

# 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 National Ribbon Skirt Day 4	5	Epiphany 6	Christmas / Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox / Eastern) 7	8	9	10
11	12	Lohri 13	Pongal 14-17 Orthodox New Year 14	15	16	Raoul Wallenberg Day 17
18	Martin Luther King Jr Day 19	20	Lincoln Alexander Day 21	22	Vasant Panchami 23	International Day of Education / World Day for African & Afrodescendant Culture 24
25	26	International Holocaust Remembrance Day 27	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	<a href="#">Pongal</a>	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	<a href="#">New Year's Day</a>	The first day of the year of the modern Gregorian calendar. (International)
4	<a href="#">World Braille Day</a>	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	<a href="#">National Ribbon Skirt Day</a>	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	<a href="#">Epiphany</a>	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)
7	<a href="#">Christmas / Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox / Eastern)</a>	The equivalent of December 25 on the Julian calendar. Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas day on or near this date. (Orthodox Christianity)
13	<a href="#">Lohri</a>	A popular wintertime Punjabi folk festival, celebrated primarily by Sikhs and Hindus from the Punjab region of Indian subcontinent. (Sikhism / Hinduism)
14	<a href="#">Orthodox New Year</a>	The start of the new year under the Julian calendar. (Orthodox Christianity)

# JANUARY 2026

Date	Name	Description
17	<a href="#">Raoul Wallenberg Day</a>	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)
19	<a href="#">Martin Luther King Jr Day</a>	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	<a href="#">Lincoln Alexander Day</a>	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	<a href="#">International Day of Education</a>	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	<a href="#">World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture</a>	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)
15 (sundown) - 16	<a href="#">Lailat al Miraj</a>	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	<a href="#">International Holocaust Remembrance Day</a>	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)
29	<a href="#">National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia</a>	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)
30	<a href="#">Sadeh</a>	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 <sup>1</sup> White Cane Week Thaipusam World Hijab Day  Imbolc / Imbolg / Oimelec / Candlemas	2 Groundhog Day	3	4 World Cancer Day	5	6 International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	7
8	9	10	11 International Day of Women & Girls in Science Thaipusam	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week 16-22 National Flag of Canada Day Parinirvana / Nirvana Day	16 Family Day Islander Day Nova Scotia Heritage Day Louis Riel Day Chinese New Year / Lunar New Year / Spring Festival	17 Nineteen Day Fast Losar (Tibetan New Year) Ramadan	18 Ash Wednesday Lent (Western) Ramadan  Losar (Tibetan New Year)	19 Ramadan	20 World Day of Social Justice	21 International Mother Language Day
22	23	24	25 Pink Shirt Day Maha Shivaratri	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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

# FEBRUARY 2026

Date	Name	Description
1-7	<a href="#">World Interfaith Harmony Week</a>	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)
1-7	<a href="#">White Cane Week</a>	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)
15-21	<a href="#">Aromantic Spectrum Awareness</a>	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	<a href="#">Nineteen Day Fast</a>	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	<a href="#">World Hijab Day</a>	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	<a href="#">Imbolc / Imbolg / Oimelc / Candlemas</a>	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)
1	<a href="#">Thaipusam</a>	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)
2	<a href="#">Groundhog Day</a>	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	<a href="#">World Cancer Day</a>	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)

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Date	Name	Description
6	<a href="#">International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation</a>	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	<a href="#">International Day of Women and Girls in Science</a>	A day designated for the dismantling of gender stereotypes – specifically to end institutional and systemic gender imbalances in science. (International)
12	<a href="#">Māgha Pūjā</a>	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	<a href="#">World Radio Day</a>	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	<a href="#">Valentine's Day</a>	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	<a href="#">Chötrul Düchen</a>	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	<a href="#">National Flag of Canada Day</a>	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)
14	<a href="#">Maha Shivaratri</a>	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)
16 (evening) – 17	<a href="#">Chinese New Year / Lunar New Year / Spring Festival</a>	The day marks the start of the new year in the Chinese lunisolar calendar and dates back over 3,000 years, with roots in ancient agricultural rituals and myths. It is the most important festival in China and is celebrated widely across Asia and in global diaspora communities. (International)

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Date	Name	Description
15	<a href="#">Parinirvana / Nirvana Day</a>	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 <sup>th</sup> . (Buddhism)
17	<a href="#">Family Day</a>	Civic holiday in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick, which celebrates the importance of family. (Canada)
17	<a href="#">Islander Day</a>	A civic holiday observed in Prince Edward Island in celebration of family and community. (Canada)
16	<a href="#">Louis Riel Day</a>	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	<a href="#">Nova Scotia Heritage Day</a>	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	<a href="#">World Day of Social Justice</a>	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	<a href="#">International Mother Language Day</a>	A worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. (International)
26	<a href="#">Pink Shirt Day</a>	An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying. (International)
26	<a href="#">Maha Shivaratri</a>	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	<a href="#">Lailat al Miraj</a>	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)
18	<a href="#">Losar (Tibetan New Year)</a>	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)