada New Year World Autism Awareness Day Sizzdah Be-dar Holy Thursday / Maundy Thursday (Western)	2 Good Friday	3 4
Palm Sunday	5 Easter Monday International Asexuality Day	6 National Caregiver Day International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda World Health Day	7 Birthday of Buddha International Roma Day International Day of Pink	8 Day of Valour / Araw ng Kagitingan Holy Thursday (Orthodox / Eastern)	9 Equal Pay Day Good Friday / Holy Friday (Orthodox / Eastern)	10 11
Easter / Pascha (Orthodox / Eastern)	12 Vaisakhi / Baisakhi Yom HaShoah	13 Sinhala and Tamil New Year Vishu	14	15	16	17 18
National Volunteer Week 19	19	20 Ridván - 30	21 Earth Day	22 Girls in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Day	23 Armenian Genocide Memorial Day	24 25
26	27 Day of Mourning World Day for Health & Safety at Work	28	29	30 Journey to Freedom Day		

APRIL 2026

Date	Name	Description
1-9	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)
2	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)
5-11	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)
21 – 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)
19-25	National Volunteer Week	National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 24 million volunteers. (Canada)
7	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)
2	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)

APRIL 2026

Date	Name	Description
2	Holy Thursday / Maundy Thursday (Western)	Falling on the Thursday before Easter, Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ. (Christianity)
3	Good Friday (Western)	A Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. (Christianity)
5	Easter (Western)	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)
5	Palm Sunday (Orthodox / Eastern)	A Christian celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the week prior to his death and resurrection, which marks the start of the Great and Holy Week. (Orthodox Christianity)
6	International Asexuality Day	International Asexuality Day is a coordinated worldwide campaign promoting the asexuality umbrella, including demisexual, grey-asexual and other ace identities. The four themes of International Asexuality Day are: advocacy, celebration, education, and solidarity. (International)
6	Easter Monday (Western)	Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death. It is observed as a holiday in some countries. (Christianity)
7	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)
7	International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda	On April 7, UNESCO commemorates the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. The date marks the beginning of the genocide perpetrated against members of the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led government. Within just over 100 days, more than 1 million Tutsi were systematically murdered. Moderate Hutu and others who opposed the massacres were also killed during this period. (International)

APRIL 2026

Date	Name	Description
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	Birthday of Buddha	Commemorates the birth of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Buddha's birthday is celebrated by Mahayana Buddhists in East Asia and around the world on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month, April 8th (Japan), or on the second Sunday of May (Taiwan). The exact date may vary depending on the calendars and calculations used in different traditions and countries. (Mahayana Buddhism)
5	International Roma Day	International Roma Day is devoted to Europe's largest ethnic minority, the Roma, a predominant part of whom suffer from discrimination and isolation. This day also focuses on Roma history, culture, language and aspirations, which remain largely unknown in Europe, even though they are key to mutual understanding and can contribute to closing the gap between communities. (International)
8	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. (International)
9	Day of Valour / Araw ng Kagitingan	Day of Valour, also known as "Araw ng Kagitingan", commemorates the Fall of Bataan and the courage of Filipino and American defenders during WWII. (Philippines)
9	Holy Thursday (Orthodox / Eastern)	Falling on the Thursday before Pascha, Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ. (Orthodox Christianity)
10	Equal Pay Day	First recognized in Ontario in 2014, Equal Pay Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the gender pay gap by highlighting that women must work longer than men to earn the same amount. Equal Pay Day shifts each year, marking the date that an average woman would have to work into the new year to earn what an average man earned in the previous year. Current date reflects last year's date as we are not yet aware of this year's date. Please see organization website for accurate date. (Ontario)

APRIL 2026

Date	Name	Description
10	Good Friday / Holy Friday (Orthodox / Eastern)	A Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. (Orthodox Christianity)
12	Easter / Pascha (Orthodox / Eastern)	One of the holiest days in the Christian (Eastern) calendar. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death, three days after his crucifixion. (Orthodox Christianity)
13	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)
13-14	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. (Judaism / international)
14	Sinhala and Tamil New Year	In Sri Lanka, the Sinhalese and Tamil communities celebrate the new year, known as 'Aluth Avurudha' in Sinhala and 'Puththandu' in Tamil, as the sun moves from Pisces to Aries marking the end of the harvest season. The new year is celebrated by both communities through various rituals and customs. (Sri Lanka)
14	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)
22	Earth Day	Earth Day aims to raise awareness and demonstrate support of environmental protection, with many events held around the world. (International)
23	St. George's Day	This day is meant to celebrate the feast day of the Christian saint, St. George, who was a roman soldier and martyr. It is also observed as a provincial holiday in Newfoundland and Labrador. (Christianity)
23	Girls in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Day	This is a designated day for the creation of a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider studies and careers in the growing field of information and communication technologies. (International)



APRIL 2026

Date	Name	Description
24	Armenian Genocide Memorial Day	Armenian Genocide Memorial Day is a public holiday in Armenia and is observed by the Armenian diaspora to commemorate the victims of the Armenian genocide (also called Medz Yeghern in Armenian, meaning "great crime") of 1915. (International)
28	Day of Mourning	The National Day of Mourning, held annually in Canada on April 28, is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives, suffered injury or illness on the job or a work-related tragedy. (Canada)
28	World Day for Health and Safety at Work	The National Day of Mourning, held annually in Canada on April 28, is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives, suffered injury or illness on the job or a work-related tragedy. (Canada)
30	Journey to Freedom Day	A national day of commemoration of the exodus of Vietnamese refugees and their acceptance in Canada after the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. (Canada)

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					Ridván Beltane / May Eve / May Day	12
World Press Freedom Day	3 Mental Health Week 4-10 Lag Ba'Omer 4-5	4 Dutch Heritage Day South Asian Arrival Day Red Dress Day	5	6	7	89
Mother's Day	10	Vesak (Buddha Day)	11	12	13	14 Nakba Day International Day of Families Moose Hide Campaign Day
17 Québec Intergenerational Week International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia	18 National Patriots' Day Victoria Day	19	20 Shavu'ot Global Accessibility Awareness Day World Day for Cultural Diversity, for Dialogue and Development	21	22	23 International Day of Living Together in Peace
24 Pansexual and Panromantic Visibility Day	25 National AccessAbility Week Hajj Anti-Racism Awareness Week Africa Day	26 Eid al-Adha Declaration of the Báb	27	28 Red Shirt Day of Action for AccessAbility and Inclusion	29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah	30 Provincial Francophonie Day World MS Day
31 Canadian Environment Week Saga Dawa Düchen						

- 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

MAY 2026

Date	Name	Description
4 - 10	Mental Health Week	Each year during the first full week of May, the Canadian Mental Health Association encourages Canadians to focus on mental health. Each year CMHA develops a theme to help spotlight a different element of the mental health landscape. (Canada)
17 - 23	Québec Intergenerational Week	Every year since 1987, Québec has celebrated and promoted initiatives that encourage exchanges between generations. Coordinated by Intergénérations Québec, Québec Intergenerational Week is a unique opportunity to highlight and promote intergenerational activities in Québec. (Québec)
21 (sundown) - 23	Shavu'ot	A Jewish observance of the giving of the Torah, the biblical laws of Judaism, from God to the nation of Israel. (Judaism)
24 - 30	National AccessAbility Week	A week to celebrate the valuable contributions and accomplishments of Canadians with disabilities and to recognize the need to promote a culture of inclusion to combat the ongoing discrimination against persons with disabilities. (Canada)
25 (sundown) - 30 (estimate)	Hajj	One of the five pillars of Islam central to Muslim belief, Hajj is the pilgrimage to Mecca that every Muslim must make at least once in their lifetime if they are able; it is the most spiritual event that Muslims experience, observing rituals in the most sacred places in the Islamic world. (Islam)
25 - 31	Anti-Racism Awareness Week	Anti-Racism Awareness Week is a chance for British Columbians to celebrate and learn about the province's diverse culture, reflect on biases, and stand together against racism. The dates were chosen due to the proximity to the anniversaries of the Komagata Maru and the murder of George Floyd, and Asian Heritage Month. (British Columbia)
26 (sundown) - 29 (estimate)	Eid al-Adha	Eid al-Adha, also known as the Feast of Sacrifice, is symbolic of the lessons of sacrifice, devotion, and willingness as told by the story of Prophet Ibrahim. As one of the most important holidays in Islam, every year, Muslims celebrate by gathering with family and loved ones to pray, showing gratitude for life's blessings, sharing festive meals, and providing food to those in need. (Islam)
31 - Jun 6	Canadian Environment Week	Established in 1971, Canadian Environment Week celebrates Canada's environmental accomplishments and encourages Canadians to contribute to conserving and protecting their environment. (Canada)

MAY 2026

Date	Name	Description
1	Beltane / May Eve / May Day	Beltane celebrates love, lust, sexuality, sensuality, and the burgeoning life force. This is when plants are growing, and animals have given birth. It takes its name from the Celtic God Bel, who unites with the Earth Goddess on this day. It was a midsummer fertility festival in Celtic paganism. It is a time to celebrate the season's warmth, romance, and indulgence. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid)
3	World Press Freedom Day	A designated day to remind governments of the need to respect their commitment to freedom of the press and a day of reflection among media professionals about issues of press freedom and professional ethics. (International)
4 (sundown) - 5	Lag Ba'Omer A day for welcoming the coming of spring. (Judaism) 5 Dutch Heritage Day	A Jewish observance of the giving of the Torah, the biblical laws of Judaism, from God to the nation of Israel. (Judaism)
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)
5	Red Dress Day	Red Dress Day, also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People, is observed on May 5th. The day honours and brings awareness to the thousands of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people who have been subject to disproportionate violence in Canada. Red Dress Day was inspired by Métis artist Jaime Black's REDress Project installation, in which she hung empty, red dresses to represent the missing and murdered women. Red dresses have become symbolic of the crisis as a result of her installation. (Canada)
15	Nakba Day	Commemorates the mass displacement of approximately 750,000 Palestinians following the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Over 400 Palestinian villages were destroyed, and many Palestinians became refugees, a legacy that is still impacting generations today. The day is marked with marches, cultural events, and calls for international solidarity, symbolizing grief, resistance, and the hope of return.
15	International Day of Families	Established in 1971, Canadian Environment Week celebrates Canada's environmental accomplishments and encourages Canadians to contribute to conserving and protecting their environment. (Canada)

MAY 2026

Date	Name	Description
15	Moose Hide Campaign Day	Beltane celebrates love, lust, sexuality, sensuality, and the burgeoning life force. This is when plants are growing, and animals have given birth. It takes its name from the Celtic God Bel, who unites with the Earth Goddess on this day. It was a midsummer fertility festival in Celtic paganism. It is a time to celebrate the season's warmth, romance, and indulgence. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid)
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)
18	Victoria Day	Victoria Day is celebrated in honour of the birth of Queen Victoria, the first sovereign of Canada, post-Confederation. (Canada)
18	National Patriots' Day	Statutory holiday in Québec to commemorate democracy and patriotic struggles for freedom from British rule during 1837-1838. (Québec)
21	Global Accessibility Awareness Day	Global Accessibility Awareness Day is an awareness day focusing on digital access and inclusion for the more than one billion people who live with disabilities. On the 3rd Thursday of May, we encourage designers, developers, usability professionals, and everyone else to take an hour to experience first-hand the impact of digital accessibility (or lack thereof). (International)
21	World Day for Cultural Diversity, for Dialogue and Development	Commemorates the mass displacement of approximately 750,000 Palestinians following the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Over 400 Palestinian villages were destroyed, and many Palestinians became refugees, a legacy that is still impacting generations today. The day is marked with marches, cultural events, and calls for international solidarity, symbolizing grief, resistance, and the hope of return.
24	Pansexual and Panromantic Visibility Day	A day to celebrate the pansexual and panromantic community and educate others. (International)

MAY 2026

Date	Name	Description
24	Vesak (Buddha Day)	Commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. Vesak is celebrated by Buddhists in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and around the world on the full moon of the second lunar month, known as Vesākha or Vaiśākha. The exact date may vary depending on the calendars and calculations used in different traditions and countries. (Buddhism)
25	Africa Day	Observed on May 25th, Africa Day marks the founding of the African Union (AU) in 1963. It celebrates African unity, progress, and cultural pride. In Canada, it is an opportunity for African and Afro-descendent communities to honor their heritage, shape their contributions, and reflect on global and local challenges facing the African diaspora.
26	Declaration of the Báb	This day honours the Báb, who was perceived as the messenger of the God and forerunner of Bahá'u'lláh, founder of the Bahá'í Faith. (Bahá'í)
28	Red Shirt Day of Action for AccessAbility and Inclusion	Red Shirt Day of Action for AccessAbility and Inclusion is a day when people across Canada come together and wear red to create a visible display of solidarity: to show their support for disabled people and their families, celebrate the achievements of disabled Canadians, and to pledge their commitment to help create a fully accessible and inclusive society. Red Shirt Day is an Easter Seals initiative and was first celebrated in 2019. It takes place on the Wednesday of National AccessAbility Week each year.
29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah	The day that Baha'u'llah, the Prophet-Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, passed away in 1892. It is one of nine days in the year where work should be suspended. (Bahá'í)
30	Provincial Francophonie Day	Each year on May 30th, the traditional raising of the Franco-Newfoundland and Labrador flag takes place symbolically in each of the province's Francophone regions. This day is an opportunity to celebrate the language and culture of Francophones. (Newfoundland and Labrador)
30	World MS Day	. World MS Day is an annual event aimed at raising public understanding and support for those living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a chronic condition affecting the central nervous system. This day highlights the challenges faced by people with MS, promoting advocacy for improved resources, treatment, and research. Observed internationally, the day includes educational events, fundraising, and support gatherings, symbolized by orange for hope and resilience. (International)
31	Saga Dawa Düchen	Saga Dawa Düchen, the "Festival of Vaishakha", takes place on the 15th day of the fourth 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 Buddha Shakyamuni's enlightenment and parinirvana. (Buddhism)

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Pride Month	1 Canadian Environment Week 1-6 Global Day of Parents Intergenerational Day	2	Clean Air Day	3 Treaty Day (New Brunswick)	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	Araw ng Kasarinlán, Philippines Independence Day	12
14 Father's Day National Public Service Week 15-21	15	16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	17	18 Autistic Pride Day International Day for Countering Hate Speech	19	20 World Refugee Day Summer Solstice /
21 International Litha / Midsummer / Summer Solstice National Indigenous Peoples Day' Day	22	23	24 St. Jean Baptiste Day June Day	25	26 Ashura	27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day
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)

JUNE 2026

Date	Name	Description
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)
1	Intergenerational Day	A celebration of the mutual benefits of building relationships across generations. (Canada)
3	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)
4	Treaty Day (New Brunswick)	Treaty Day honours the nation-to-nation relationship formed between the federal government and various Indigenous nations, as enshrined in historic treaties. In New Brunswick, this day commemorates the signing and importance of the peace and friendship treaties. (New Brunswick)
12	Araw ng Kasarinlán, Philippines Independence Day	In the Philippines, Independence Day or Day of Freedom, is a national holiday commemorating the declaration of Philippine independence from Spain in 1898. In Canada, it is the central event celebrating Filipino Heritage Month, an opportunity to share in cultural heritage and explore the rich history of the Filipino-Canadian communities across the country.
13	International Albinism Awareness Day	A day to stand in solidarity with people living with albinism through their triumphs and challenges. It is a day to stand up for the rights of persons with albinism to live a life that is free of stigma, discrimination, fear, and violence. (International)
13	Men's Mental Health Awareness Day	Held annually in Canada during International Men's Health Week, this day highlights how mental health issues may present differently in men. First proclaimed in Ottawa in 2014, it aims to reduce stigma and encourage open conversations to support men's mental well-being.
16	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	Anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Arjan, the fifth Sikh Guru, in 1606 BCE. Guru Arjan compiled the first rendition of the holy book of Sikhism called Adi Granth. (Sikhism)

JUNE 2026

Date	Name	Description
18	Autistic Pride Day	Autistic Pride Day is a movement that began in 2005 celebrating Autistic identity, strengths, and community led by Autistic people. It is a day that promotes acceptance over awareness and the removal of systemic barriers while celebrating the endless variation, creativity, and potential within the Autistic community. (International)
18	International Day for Countering Hate Speech	In July 2021, the UN General Assembly highlighted global concerns over “the exponential spread and proliferation of hate speech” around the world and adopted a resolution on “promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech”. The resolution proclaimed June 18 as the International Day for Countering Hate Speech. (International)
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)
20	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)
21	Litha / Midsummer / Summer Solstice	Litha, the Summer Solstice, marks the longest day and shortest night of the year. Litha celebrates the full height of the summer sun and the Sun God's warmth and energy pouring down on the crops as they ripen. It is a time to consider your priorities and focus your energy on where it will bring you the greatest harvest. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid)
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)
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)
24	June Day	Currently referred to provincially as June Day, and in some municipalities like St. John's as National Indigenous People's Day, June 24 was formerly celebrated as "Discovery Day". In relation to the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #79, Newfoundland and Labrador are currently working with local Indigenous communities to update the June statutory holiday to better reflect the complex history of the region.



JUNE 2026

Date	Name	Description
26	Ashura	The Day of Ashura is marked by Muslims as a whole, but for Shi'ah Muslims it is a major religious commemoration of the martyrdom at Karbala of Hussein, a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. (Islam)
27	Canadian Multiculturalism Day	Multiculturalism day celebrates Canada's diverse cultures as well as the country's commitment to equality, democracy, and mutual respect. (Canada)

JULY

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

- Disability Pride Month
- Tibetan Heritage Month (Ontario)



JULY 2026

Date	Name	Description
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)
9	Nunavut Day	A day to commemorate the passing of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act and the Nunavut Act in 1993. It is a holiday in recognition of Nunavut's history and traditions. (Nunavut)
10	Martyrdom of the Báb	Commemorates the anniversary of the execution of the Báb in 1850. (Bahá'í)
11	Imamat Day	Imamat Day, also known as Khushali, is celebrated by Ismaili Muslims to mark the anniversary of the day that their present Imam (spiritual leader) succeeded his predecessor to become the Imam of the Time. (Ismaili Muslim)
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)
16	Islamic New Year / Hijri New Year	The first of Muharram marks the first day of the first month (Muharram) of the Islamic year. It is one of the four sacred months of the year, held to be the second holiest month after Ramadan. (Islam)
18	Chökhör Düchen	Chokhor Düchen, the "Festival of Turning the Wheel of Dharma", takes place on the fourth day of the sixth Tibetan lunar month. It is one of the four Buddhist festivals commemorating four events in the life of the Buddha and celebrates the day that the Buddha Shakyamuni turned the Wheel of Dharma for the first time, at Sarnath, by teaching the 'Four Noble Truths'. (Buddhism)



JULY 2026

Date	Name	Description
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)
22 (sundown) - 23	Tisha B'Av	Tisha B'Av is a period of fasting, lamentation, and prayer to remember the destruction of the First and Second Temples of Jerusalem, as well as other tragedies that have occurred on this day. It is described as the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. (Judaism)
24	International Self-Care Day	International Self-Care Day raises awareness of the important role self-care plays in the health of Canadians and the sustainability of the health care system. (International)
28	World Hepatitis Day	This is a day which spotlights the importance of stepping up national and international efforts on hepatitis, encourage actions and engagement by individuals, partners and the public and highlight the need for a greater global response. (International)
28	Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval	In 2003, a Royal Proclamation recognized the wrongs suffered by the Acadians when they were forcibly deported from Acadie in 1755. July 28 was declared as the Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval beginning with the 250th anniversary in 2005. (Canada)
29	Asalha Puja (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)

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						World Breastfeeding Week ¹ Emancipation Day Lammas / Lughnasadh / Lughnasad
2	Civic Holiday	3	4	5	6	7 Paryushana 8-16 8
9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People	10	11	12 International Youth Day	Obon 13-15 13	14	15 National Acadian Day
16 Discovery Day Public Service Pride Week 18-22	17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day	20	21	22
23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	24	25 Mawlid al-Nabī / Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi	Onam 26	27	Raksha Bandhan 28	29
30 International Overdose Awareness Day	31					

AUGUST 2026

Date	Name	Description
1-7	World Breastfeeding Week	World Breastfeeding Week is a global campaign to raise awareness and galvanise action on themes related to breastfeeding. (International)
8-16	Paryushana	Paryushan (Shwetamabar Jains) is the holiest time of the year and is marked by fasting and worship of the 24 realized teachers of the Jain faith known as Tirthankaras or Jinas. (Jainism)
13-15	Obon	A Japanese Buddhist custom to honour one's spiritual ancestors. Obon is observed from the 13th to the 15th day of the 7th month. In the majority of Japan, Obon is celebrated between August 13-15, however the dates can vary depending on the region. (Buddhism)
17-21	Public Service Pride Week	Public Service Pride (PSP) is a movement that began in 2018 by a network of federal employees committed to making the public service a diverse, safe, respectful, and healthy workplace for LGBTQ2S+ public servants. In 2019, the PSP Network launched the first ever Public Service Pride Week (PSPW) with the goal in mind to send a clear message to Canadians that their federal public service is diverse and inclusive. (Canada)
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)
1	1 Lammas / Lughnasadh / Lughnasad	Lammas is a harvest festival when Pagans reap those things they have sown and celebrate the fruits of the mystery of Nature. At Lughnasadh, Pagans give thanks for the bounty of the Goddess as Queen of the Land. Its name is taken from the Celtic God Lugh, or Samildanach, which means 'he of many gifts'. The festival's themes are self-sacrifice for the community or individual initiation to a higher level of spiritual existence. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid)
3	Civic Holiday	The August Civic Holiday is known by a variety of names across Canada and is celebrated according to local municipal traditions and history. (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)

AUGUST 2026

Date	Name	Description
12	International Youth Day	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	National Acadian Day	Since 1881, Acadians have celebrated National Acadian Day on August 15. The federal and provincial governments officially recognized National Acadian Day in 2003 and 2004 respectively. It is a day marked by colourful community festivals and family events that bring Acadian culture and history to life. (Canada)
17	Discovery Day	Discovery Day is a provincial holiday celebrated on the third Monday in August in the Yukon. It commemorates the discovery of gold by George Carmack, Kate Carmack, Skookum Jim, and Dawson Charlie in 1896. (Yukon)
19	World Humanitarian Day	This day is dedicated to humanitarians worldwide, as well as to increase public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities. (International)
23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	A day designated by the UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade. (International)
25	Mawlid al-Nabī / Eid-Maulad-un-Nabi	Anniversary of the birth of Prophet Muhammad. Some Muslims mark this occasion by special prayers, whilst other Muslims may mark the occasion by dedicating more time to reading the Qur'an. (Islam)
26	Onam	Onam is a Hindu festival celebrated by the people of Kerala in India and its neighbouring states. Lasting for four to ten days, it is a harvest festival commemorating the homecoming of the legendary Emperor Mahabali from Patala (the underworld) who visits every Malayali home and during this time. (Hinduism)
28	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	International Overdose Awareness Day	A day to remember without stigma those who have died and to acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind. (International)

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 Krishna Janmashtami	5 International Day of Charity
6 Mennonite Heritage Week (7-13)	7 Ukrainian Heritage Day Labour Day	8 International Literacy Day	9	10 World Suicide Prevention Day	11 Ethiopian New Year / Enkutatash Rosh HaShanah (11-13)	12
13	14 Ganesh Chaturthi	15 Das Lakshan (15-25)	16	17	18 International Equal Pay Day	19
20	21 Gender Equality Week 21-27 International Week of Deaf People 21-27 International Day of Peace	22 International Day of Sign Languages Bi Visibility Day Mabon / Harvest Home / Fall Equinox	23	24	25 Franco-Ontarian Day	26
27	28	29 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day	30			

- Acne Awareness Month (Canada)

SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
7-11	Mennonite Heritage Week	On May 29, 2019, the Government of Canada adopted a motion to officially declare the second week of September as Mennonite Heritage Week. This week is an opportunity to learn more about Mennonite Canadians, their unique history, their vibrant culture, and their contributions that have helped shape our country. (Canada)
11-13	Rosh HaShaah	Rosh HaShanah celebrates the creation of the universe. (Judaism)
15-25	Das Lakhshan	Das Lakhshan (Digambar Jains) is the holiest time of the year and is marked by fasting and worship of the 24 realized teachers of the Jain faith known as Tirthankaras or Jinas. (Jainism)
21-27	Gender Equality Week	Gender Equality Week, the fourth week in September, is an opportunity to raise awareness of the important contributions women and gender diverse communities have made to the growth, development, character and identity of Canada; to celebrate the significant achievements and accomplishments that we have made in advancing gender equality; and to reconfirm our commitment to address persistent gender equality gaps in our country. (Canada)
21-27	The International Week of Deaf People	The International Week of Deaf People was first celebrated in September 1958 and has since evolved into a global movement of deaf unity and concerted advocacy to raise awareness of the issues deaf people face in their everyday lives. (International)
4	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)
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 (Ontario)	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.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
8	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)
8	International Literacy Day	A day to raise people's awareness of and concern for literacy issues in the world. (International)
10	World Suicide Prevention Day	World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on September 10 each year to raise awareness of suicide and to promote action through proven means that will reduce the number of suicides and suicide attempts globally. (International)
11	Enkutatash	Enkutatash is the name for the Ethiopian New Year in Amharic, it is also called Ri'se Awde Amet which means the Head of the Holy days. Ethiopia ushers her new year on September 11, which is the first day of the Ethiopian month of Meskerem. (Ethiopia)
14	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. The date of this holiday may vary depending on region. (Hinduism)
18	International Equal Pay Day	International Equal Pay Day, celebrated on September 18, represents the longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations commitment to human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls. (International)
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	The International Day of Sign Languages	The International Day of Sign Languages is a unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users. Celebrated annually across the world on 23 September every year along with the International Week of Deaf People. (International)

SEPTEMBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
23	Bi Visibility Day	Marked each year since 1999, Bi Visibility Day raises bi awareness and challenges bisexual & biromantic erasure. (International)
23	Mabon / Harvest Home / Fall Equinox	Mabon, the Fall Equinox, is the second harvest festival. It is when days and nights are of approximately equal length. The holiday is named for Mabon, who appeared in The Mabinogion, a collection of Welsh myths. It is a time to count your blessings and show gratitude for those who have helped you on the year's journey. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid)
25	Franco-Ontarian Day	There are more than 622,000 Francophones and 1.5 million Ontarians who can speak French, making Ontario Canada's largest Francophone community outside of Quebec. September 25 is Franco-Ontarian Day, a time to celebrate your community and its history. It was officially named Franco-Ontarian Day in 2010. (Ontario)
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

SUN

MON

TUES

WED

THURS

FRI

SAT

Int. Day of Older Persons /
National Seniors Day
Treaty Day (Nova Scotia)
Sukkot

Shemini Atzeret
(2-4)

Simchat Torah

National Day of Action for
Missing & Murdered
Indigenous Women, Girls,
& 2SLGBTQI+ people

World Teachers' Day
Mental Illness Awareness
Week 5-11

International
Lesbian Day

World Mental
Health Day

Workplace Bullying Awareness Week
Mental Illness Awareness Week
International Day of the Girl Child
National Coming Out Day

Thanksgiving

Int. Day of Rural
Women

Persons Day

Invisible Disabilities
Week (18-24)

Dussehra /
Vijayadashami

Int. Pronouns Day

Int. Stuttering
Awareness Day

Bandi Chhor Divas

Ace Week

Intersex Awareness
Day

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)

OCTOBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
5-11	Per	Mental Illness Awareness Week is an annual national public education campaign designed to help open the eyes of Canadians to the reality of mental illness. (Canada)
6 (sundown) – 13	Sukkot	Sukkot begins five days after Yom Kippur and lasts seven days. Sukkot is one of the three pilgrimage holidays (along with Passover and Shavu'ot), which commemorates the historical pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate the harvest. (Judaism)
12-18	Workplace Bullying Awareness Week	Workplace Bullying Awareness Week aims to provide education and awareness of how workplace bullying affects our lives and our work. (International)
19-25	Ace Week	Ace Week, formerly Asexual Awareness Week, is an international campaign dedicated to raising awareness and expanding education of asexuality. The week gives all of us an opportunity to celebrate how far our community has come and to dream about the future we will create together. (International)
19-25	Invisible Disabilities Week	The Invisible Disabilities Association began hosting Invisible Disabilities Week (IDW) in 2014. The goal of IDW is to spread awareness, education, and support around the world for those living with invisible disabilities. (International)
20 (sundown) – 25	Bandi Chhor Divas	Bandi Chhor Divas directly translates to “Prisoner Release Day” and marks the release of the sixth guru, Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, and 52 kings from Fort Gwalior prison and their arrival at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India. (Sikhism)
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)
1	Treaty Day (Nova Scotia)	Treaty Day, held annually on October 1, marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia. The purpose of Treaty Day is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaw culture and heritage for all Nova Scotians. (Nova Scotia)
1 (sundown) – 2	Yom Kippur	The Jewish Day of Atonement which comprises a 25-hour fast whereby people refrain from working, eating, and drinking. Synagogue services are also attended in worship of this sacred day. (Judaism)
2	Dussehra / Vijayadashami	A Hindu celebration on the last day of Navaratri, celebrating the victory of good over evil. (Hinduism) 4 National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous
5	World Teachers' 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)

OCTOBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
6	Mid-Autumn Festival	Originating in China, this traditional festival is also widely observed in Vietnam (Tết Trung Thu), Korea (Chuseok), Japan (Tsukimi), and other East and Southeast Asian countries, observed on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunisolar calendar, when the moon is at its fullest and brightest. It is a harvest festival that emphasizes family reunion, thanksgiving, and prayer for good fortune, marked by customs such as moon gazing, eating mooncakes, and lighting lanterns.
8	International Lesbian Day	Celebrated on October 8 each year, International Lesbian Day is a day to honour the contributions of lesbians to the women's rights and 2SLGBTQIA+ rights movements. It also serves to raise awareness of the unique issues that lesbians experience in their daily lives. (International)
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)
11	International Day of the Girl Child	This is a day which promotes girls' rights and highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys. This day gives governments and organizations the opportunity to raise public awareness about gender bias and discrimination directed at girls. (International)
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)
12	Thanksgiving	A day of giving thanks to the harvest and blessings of the previous year. (Canada)
13 (sundown) - 14	Shemini Atzeret	Shemini Atzeret commemorates the special bond between God and his peoples. (Judaism)
14 (sundown) - 15	Simchat Torah	A Jewish holiday that marks the completion of the annual Torah readings and begins a new reading cycle. (Judaism)
15	International Day of Rural Women	International Day of Rural Women recognizes the critical role and contribution of rural women, including Indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty. (International)
15	International Pronouns Day	International Pronouns Day is about respect, sharing, education and normalizing personal pronouns. (International)



OCTOBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
18	Persons Day	Persons Day in Canada marks the day in 1929 when the historic decision to include women in the legal definition of “persons” was handed down by Canada’s highest court of appeal. This gave some women the right to be appointed to the Senate of Canada and paved the way for women’s increased participation in public and political life. Though this decision did not include all women, such as Indigenous women and women of Asian heritage and descent, it did mark critical progress in the advancement of gender equality in Canada. (Canada)
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)
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)
31 (evening) - November 1	Samhain / Samhuinn / Hallows	Samhain is the festival of the dead. It is the most solemn of the sabbats but is not a time of fear. It is a time to understand more deeply that life and death are part of a sacred whole, as Pagans celebrate death as part of life. Samhain is the third harvest - the animal harvest - when domesticated animals not likely to make it through the winter were killed and their meat preserved for winter. It is also a time for remembering ancestors and those who have died in the past year. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid)

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Treaties Recognition Week Samhain / Samhuinn / Hallows Day of the Dead Lha Bab Düchen 1	Day of the Dead 2	3	4	Veterans' Week 5-11 5	6	7
Diwali Indigenous Veterans Day Bandi Chhor Divas 8	Memorial of Krisallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass 9	Birth of the Báb 10	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh Remembrance Day 11	12	13	World Diabetes Day 14
Restorative Justice Week 15-21 15	International Day for Tolerance 16	17	18	19	Transgender Day of Remembrance National Child Day 20	Guru Nanak Gurpurab 21
National Addictions Awareness Week 22-28 22	Canada History Week 23-29 23	Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur Guru Nanak Gurpurab 24	Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 25	26	27	28
29	30					
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)

NOVEMBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
2-8	Treaties Recognition Week	Treaties Recognition Week honours the importance of treaties and helps Ontario students and residents understand the significance of treaty rights, treaty relationships and their relevance today. (Ontario)
5-11	Veterans' Week	Every year during the lead up to Remembrance Day on November 11, we honour those who have served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace. (Canada)
9-10	Memorial of Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass	On November 9 and 10, 1938, the Nazi regime orchestrated a nationwide wave of antisemitic violence in Germany, known as Kristallnacht, or the "Night of Broken Glass." The name refers to the shattered windows of Jewish-owned businesses, homes, and synagogues that were destroyed after the attacks. Thousands of Jewish people were arrested or killed. Kristallnacht marked a critical escalation of Nazi persecution and served as a turning point for German Jews, showing that there was no safe future for them under Nazi rule. The event is remembered to honor the victims as a stark warning about the dangers of antisemitism and state-sanctioned violence.
16-22	Restorative Justice Week	Restorative Justice Week is recognized every year during the third week of November to acknowledge the impacts and achievements of the RJ approach and its application in Canada. RJ Week is an opportunity to explore how RJ can deal with harm in different situations: families, neighbourhoods, schools, workplaces, etc. It allows us to think about how RJ values and principles can be applied to everyday challenges. (Canada)
23-29	National Addictions Awareness Week	National Addictions Awareness Week highlights solutions to help address harms related to alcohol and other drugs. It provides an opportunity for people in Canada to learn more about prevention, to talk about treatment and recovery, and to bring forward solutions for change. (Canada)
24-30	Canada History Week	Canada History Week provides all Canadians with opportunities to learn more about the people and events that have shaped the country that we know today. (Canada)
25-Dec 10	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	Every year, from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (World Human Rights Day), Canadians observe the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. It is an opportunity to come together to call out, speak up and renew our commitment to end gender-based violence. (Canada)
1 (evening) - 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. (International)

NOVEMBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
8	Diwali	Diwali, also known as Deepavali or the Festival of Lights, is a festival celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists around the world. Diwali takes place on the day of the New Moon in the Hindu month of "Kartika". Diwali is a variation of the Sanskrit word "deepavali" meaning "row of lights" and refers to the earthen lamps or "diyas" that families place around their homes during the celebrations. Jains celebrate Diwali to mark the attainment of "moksha" or spiritual liberation. It is believed that many gods were present on the night when Mahavira reached moksha and that their presence illuminated the darkness. (Hinduism/Jainism/Buddhism)
8	Indigenous Veterans Day	A day to honour the important contributions made by First Nations, Inuit and Métis Veterans in service to Canada. (Canada)
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)
14	World Diabetes Day	World Diabetes Day (WDD) was created in 1991 by IDF and the World Health Organization in response to growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes. World Diabetes Day became an official United Nations Day in 2006 with the passage of United Nation Resolution 61/225. It is marked every year on November 14, the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922. (International)
16	International Day for Tolerance	In 1996, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming November 16 as International Day for Tolerance. This action followed the adoption of a Declaration of Principles on Tolerance by UNESCO's Member States on November 16, 1995. Among other things, the Declaration affirms that tolerance is neither indulgence nor indifference. It is respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. (International)
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)
22	National Housing Day	Each year, National Housing Day is held on November 22. It's a day to recognize the important work done by housing partners across Canada to improve access to housing for everyone in Canada. (Canada)
22	Holodomor Memorial Day	Holodomor Memorial Day is commemorated each year to remember the millions of Ukrainians who were starved to death in Ukraine in 1932 and 1933 during the Holodomor Famine-Genocide. (International)



NOVEMBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
24	Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur	This day commemorates the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth of the Ten Sikh Gurus. He is remembered for his defence of the Sikh Faith and for willingly giving up his life for religious liberty for all faiths. (Sikhism)
24	Guru Nanak Gurpurab	One of the most sacred festivals in Sikhism, Gurpurab 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)
25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	Designated by the UN, this is a day to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to multiple forms of violence. Women's rights activists have observed 25 November as a day against gender-based violence since 1981. This date was selected to honour the Mirabal sisters, three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961). (International)

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		World AIDS Day 1	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 2	International Day of Persons with Disabilities 3	Chanukah / Hanukkah (4-12) 4	International Volunteer Day 5
The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women École Polytechnique Tragedy (Montreal Massacre) 6	7	Bodhi Day / Rōhatsu Pansexual Pride Day Feast of Immaculate Conception 8	9	Human Rights Day 10	11	12
Saligrah / Saligrah Khushiali / Aga Khan's Birthday 13	14	15	Day of Reconciliation 16	17	International Migrants Day 18	19
International Humans Solidarity Day 20	Winter Solstice / Yule Yaldā / Chella 21	22	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)

DECEMBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
14 (sundown) - 22	Chanukah / Hanukkah	Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday in celebrating the success of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire, and the liberating and rededication of Holy Temple in Jerusalem. (Judaism)
26 - January 1	Kwanzaa	Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural holiday that has been adopted around the world including in Canada to celebrate African family, community and culture. (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)
2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is annually held on December 2 to raise awareness of the atrocities of modern slavery. It is not to be confused with another UN day, the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. (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)
5	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)
6	École Polytechnique Tragedy (Montreal Massacre)	On December 6, 1989, Marc Lépine entered a classroom at Montréal's École Polytechnique, separated the women from the men, and opened fire on the women, killing 14 and wounding 13. In his suicide note, he blamed feminists for ruining his life and listed 19 women he intended to target. This act of misogynistic violence, later called the Montreal Massacre, sparked national debates about gender-based violence, anti-feminism, and gun control. It led to the creation of the Coalition for Gun Control, contributed to Canada's 1995 federal firearms legislation (Bill C-68), and prompted Parliament to declare December 6 the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women, also known as White Ribbon Day.
8	Bodhi Day / Rōhatsu	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. In regions that follow the lunar calendar, this date varies year to year. In regions that follow the Gregorian calendar, Bodhi Day is celebrated on December 8th. (Buddhism)
8	Pansexual Pride Day	Pansexual Pride Day celebrates the strides taken by the pansexual and panromantic community to be accepted and understood. (International)
8	Feast of Immaculate Conception	The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8 December. It is one of the most important Marian feasts in the liturgical calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. (Christianity)

DECEMBER 2026

Date	Name	Description
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. (International)
13	Saligrah / Saligrah Khushiali / Aga Khan's Birthday	The date of birth of the present and living Imam, spiritual leader of the Shia Ismaili Muslims and 49th hereditary Imam, His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan. (Ismaili Muslim)
16	Day of Reconciliation	This holiday came into effect in 1994 after the end of Apartheid. It is intended to celebrate the end of apartheid and foster reconciliation between different racial groups. (South Africa)
18	International Migrants Day	Declared by the UN, this is a day to honour the international convention on the protection of the rights of migrants. (International)
20	International Human Solidarity Day	This is annually held on December 20 to celebrate unity in diversity. It also aims to remind people of the importance of solidarity in working towards eradicating poverty. (International)
21	International Volunteer Day	Winter Solstice
21	Yule / Winter Solstice	Yule celebrates the winter solstice and marks the sun's rebirth. Candles, lights, round sun-shaped decorations, and evergreen plants remind people in mid-winter that warmth and life will return. Giving and receiving are heavy themes at Yule, as well as rebirth and fresh beginnings. (Paganism/Wicca/Druid)
21	Yaldā / Chella	Celebrated on the longest and darkest night of the year, Yaldā or Chella refers to a traditional celebration of the sun and the warmth of life. As an ancient tradition which has been observed for some time, it has been adopted in numerous regions. Countries in which some or all of the population celebrate this festival include Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Iraq. (International)
24	Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve is the evening before Christmas and is often observed with a long meal, usually with family, sometimes accompanied by other celebrations such as midnight mass. (Christianity)
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)
27	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 January 6, 2025. (Sikhism)