

## 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

The 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Significant Dates Calendar includes days that may have special meaning for employees and community members of the Niagara Region. This list is full of dates that cause us to pause, learn, observe, and commemorate various cultural, religious, and other important events.

This list includes a Dimension column which links the date to one of the 12 Dimensions of Diversity identified in the 2023-2027 DEI Action Plan.

**Special note:** The Calendar of Significant Dates is not meant to be an exhaustive list and may not include every observance. If there are any dates that were missed that you would like to have included, or if you are interested in contributing to a future post, please email [diversity@niagararegion.ca](mailto:diversity@niagararegion.ca)

## 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Jan	Tamil Heritage Month	A time to recognize and celebrate the many contributions that Canadians of Tamil descent have made to the growth and prosperity of Canada.	Ethnocultural
Jan 1	Alzheimer's Awareness Month	The Alzheimer Society encourages organizations and individuals across Canada to learn more about dementia and its stark impact.	Older Adults
Jan 1	New Year's Day	The start of the new year according to the Gregorian calendar.	General Significant Day
Jan 1	Feast of Mary, Mother of God	A Catholic day to recognize and celebrate the history of the Solemnity of Mary, the mother of God.	Faith (Catholic)
Jan 1	Shogatsu/ Gantan-sai	Japanese New Year is the most important holiday in Japan. Years are traditionally viewed as completely separate, with each providing a fresh start.	Ethnocultural
Jan 1	Feast Day of St Basil	A day where the Greek Orthodox Church commemorates Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.	Faith (Christianity)
Jan 4	National Braille Day	This day celebrates Braille as a tool used by people with blindness or visual impairments every day, marked on the birthday of inventor Louis Braille.	People with Disabilities
Jan 6	Epiphany	A day to honour the physical presence of Jesus on earth. Western Christians remember the three wise men's visit to the Christ child and Eastern Christians honour Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River.	Faith (Christianity)
Jan 7	Orthodox Christmas Day	The equivalent of December 25th on the Julian calendar. Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas day on or near this date.	Faith (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan 7	Orthodox New Years	The start of the new year under the Julian calendar.	Faith (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan 13	Maghi	Maghi is the occasion when Sikhs commemorate the sacrifice of forty Sikhs, who fought for Guru Gobind Singh Ji.	Faith (Sikhism)
Jan 13	Lohri	Also known as "The Harvest Festival". It marks the end of the winter solstice and is considered the new year for Punjabi farmers.	Faith (Sikhism)

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Jan 15	Makara Sankranti	Marks the end of the winter season and the start of a new harvest season.	Faith (Hinduism)
Jan 15	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (In Canada)	Martin Luther King Jr. fought for the rights and dignity of all people. By honouring his memory and ideals on this day, we can reaffirm our commitment to creating a better future for all.	Ethnocultural
Jan 15 - 18	Thai Pongal	The harvest festival of Tamil Nadu. The uniqueness of the festival reminds us of the importance of natural resources, especially when the entire world is battling environmental change.	Faith (Hinduism/ Tamil)
Jan 17	Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Gurburab	On this day, the 10th Guru of Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birth is celebrated. Sikhs remember the Guru Gobind Singh Ji's teachings.	Faith (Sikhism)
Jan 21	World Religion Day	To promote understanding and peace between all religions, encouraging people to learn about other faiths and their followers.	Faith
Jan 24	Bell Let's Talk Day	Dedicated to moving mental health forward in Canada, Bell Let's Talk promotes awareness, acceptance, and action.	Mental Health
Jan 25	Mahayana - Buddhist New Year	Time of renewal and reflection for Buddhists around the world, this celebration is marked with meditation, offerings, and acts of kindness.	Faith (Buddhism)
Jan 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	This day commemorates the genocide that resulted in the death of millions of people at the hands of the Nazi regime and its collaborators.	Ethnocultural
Jan 29	National Day of Remembrance of the Québec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia	On this day we remember the lives of Ibrahima Barry, Mamadou Tanou Barry, Khaled Belkacemi, Abdelkrim Hassane, Azzeddine Soufiane, and Aboubaker Thabti, who were killed in a senseless, violent act of Islamophobia on Jan 29, 2017, in Québec City.	Ethnocultural
Jan 30	Sadeh	A Zoroastrian day of celebration centred around light, fire, dancing, and feasting which announces the coming of Spring and Nowruz.	Faith (Zoroastrian)

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Feb	Black History Month	This month is a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora.	Ethnocultural
Feb 1	Imbolc	Marks the halfway point between winter solstice and the spring equinox.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)
Feb 1- 7	World Interfaith Harmony Week	Aims to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith.	Faith
Feb 10	Lunar New Year	Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and other East and Southeast Asian communities around the world celebrate one of the most important celebrations in the lunar calendar.	Ethnocultural
Feb 14	Ash Wednesday	Marks the first day of Lent. A 40-day fasting period (excluding Sundays) observed by Christians, in preparation for Easter.	Faith (Christianity)
Feb 15	Parinirvana Day - Buddha's Death	Celebrating the death of the Buddha, because Buddhists believe he attained Enlightenment and freedom from physical existence and its sufferings.	Faith (Buddhism)
Feb 17	Random Act of Kindness Day	A day to celebrate and encourage random acts of kindness.	General Significant Day
Feb 19	Family Day	A civic holiday that celebrates the importance of family.	General Significant Day
Feb 20	World Day of Social Justice	An international day recognizing the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections.	General Significant Day
Feb 21	International Mother Language Day	A worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.	United Nations
Feb 28	Pink Shirt Day	An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying.	Mental Health
March	Greek Heritage Month	Sharing the rich Greek culture which spans 2500 years of history.	Ethnocultural
March	Irish Heritage Month	Recognizing the important contributions that Irish Canadians have made to building Canada, and to Canadian society in general.	Ethnocultural

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March 1	St. David's Day	St. David is the Welsh born, patron saint of Wales. In Wales, this day is celebrated with parades, wearing of traditional clothing along with the symbols of Wales and St. David - the daffodil and leek.	Faith (Catholic)
March 8	Maha Shivaratri	A Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of God Shiva. It is also known as the Great Night of Shiva or Shivaratri and is one of the largest and most significant among the sacred festival nights of India.	Faith (Hinduism)
March 8	International Women's Day	A day to recognize and appreciate the role women play in society. In some countries, this day is an official holiday, equal to Mother's Day.	Gender
March 11	Saka New Year (Nyepi)	Also known as the Day of Silence that is commemorated according to the Balinese calendar. It is a day of silence, fasting and meditation for the Balinese Hindu's.	Faith (Balinese Hindu)
March 11	Ramadan	Muslims fast during daylight hours in this Holy month, aiming to cleanse their body and soul from impurities and re-focus on the worship of God.	Faith (Islam)
March 14	Sikh New Year (Nanakshahi Calendar)	The Sikh new year is celebrated on March 14 of the Gregorian calendar, which also marks the beginning of the Chet month (first month) in the Nanakshahi calendar.	Faith (Sikhism)
March 17	St. Patricks Day	A cultural and religious celebration that honours the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. This day is widely celebrated in Ireland and by Irish communities around the world.	General Significant Day
March 18	Clean Monday	A reminder that we should begin Lent with good intentions and a desire to clean our spiritual house.	Faith (Christianity)
March 19	Pateti Festival	Pateti is New Year's Eve for orthodox Parsis (Persian Zoroastrians) who follow the Shenshai calendar. It is meant to be a day of repentance.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
March 19	Ostara (Spring Equinox)	According to Wiccans, this date marks the beginning of Spring, and is one of two days in the year when there are approximately equal amounts of day and nighttime.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)

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March 19	Nowruz	Nowruz holds a significant place in the Iranian calendar, signifying the New Year and the start of spring. This understanding has persisted from ancient lexicons to the present day.	Ethnocultural
March 20	International Francophonie Day	A day to celebrate the French language, culture, and values. (French: Journée internationale de la Francophonie).	Francophone
March 21	International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Declared by the UN, this day remembers the damaging effects of racial discrimination and is a reminder to continue building a world with justice and equality.	Ethnocultural
March 22	World Water Day	Celebrates the importance of water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water.	General Significant Day
March 25	Hola Mohalla	A three-day event sharing the message of courage, defense preparation, and celebrates the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.	Faith (Sikhism)
March 25	Holi	The ancient Hindu Festival of Colours. It celebrates the blossoming of spring and marks the end of winter.	Faith (Hinduism)
March 25	Khordad Sal	This day celebrates the birth of Zarathustra/Zoroaster. Celebrants pray, hang fresh flowers in their home, and make vibrant drawings (rangoli) on the floor.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
March 28	Guan Yin Birthday	The Goddess of Mercy is a figure of eternal benevolence. She is celebrated as the spiritual embodiment of wisdom, compassion, and mercy.	Faith (Buddhism)
March 29	Good Friday (Gregorian Calendar)	A Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus.	Faith (Christianity)
March 31	Easter Sunday (Gregorian Calendar)	One of the holiest days in the Christian (Western) calendar, Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death, three days after his crucifixion.	Faith (Christianity)
March 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility	The annual holiday dedicated to celebrating trans people and raising awareness of the discrimination they face worldwide.	2SLGBTQQIA+

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March 31	National Indigenous Language Day	Indigenous Languages Day is a day to honour the importance of Indigenous languages and promote their survival.	Indigenous
April	Genocide Awareness Month	A month to honour the victims of genocide and reflect on the causes of these tragedies, so they never happen again.	Ethnocultural
April	Latin American History Month	Recognizes the contributions of the Latin American community in Canada to the social, economic, and political fabric of the nation.	Ethnocultural
April	Sikh Heritage Month	An opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about Sikh Canadians and the role they play in communities.	Ethnocultural
April	Celebrate Diversity Month	A time to recognize and celebrate other cultures and populations	Ethnocultural
April	World Autism Month	A global effort to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism.	People with Disabilities
April 1	Easter Monday (Gregorian Calendar)	A celebration of Jesus Christ rising from the dead and coming out of the tomb. This demonstrates the power of Jesus over death and that he can provide everlasting life to anyone who believes in him.	Faith (Christianity)
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	A day created to raise awareness of Autism the globe.	People with Disabilities
April 7	World Health Day	A day to celebrate the work of nurses and midwives and remind world leaders of the critical role they play in keeping the world healthy.	General Significant Day
April 7	Tutsi Genocide Memorial Day	Commemorates the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. On this day we remember and pay tribute to all those who lost their lives in this genocide.	Ethnocultural
April 8	Farvardigan	A ten-day Zoroastrian festival at year's end to honour the spirits of the dead.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
April 9	Eid Al-Fitr (end of Ramadan)	A Muslim celebration to mark the end of Ramadan, the holy month of dawn to dusk fasting. This day is celebrated with feasts, gifts, and prayers in honour of God.	Faith (Islam)

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April 9	Vimy Ridge	A day to remember the legacy of the Canadians who battled in the First World War.	General Significant Day
April 9-17	Chaitra Navratri	A nine-day festivity which starts on the first day of the Hindu Luni-Solar calendar. This festival is dedicated to Mother Goddess Shakti and Goddess Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati.	Faith (Hinduism)
April 10	International Day of Pink	Celebrated by putting on a pink shirt and stand in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to continue fighting for equality and acceptance.	2SLGBTQIA+
April 13	Vaisakhi/Sikh New Year	Vaisakhi is a harvest festival which is celebrated in April across South Asia and especially in the Punjab Region on the first day of Vaisakhi in the Sikh Calendar.	Faith (Sikhism)
April 14	Puthandu (Tamil New Year)	It is believed that on this auspicious day, Lord Indra came to the earth to ensure peace and serenity	Faith (Tamil)
April 16	Shri/Rama Navami	Rama Navami is a Hindu celebration commemorating the birth of Lord Rama, son of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya.	Faith (Hinduism)
April 20-21	First Day of Ridván	The most important of the Baha'i holy days. It is the day on which Bahá'u'lláh declared his mission as a Messenger of God.	Faith (Baha'i)
April 21	Grounation Day	An important Rastafari holy day. It is celebrated in honour of Haile Selassie's 1966 visit to Jamaica.	Faith (Rastafarianism)
April 22	Earth Day	Aims to raise awareness and demonstrate support of environmental protection.	General Significant Day
April 22-30	Passover	This commemorates the liberation of the Hebrew slaves from Egypt. A feast called a seder is held on the first two nights and sometimes on the final two nights of the eight-day holiday.	Faith (Judaism)
April 24	Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day	To remember those who lost their lives and who suffered from the senseless acts wrought upon the Armenian people in the early 1900s.	Ethnocultural
April 28	National Day of Mourning	Dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives or suffered injury or illness on the job or due to a work-related tragedy.	General Significant Date



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May	Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month	An opportunity to raise awareness about the devastating impact of sexual assault, better understand its deep cultural and historical roots, support victims and survivors, and work together to stop the violence.	Gender
May	Asian Heritage Month	An opportunity for all Canadians to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian descent. Throughout our history they have done so much to make Canada the country we share today.	Ethnocultural
May	Jewish Heritage Month	Celebrating the inspirational role that Jewish Canadians have played and continue to play in communities across the country.	Ethnocultural
May	National Speech and Hearing Month	A month to raise awareness about the importance of communication and issues relating to speech, language, swallowing, hearing and balance.	People with Disabilities
May	Dutch Heritage Month	A month to recognize the important contributions that Dutch Canadians have made to the economic, political, social, and cultural fabric of Ontario's society.	Ethnocultural
May 1	Beltane	The Gaelic May Day festival. The holiday celebrates spring at its peak, and the coming summer.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)
May 3	Orthodox Holy Friday (Julian Calendar)	A day that allows the Orthodox Christian to think on the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.	Faith (Christianity)
May 5	Orthodox Easter Sunday (Julian Calendar)	Also called 'Pascha,' this is one of the holiest days in the Christian (Western) calendar. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death, three days after his crucifixion.	Faith (Christianity)
May 5	National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S	Also known as Red Dress Day, is meant to honour and remember all missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.	Indigenous
May 5	Cinco de Mayo	This day celebrates the anniversary of the battle of Puebla, a symbol of resistance for the people of Mexico.	Ethnocultural
May 5	International Family Equality Day	Provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and learn to live together better.	Gender

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May 6	Orthodox Easter Monday	This day celebrates Jesus' resurrection, according to Christian Belief.	Faith (Christianity)
May 6-12	Mental Health week	A Canadian tradition with communities, schools and workplaces rallying to celebrate, protect and promote mental health.	Health – Canada
May 7	National Youth & Mental Health Day	A day to build connections between young people and the caring adults in their to lives to impact the mental health of children and youth.	Youth
May 9	Ascension Day	This day commemorates the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.	Faith (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
May 10	Jordans Principle	A child's first principle and legal rule that was named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. It ensures that First Nations children get the service and support needed when the child needs them.	Indigenous
May 15	International Day of Families	A day which provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes affecting families.	General Significant Day
May 16-20	Facial Equality week	This week is to celebrate visible differences and raise awareness about the prejudice experienced by people with visible differences.	People with Disabilities
May 16	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 alive today who live with disabilities or impairments.	People with Disabilities
May 17	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia	A day to raise awareness of the discrimination and violation of rights experienced by the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.	2SLGBTQQIA+
May 20	Victoria Day	Celebrated in honour of the birth of Queen Victoria, the first sovereign of Canada, post-Confederation.	General Significant Day

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May 21	World Day of Cultural Diversity	The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together better.	Ethnocultural
May 23	Vesak Day	It is celebrated as the day that Buddha was born, the day he was enlightened, and the day that he passed away.	Faith (Buddhism)
May 26 - June 1	National Accessibility week	Celebrates the valuable contributions of Canadians with disabilities, the accomplishments of individuals, communities, and workplaces to remove barriers to accessibility and inclusion. A reminder of the ongoing work we all have to do to counter discrimination against persons with disabilities and promote a culture of inclusion.	People with Disabilities
May 28	World Hunger Day	To raise awareness about the people living in chronic hunger and to encourage action to bring this to an end.	People with Low income
June	National Indigenous History Month	It's a time to honour the stories and resilience of Indigenous People, who have lived on this land since time immemorial and whose presence continues to impact us today.	Indigenous
June	Italian Heritage Month	An opportunity to recognize and celebrate the exceptional achievements that Italian Canadians have made.	Ethnocultural
June	Portuguese Heritage Month	Recognize the immense contributions Canadians of Portuguese origin have made to the growth and development of our country.	Ethnocultural
June	Filipino Heritage Month	An opportunity to recognize, celebrate and raise awareness about the Filipino community in Canada and their valuable contributions throughout Canadian history.	Ethnocultural
June	Seniors Month	A time when we recognize the amazing older Ontarians and their contributions in communities across the province.	Older Adults
June	Pride Month	June was chosen for 2SLGBTQQIA+ Pride Month to commemorate the Stonewall riots, which occurred at the end of June 1969.	2SLGBTQQIA+
June 5	World Environment Day	Raise awareness and generate political momentum around growing concerns, such as the depletion of the ozone layer, toxic chemicals, desertification, and global warming.	General Significant Day

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June 11-13	Shavuot	Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, is also known as "Pentecost." According to Rabbinic tradition, the Ten Commandments were given on this day. It is traditional to eat meals containing dairy during Shavuot.	Faith (Jewish)
June 12	Filipino Independence Day	An annual national holiday in the Philippines observed on June 12, commemorating the declaration of Philippine independence from Spain in 1898.	Ethnocultural
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour	Launched in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.	Youth
June 14-19	Hajj Pilgrimage	An annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest city for Muslims. Hajj is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by all adult Muslims who are physically and financially capable.	Faith (Islam)
June 16-20	Eid al-Adha	A Muslim observance, celebrated in honour of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to God, also known as the Festival of Sacrifice.	Faith (Islam)
July 16	Ethiopian Constitution Day	Commemorates the implementation of Ethiopia's first constitution by Haile Selassie in 1931	Faith (Rastafarianism)
June 19	Juneteenth	Also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day, and Emancipation Day, is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.	Ethnocultural
June 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.	New Immigrants
June 21	Litha/Summer Solstice	This marks the beginning of Summer – although it was originally conceived by Wiccans as a celebration of midsummer – and marks the day with the longest period of sunlight in the northern hemisphere.	Faith (Wiccans)
June 21	National Indigenous People's Day	Honours the unique cultures, heritage as well as achievements of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis population of Canada.	Indigenous

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June 21	World Humanist Day	An opportunity for humanists all around the world to publicise the positive values and share the global concerns of the humanist movement.	General Significant Day
June 24	St. Jean Baptiste Day	Also known as Quebec's National Holiday and is celebrated in honour of the nativity of Saint John, the Baptist of Jesus Christ.	Francophone
June 25 - July 1	Somali Heritage Week	An opportunity to recognize the significant contributions that Somali Canadians have made and continue to make across Ontario.	Ethnocultural
June 26	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	This global observance aims to raise awareness of the major problem that illicit drugs represent to society.	General Significant Day
June 26	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	An opportunity to call on all stakeholders including UN Member States, civil society, and individuals everywhere to unite in support of the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who have been victims of torture and those who are still tortured today.	General Significant Day
June 27	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day	Helps to raise awareness for this disorder and help thousands of people in the province and beyond move past stigma, isolation, and helplessness and towards resources, understanding and the road to recovery.	People with Disabilities
June 27	Canadian Multiculturalism Day	Celebrates Canada's diverse cultures as well as the country's commitment to equality, democracy, and mutual respect.	Race/Ethnicity
June 28	Anniversary of Stone Wall Riot	Remembering a series of spontaneous demonstrations by members of the queer community in response to a police raid that began on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York City.	2SLGBTQQIA+
July 1	Canada Day	A day to celebrate the enactment of the Constitution Act in 1867 thereby establishing Canada as a new federation with its own constitution.	General Significant Day
July 1	Tirgan	A ten-day celebration of the settlement of the border dispute between Iran and Turan during the reigns of kings Manuchehr and Afrasiab.	Faith (Persian)

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July 8	Islamic New Year (Muharram)	The Islamic New Year starts with Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar.	Faith (Islam)
July 14	International Non-Binary People's Day	International Non-Binary People's Day is observed each year on July 14 and is aimed at raising awareness and organising around the issues faced by non-binary people around the world.	2SLGBTQQIA+
July 17	Ashura	For Sunni Muslims, Ashura marks the parting of the Red Sea by God for Moses and the salvation of the Israelites. For Shia Muslims, this day commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammed killed in the Battle of Karbala.	Faith (Islam)
July 18	Nelson Mandela International 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.	General Significant Day
July 21	Asalha Puja	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.	Faith (Buddhism)
July 21	Guru Purnima	Traditionally observed to honour one's chosen spiritual teachers or leaders	Faith (Buddhism)
July 23	Birthday of Emperor Haile	Rastafarians regard Haile Selassie I as God because Marcus Garvey's prophecy - "Look to Africa where a black king shall be crowned, he shall be the Redeemer" - was swiftly followed by the ascension of Haile Selassie as Emperor of Ethiopia. Haile Selassie I is regarded by Rastafarians as the God of the Black race.	Faith (Rastafarianism)
Aug	Caregivers Month	Encourages all Canadians to pay tribute to and celebrate caregivers.	General Significant Day
Aug 1	Lughnassadh/Lammas	The first of Wiccans autumn harvest festivals.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)

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Aug 1	Emancipation Day	Anniversary of when British Parliament abolished slavery in the British Empire in 1834.	Ethnocultural
Aug 5	Terry Fox Day	This day celebrates Terry Fox and his cross-Canada run that lasted 143 days and 5,373 kilometers — all to raise money and awareness for cancer.	People with Disabilities
Aug 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	Pronounced by the UN, this is a day to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous populations around the world and recognize the achievements and contributions that Indigenous peoples make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.	Indigenous
Aug 12	International Youth Day	This is a day to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions, and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal, and equitable engagement.	Youth
Aug 13 - 15	Obon Festival	A Japanese Buddhist custom to honour one's spiritual ancestors.	Faith (Buddhism)
Aug 17	Marcus Garvey's Birthday	A day which celebrates the birthday of the Jamaican politician and activist who is revered by Rastafarians. Garvey is credited with starting the Back to Africa movement, which encouraged those of African descent to return to the land of their ancestors during and after slavery in North America.	Faith (Rastafarianism)
Aug 19	Raksha Bandhan	The Hindu festival celebrates the love, bond, and duty that exists between brothers and sisters. It also celebrates any brother-sister-like relationships even for those who are not biologically related.	Faith (Hinduism)
Aug 19	World Humanitarian Day	An opportunity to celebrate the spirit that inspires humanitarian work around the globe.	United Nations
Aug 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition	A day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.	Ethnocultural

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Aug 26	Krishna Janmashtami	A birthday celebration of the Hindu deity, Krishna, known for giving the message of the Gita, establishing vital and guiding Hindu principles.	Faith (Hinduism)
Sept	Craniofacial Awareness Month	Bring awareness to the unique challenges faced by those in the community and supporting the more than two million Canadians who are living with a facial difference.	People with Disabilities
Sept 02	Labour Day	This day celebrates the achievements of workers and advocates for their rights and privileges.	General Significant Day
Sept 04	Pehla Prakash Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji	Marks the first Prakash (opening ceremony) of Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh scripture) at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India in 1604.	Faith (Sikhism)
Sept 05-17	Onam	Celebrated by Malayalee's and is believed to be based on the story of King Mahabali, a popular ruler of Kerala. The festival is also a celebration of the end of monsoon season and to welcome the new harvest.	Faith (Hinduism)
Sept 07	Ukrainian Heritage Day	An opportunity to highlight the invaluable contributions that Canadians of Ukrainian descent have made to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of Canada.	Ethnocultural
Sept 08-14	Mennonite Heritage Week	A week to celebrate the history of the Mennonites and their ability to contribute to building an open, welcoming, and prosperous society as a testament to the values they hold dear.	Faith (Christianity)
Sept 08	International Day for Literacy	A day to raise people's awareness of and concern for literacy issues in the world.	General Significant Day
Sept 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	World Suicide Prevention Day is observed each year to promote worldwide action to prevent suicides. Various events and activities are held during this occasion to raise awareness.	People with Disabilities
Sept 11	Ethiopian New Year	The start of the New Year in Ethiopia is recognised because Rastafarians believe Ethiopia to be their spiritual homeland, and a place to which they want to return.	Faith (Rastafarianism)



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Sept 11-18	Paryushan Parva	An eight-day Jain festival. A spiritual festival which is celebrated to bring spiritual awareness and awakening.	Faith (Jainism)
Sept 13-22	Welcome Week	Welcome Week celebrates the people, places and values that help everyone feel welcome and give them a sense of belonging in their local community, no matter where they come from.	New Immigrants
Sept 15	Terry Fox Run (Second Sunday after Labour Day)	A Fall tradition in 650 communities across Canada to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation and cancer research.	General Significant Day
Sept 15	International Day of Democracy	Provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world.	General Significant Day
Sept 15-16	Mawlid-al-Nabi (Prophet's Birthday)	A Muslim celebration commemorating the birth of the Prophet Muhammad in the third month of the Islamic calendar. Recognized as a national holiday in many Muslim-majority countries around the globe.	Faith (Islam)
Sept 19	Powley Day	Métis communities across Ontario celebrate Powley Day on September 19th, marking the anniversary of the landmark Métis rights victory at the Supreme Court of Canada.	Indigenous
Sept 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.	General Significant Day
Sept 22-28	Gender Equality Week	It highlights Canada's commitment to inclusivity and equality by recognizing and celebrating the diversity within the country.	Gender
Sept 22	Mabon (Autumn Equinox)	This represents the first day of Fall and one of two days in the year in which there are approximately equal amounts of day and night time.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)
Sept 23	International Day of Sign Language	A day to celebrate and support the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all sign language users.	People with Disabilities

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Sept 23	Bi Visibility Day	Also referred to as Bisexual Pride Day. Since 1999 this day has celebrated the bisexual community while sharing the ongoing challenges of biphobia the community faces.	2SLGBTQQIA+
Sept 25	Franco-Ontarian Day	A day to recognize and celebrate the Franco-Ontarian community.	Francophone
Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day / National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	The day honours the lost children and survivors of Indian residential schools, their families, and communities.	Indigenous
Oct	Somalian Heritage Month	Recognizes the economic, political, social, and cultural achievements and contributions of Somali Canadians in all aspects of Canadian society.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Women's History Month	A time to celebrate the women and girls from our past, and our present, who are contributing to a better, more inclusive Canada.	Gender
Oct	Canadian Islamic Month	This month recognizes the significant role that the Muslim communities play in Canadian society and highlights their contributions.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Latin American Heritage Month	Recognizing members of the Latin American community and their significant contributions to the social, economic, and political fabric.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Autism Awareness Month	An opportunity to learn more about this condition and about how we can support people living with autism, their families, and their caregivers.	People with Disabilities
Oct	German Heritage Month	Canadians celebrate German Heritage Month and Oktoberfest, a nine-day celebration beginning on the Friday before Thanksgiving.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Learning Disabilities Awareness Month	This is a month to raise awareness for the many learners that have learning disabilities, differences, or disorders.	People with Disabilities
Oct	Domestic Violence Awareness Day	A time to unite and support victims and survivors of abuse.	Gender

## 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Oct	Down Syndrome Awareness Month	This is a month to raise awareness and celebrate the many abilities of people with Down Syndrome.	People with Disabilities
Oct	National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month	This month encourages everyone to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying on all children of all ages.	International
Oct 1	Canadian National Seniors Day	A national day to recognize the contributions of older adults and examine the issues that affect their lives.	Older Adults
Oct 2- 4	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)	Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. Traditions include eating apples dipped in honey and blowing the shofar (ram's horn). Most Jews attend synagogue on these days and the preceding evening.	Faith (Jewish)
Oct 2	World Day of Bullying Prevention	The first Monday of every October is World Day of Bullying Prevention. On this day students, schools, and communities all over the world go BLUE together against bullying. It also kicks off National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month.	International
Oct 2	Mehregan	A traditional Zoroastrian autumn festival dedicated to the god of friendship, love, and affection-Mithra.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
Oct 3-12	Navratri	A Hindu festival of nine nights in the worship of the Hindu goddess Durga, celebrated with various traditions and rituals in honour of a different form of the goddess each night.	Faith (Hinduism)
Oct 4	National Day for Action for MMIWG2S	On this day, we honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people by committing to ending the violence that disproportionately impacts their communities.	Indigenous
Oct 6-10	Mental Illness Awareness Week	A National public education campaign designed to help open the eyes of Canadians to the reality of mental illness.	People with Disabilities
Oct 10	World Mental Health Day	A day to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.	People with Disabilities
Oct 10	World Homeless Day	The purpose of this day is to bring to focus the issues of homelessness and inadequate housing.	People Experiencing Homelessness

## 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Oct 11-12	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Yom Kippur is considered by Jews to be the holiest and most solemn day of the year. Most Jews attend synagogue on this day and the preceding evening.	Faith (Jewish)
Oct 11	National Coming Out Day	This is a day to raise awareness for people within the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community and is a day when many people will share their identity.	2SLGBTQQIA+
Oct 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. A day to raise public awareness about gender bias and discrimination directed at girls.	Gender, Youth
Oct 14	Thanksgiving Day	A day of giving thanks to the harvest and blessings of the previous year.	General Significant Day
Oct 15	Pregnant and Infant Loss Remembrance Day	A day of commemoration held annually for pregnancy loss and infant mortality. This involves miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS, ectopic pregnancy, medical abortion, and the death of a baby.	Gender
Oct 16	World Food Day	To mark the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This day marks the aim to eradicate hunger across the world.	People with Low income
Oct 16 - 23	Waste Reduction Week	The purpose is to celebrate our environmental efforts and achievements while encouraging new innovative ideas and solutions.	General Significant Day
Oct 16—23	Sukkot	This is a joyful festival. A little hut called "sukkah" is built outdoors where families eat to remember the time Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years, sleeping and eating under the stars.	Faith (Judaism)
Oct 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Celebrates the day when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence, and hunger.	People with Low income
Oct 18	Person's Day	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.	Gender
Oct 26	Abanagan	A Zoroastrian festival celebrating the creation of water, observed by reciting the Abzoor prayer beside bodies of water.	Faith (Zoroastrian)

## 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Significant Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Diversity Dimension</b>
Oct 27	Dress Purple Day	A day to raise awareness on the important role of individuals and communities in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families.	Youth
Nov	Hindu Heritage Month	Celebrating Hindu Canadians and the important role that they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario.	Ethnocultural
Nov	Indigenous Education Month	A day to recognize the advancements and tackle the challenges in Indigenous education in Canada.	Indigenous
Nov	Diabetes Awareness Month	A time when communities across the country team up to bring attention to diabetes.	People with Disabilities
Nov	National Homeless Youth Awareness Month	A month to acknowledge those children and families who are experiencing homelessness.	People Experiencing Homelessness
Nov	Albanian Heritage Month	Celebrating Albanian Canadians and the important role that they have played and continue to play in communities across Ontario.	Ethnocultural
Nov 1	All Saints Day	A day celebrating all church saints who have lived righteous and holy lives in accordance with Christian teachings.	Faith (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Nov 1	Samhain	A Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter or "darker half" of the year.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)
Nov 1	Take your kids to work day	A day for parents and guardians to take their kids to work for early career planning.	General Significant Day
Nov 2	Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie, I	One of the holiest days of the Rastafarian year, it celebrates Haile Selassie's accession to the Ethiopian throne.	Faith (Rastafarianism)
Nov 2	Day of the Dead	A Mexican holiday celebrated in Mexico and elsewhere associated with the Catholic celebrations of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.	Ethnocultural
Nov 5 – 11	Treaty Recognition Week (First Week of November)	Honours treaties and helps Ontario residents understand the significance of treaty rights, relationships, and their relevance today.	Indigenous
Nov 7	Inuit Day	Also known as International Circumpolar Inuit Day, is a holiday that was created to celebrate Inuit and amplify their voices.	Indigenous

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Nov 8	National Indigenous Veterans' Day	A day to commemorate the contributions of Indigenous veterans who fought shoulder to shoulder with Canadians in WWI, WWII, and the Korean War.	Indigenous
Nov 11	Remembrance Day	Commemorates the members of the armed forces who have sacrificed their lives during the World Wars and other military efforts.	General Significant Day
Nov 12	Bandi Chhor Divas	Bandi Chhor Divas is a Sikh celebration that commemorates the day the sixth Guru of Sikhs, Guru Hargobind released 52 prisoners from Gwalior Fort, who had been imprisoned by Mughal Emperor Jahangir.	Faith (Sikhism)
Nov 12	Diwali	Diwali or Deepavali the Hindu festival of lights celebrated in autumn in the northern hemisphere and spring in southern hemisphere.	Faith (Hinduism)
Nov 13-18	Transgender Awareness Week	People and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility about transgender people and address issues members of the community face.	2SLGBTQQIA+
Nov 14	World Diabetes Day	To raise awareness of the growing concerns about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes.	People with Disabilities
Nov 15	Guru Nanak Gurburab	On this Gurburab, Sikhs remember the 1st Guru of Sikhs Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings that all of humanity is one, everyone is equal, we should share with others, live honestly, truthfully, and fight for social justice.	Faith (Sikhism)
Nov 16	Louis Riel Day	November 16 is the anniversary of Louis Riel's execution in 1885. To celebrate Métis culture, recognize the many contributions of the Métis to Canada, and to highlight the struggles that Métis continue to face.	Indigenous
Nov 19	National Men's Day	International Men's Day was first celebrated in the year 1999 to promote good male role models and to increase awareness of men's health. This day also tries to bring attention to male discrimination, promote gender equality and build a better and safe world.	Gender

## 2024 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Nov 19	International Day for People Impacted by Suicide Loss	Special events take place around the world for those impacted by suicide loss to find comfort, remember loved ones, and share stories of loss, healing, and hope.	General Significant Day
Nov 20	International 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.	2SLGBTQQIA+
Nov 20	World Children’s Day	First established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated to promote and improve children's welfare worldwide.	Youth
Nov 20-24	Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week	To help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment.	General Significant Day
Nov 22	National Housing Day	It is a day to recognize the important work done by housing partners cross Canada to improve access to housing for everyone in Canada.	People Experiencing Homelessness
Nov 24	Adargan	A Zoroastrian celebration of the creation of the life-giving element fire.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
Nov 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 sexual assault, domestic violence, and other forms of violence.	Gender
Dec	Universal Human Rights Month	People all across the globe are encouraged to come together and stand up for equality, justice, and the dignity of all humans.	General Significant Day
Dec 1	World AIDS Day	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.	People with Disabilities
Dec 2	International Day of the Abolition of Slavery	To raise awareness of the atrocities of modern slavery. Not to be confused with the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.	Ethnocultural

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Dec 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.	People with Disabilities
Dec 3 – 24	Advent	Advent marks a month-long period of preparation and anticipation for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.	Faith (Christianity)
Dec 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	A day to remember those who have experienced and been lost to gender-based violence. The day was chosen to mourn and honour 14 young women who were murdered at Polytechnique Montréal on this day in 1989.	Gender
Dec 8	Bodhi Day (Buddha Enlightenment)	In Japanese Zen, Bodhi day is called "Rohatsu" and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days.	Faith (Buddhism)
Dec 10	Human Rights Day	A day to honour the UN General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first global enunciation of human rights.	United Nations
Dec 16-24	Posadas Navidenas	Las Posadas begin the countdown to Christmas in Mexico, Guatemala, Latin America, Cuba, Spain, and parts of the United States and Canada.	Faith (Christian/Hispanic)
Dec 18	International Migrants Day	Aims to raise awareness about the challenges and difficulties of international migration.	New Immigrants
Dec 21	Yule - Winter Solstice	Pagan celebration of the winter solstice is known as Yule, and it's one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world. It simultaneously celebrates the shortest day of the year, midwinter, the return of the Sun, and a festival of rebirth.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)
Dec 24 - Jan 2	Hannukah (or Chanukah) (Festival of Lights)	Hanukkah (or Chanukah) is an eight-day festival marked by the lighting of candles. Although not a major Jewish holiday, its popularity has increased in recent years, especially among American Jews.	Faith (Jewish)



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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Dec 25	Christmas Day (Gregorian Calendar)	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.	General Significant Day / Faith (Christianity)
Dec 26	Boxing Day	The day after Christmas Day was traditionally celebrated as the day tradesmen and servants would receive gifts from their employers.	General Significant Day
Dec 26	Zartosht No-Disco	A sorrowful occasion to remember the death anniversary of Zoroastrian prophet Zarathustra.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
Dec 26 - Jan 1	Kwanzaa	A celebration of the African diaspora held in the United States and in other nations in the Americas. The week-long celebration honours African heritage in African American culture and is observed from Dec 26 to Jan 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving.	Ethnocultural