2026 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

The 2026 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

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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	Alzheimer's Awareness Month	The Alzheimer Society encourages organizations and individuals across Canada to learn more about dementia and its impact.	Older Adults
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	Feast Day of St Basil (St. Basil's Day)	A day where the Greek Orthodox Church commemorates Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.	Faith (Christianity)
Jan 3	Mahayana - Buddhist New Year	A time of renewal and reflection for Buddhists around the world, this celebration is marked with meditation, offerings, and acts of kindness.	Faith (Buddhism)
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 5	Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Gurpurab	On this day, the 10th Guru of Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birth is celebrated. Sikhs remember his teachings and poetry.	Faith (Sikhism)
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 13	Maghi	Sikhs commemorate the sacrifice of forty Sikhs, who fought for Guru Gobind Singh Ji.	Faith (Sikhism)

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Jan 13	Lohri	Also known as “The Harvest Festival”, marks the end of the winter solstice and is considered the new year for Punjabi farmers. On this day, the sun and fire are worshipped and thanked for a good harvest.	Faith (Sikhism)
Jan 14	Orthodox New Year	The start of the new year under the Julian calendar.	Faith (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan 14	Makar Sankranti	A Hindu festival that marks the end of the winter season and the start of a new harvest season. Lord Surya is worshipped on this day to thank the solar energy for life and food on our planet.	Faith (Hinduism)
Jan 14-17	Thai Pongal	The harvest festival of Tamil Nadu, it is a Hindu celebration to thank the Sun, Mother Nature and the various farm animals that help to contribute to the harvest. The festival reminds us of the importance of natural resources, and learn more to preserve the environment.	Faith (Tamil)
Jan 18	World Religion Day	To promote understanding and peace between all religions, encouraging people to learn about other faiths and their followers.	Faith
Jan 19	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 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	Sadeh	A Zoroastrian day of celebration centred around light, fire, dancing, and feasting which announces the coming of Spring and Nowruz.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
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	Ethnocultural

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		killed in a violent act of Islamophobia on Jan 29, 2017, in Québec City.	
Feb	Black History Month	Celebrates the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who continue to make Canada prosperous.	Ethnocultural
Feb 1 - 2	Imbolc	A Wiccan/Pagan holiday that marks the halfway point between the 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 15	Parinirvana Day - Buddha's Death	This day marks the death of Buddha. For Buddhists, it is often a celebration because they believe that he attained enlightenment, achieving freedom from physical existence and its' sufferings.	Faith (Buddhism)
Feb 15	Maha Shivaratri	A festival celebrated in honour of God Shiva which marks overcoming the darkness and ignorance in the world.	Faith (Hinduism)
Feb 16	Louis Riel Day (Manitoba)	This day honours Louis Riel, the Metis leader who led the fight to maintain Indigenous and Francophone rights.	Indigenous
Feb 17-21	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. This year celebrates the Year of the Horse.	Ethnocultural
Feb 17	Maitreya Boddhisava Birthday	Maitreya is the most well-known Buddha, who is believed that he will lead the coming era as a Buddha. His birthday is celebrated on the first day of the first moon of the Lunar Calendar.	Faith (Buddhism
Feb 17 - March 18	Ramadan	A holy month in Islam when Muslims fast from food and drink during daylight hours. The purpose is to cleanse the mind, body, and soul	Faith (Islam)

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		from impurities and re-focus on the worship of God.	
Feb 18	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 18 – April 2	Lent	A 40-day period of spiritual preparation in the Christian calendar leading up to Easter. It is a time for fasting, prayer, and charity to deepening one's relationship with God.	Faith (Christianity)
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.	Gender, People with Low Income
Feb 21	International Mother Language Day	A worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.	New Immigrants
Feb 23	Clean Monday	A reminder that we should begin Lent with good intentions and a desire to clean our spiritual house.	Faith (Christianity)
Feb 26	Pink Shirt Day	An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying.	Youth
March	Greek Heritage Month	Sharing the rich Greek culture which spans 2500 years of history and recognizing the important contributions Greek Canadians have made to Canadian society.	Ethnocultural
March	Irish Heritage Month	Recognizing the important contributions that Irish Canadians have made and continue to make in Canadian society.	Ethnocultural
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)

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March 4	Holi	The ancient Hindu Festival of Colours, it celebrates the blossoming of spring and marks the end of winter, the joys of love, and the victory of good over evil. It is celebrated with bright colours around the world.	Faith (Hinduism)
March 3	Magha Puja	Commemorates the day where 1,250 Buddhists monks came together spontaneously to pay their respects to the Buddha.	Faith (Buddhism)
March 4 – 6	Hola Mohalla	A three-day Sikh festival which shares the message of courage, defense preparation, and celebrates the teachings of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.	Faith (Sikhism)
March 6	Black Balloon Day	Observed to honour those lost to overdose, raise awareness, and support families affected by substance use.	People with Disabilities
March 8	International Women's Day	This day recognizes and celebrates the achievements and value of women around the world. It raises awareness of discrimination women face and how we can work towards equity.	Gender
March 14	New Year's Day (Nanakshahi Calendar)	Marks the beginning of the Chet month (first month) in the Nanakshahi calendar.	Faith (Sikhism)
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	A cultural and religious celebration that honours the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. This day is widely celebrated by Irish communities around the world.	Ethnocultural
March 18 – 19	Hari Raya Nyepi (Hindu New Year)	Observes to celebrate the coming of the Hindu New Year in Bali.	Faith (Hinduism)
March 19	Pateti Festival	The 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 - 27	Chaitra Navratri	A nine-day festivity which starts on the first day of the Hindu Luni-Solar calendar. This festival is	Faith (Hinduism)

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		dedicated to Mother Goddess Shakti and Goddess Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati.	
March 20	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)
March 20	Nowruz	Persian New Year is a vibrant festival welcoming the first day of spring. The most iconic custom is the setting of the Haft-Seen table, a display of seven symbolic items each starting with 'S' in Persian. These items collectively symbolize hope, renewal, and prosperity for the upcoming year.	Faith (Persian)
March 20	International Francophonie Day	A day to celebrate the French language, culture, and values. (French: Journée internationale de la Francophonie).	Francophone
March 20 – 21	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)
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	This day aims to promote racial equality and to raise awareness about the negative impact of discrimination on individuals and societies, including immigrants and refugees.	New Immigrants
March 26	Khordad Sal	This Zoroastrian 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 26	Rama Navami	A Hindu celebration commemorating the birth of Lord Rama. It is celebrated on the ninth day of the Chaitra month (the first month in the Hindu lunar calendar).	Faith (Hinduism)

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March 29	Palm Sunday	Commemorates the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem before he was crucified, and people waved palm branches to greet him.	Faith (Christianity
March 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility	The annual holiday is dedicated to celebrating trans people and raising awareness of the discrimination they face worldwide.	2SLGBTQQIA+
March 31	National Indigenous Language Day	Honours the importance of Indigenous languages and promotes their survival through the celebration of more than 70 Indigenous languages spoken across the country.	Indigenous
April	World Autism Month	A global effort to increase understanding and acceptance of people with Autism.	People with Disabilities
April	Genocide Awareness Month	Honouring the victims of genocide and reflect on the causes of these tragedies, so we can learn from them, and support affected communities.	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 their communities.	Ethnocultural
April	Celebrate Diversity Month	This celebration started in 2004 to honour diversity of cultures and populations, and to recognize our different identities, including gender.	Ethnocultural
April 1 - 9	Passover	This eight-day holiday 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.	Faith (Judaism)
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	A day to raise awareness about the experiences and barriers people with Autism face around the world.	People with Disabilities

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April 3	Good Friday (Gregorian Calendar)	A Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus.	Faith (Christianity)
April 5	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)
April 6	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 6	Guan Yin Birthday	The birthday for the Buddhist bodhisattva known as the Goddess of compassion and mercy in Buddhism. During these celebrations, devotees will go to temples to offer prayer items like fruits, flowers, and homemade pastries.	Faith (Buddhism)
April 7	World Health Day	Focuses on health access disparities affecting low-income groups and health equity.	People with Low Income
April 8	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.	2SLGBTQQIA+
April 9	Vimy Ridge	A day to remember the legacy of the Canadians who battled in the First World War.	Older Adults, People with Disabilities
April 10	Orthodox Holy Friday (Julian Calendar)	This day commemorates the moments leading up to and including the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.	Faith (Christianity)
April 12	Orthodox Easter Sunday (Julian Calendar)	Also called ‘Pascha,’ this is one of the holiest days in the Christian (Julian) calendar. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death, three days after his crucifixion.	Faith (Christianity)

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April 13	Orthodox Easter Monday	This day celebrates Jesus' resurrection, according to Christian belief.	Faith (Christianity)
April 14	Vaisakhi/Sikh New Year	This is a harvest festival which is celebrated across the world on the first day of Vaisakh on the Punjabi calendar. It marks the beginning of the New Year and honours Sikh traditions and the culture.	Faith (Sikhism)
April 14	Puthandu (Tamil New Year)	Marks a new beginning and it is believed that on this day, Lord Indra came to the earth to ensure peace and serenity.	Faith (Tamil)
April 21	Grounation Day	An important Rastafari holy day. It is celebrated in honour of Haile Selassie's 1966 visit to Jamaica.	Faith (Rastafarianism)
May	Armenian Heritage Month	A month to honour and celebrate the history of Armenians in Canada, and the significant impact that they had in Canada's culture and society.	Ethnocultural
May	Caregiver's Month	Encourages all Canadians to pay tribute to and celebrate caregivers.	People with Disabilities, Older Adults, Youth
May	Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month	An opportunity to raise awareness of the impacts of sexual assault and to support victims and survivors.	Gender
May	Asian Heritage Month	A month to learn more about the diverse culture and history of Asian communities in Canada, and to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of people of Asian origin.	Ethnocultural
May	Jewish Heritage Month	A month to discover and celebrate Jewish culture, faith, history, and the contributions of Jewish communities in Canada.	Ethnocultural
May	National Speech and Hearing Month	To raise awareness about the importance of communication and issues relating to speech, language, hearing, and balance.	People with Disabilities
May	Dutch Heritage Month	A month to celebrate the contributions that generations of Dutch Canadians have made and continue to make in Canada.	Ethnocultural

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May 1	Beltane	A Pagan festival that celebrates spring at its peak, and the coming summer. It is also a celebration of fire, fertility, and rebirth.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)
May 3	International Family Equality Day	This day promotes acceptance and equality for 2SLGBTQQIA+ families, highlighting the diversity of family structures.	Gender
May 4 - 10	Mental Health Week	To continue to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and help end the stigma.	People with Disabilities
May 5	National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S (Red Dress Day)	This day honours and remembers 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 – 11	National Child and Youth Mental Health Week	A day to help young people feel seen, heard, and supported.	Youth
May 10	Bear Witness Day (Jordans Principle)	A child first principle and legal rule that was named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. It ensures that all First Nations children get the services and support they need.	Indigenous
May 12 - 19	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 14	Ascension Day	This day commemorates the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.	Faith (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
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 21	Global Accessibility Awareness Day	Focuses on digital access and inclusion for individuals who live with disabilities or impairments.	People with Disabilities

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May 21	World Day of Cultural Diversity	This day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and learn to live together better.	Ethnocultural
May 22	Shavuot	Also known as “The Feast of Weeks”, this is a Jewish festival celebrating the giving of the Torah from God to the Israelites at Mount Sinai.	Faith (Judaism)
May 24	Buddha Day (Buddha’s Birthday)	Commemorates the birth of the prince Siddartha Gautama, who become Gautama Buddha and founded Buddhism.	Faith (Buddhism)
May 24 - 30	National AccessAbility Week	A week to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Canadians with disabilities to promote accessibility and inclusion in all aspects of life.	People with Disabilities
May 24 - 29	Hajj Pilgrimage	An annual five-day event that gathers millions of Muslims around the world in the holy city of Mecca (in present-day Saudi Arabia). This pilgrimage is significant because it is one of the five pillars of Islam and symbolizes unity, devotion, and submission to God.	Faith (Islam)
May 27 - 31	Eid al-Adha	A Muslim holiday, celebrated in honour of Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son to God, also known as the Festival of Sacrifice.	Faith (Islam)
May 28	World Hunger Day	To raise awareness about the people living in chronic hunger and to encourage action to bring it to an end.	People with Low Income
May 31	Vesak Day	On this day, Buddhists celebrate the day that Gautama Buddha was born, the day he was enlightened, and the day that he passed away.	Faith (Buddhism)
June	National Men’s Mental Health Month	An annual observance dedicated to addressing societyal barriers that men face in discussing their emotions and promote help-seeking behaviors.	Gender
June	National Indigenous History Month	A month to honour the stories and resilience of Indigenous people, who have lived on this land,	Indigenous

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		and whose presence continues to impact us today.	
June	Italian Heritage Month	An opportunity to recognize and celebrate the exceptional achievements that Italian Canadians have made and continue to make.	Ethnocultural
June	Portuguese Heritage Month	An opportunity to highlight the contributions of Portuguese Canadians and to learn more about their rich and vibrant traditions and culture.	Ethnocultural
June	Filipino Heritage Month	An opportunity to recognize, celebrate, and raise awareness about the Filipino community in Canada, and their contributions throughout Canadian history.	Ethnocultural
June	Seniors Month	A month to recognize the older Ontarians and their contributions in communities across the province.	Older Adults
June	Pride Month	A month to celebrate, recognize, and honour the courage and resilience of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities in Canada.	2SLGBTQQIA+
June 2	Decoration Day	Honours and recognizes the contributions of veterans who served in Canada's military.	Older Adults
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Raises awareness that poverty can exacerbate vulnerabilities to abuse among older adults.	Older Adults, People with Low Income
June 17	Islamic New Year (Muharram)	The Islamic New Year starts with Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar.	Faith (Islam)
June 20	World Refugee Day	Celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict.	New Immigrants
June 21	Litha/Summer Solstice	Celebrated by Wiccans as a celebration of midsummer, this marks the day with the longest period of sunlight in the northern hemisphere.	Faith (Wiccans)

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June 21	National Indigenous People's Day	A day to honour the unique cultures, heritage and achievements of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis population of Canada.	Indigenous
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 across Ontario.	Ethnocultural
June 26	Ashura	For Sunni Muslims, Ashura is a day of gratitude to God for saving Moses and the Israelites from Pharaoh. For Shia Muslims, this day is a somber occasion because it marks the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammed, in the Battle of Karbala.	Faith (Islam)
June 27	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day	An opportunity to raise awareness and recognize the effects post-traumatic stress has on the lives of those affected by it, and work to abandon the stigma.	People with Disabilities
June 27	Canadian Multiculturalism Day	A day to celebrate and learn more about the many cultural communities that build a strong and vibrant Canadian society.	Ethnocultural
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	Disability Pride Month	Celebrating persons who experience disability, their identities, culture, and contributions to Canadian society. It aims to change the way people think about all types of disabilities	People with Disabilities

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July 1	Canada Day	A time to celebrate and reflect on Canada's rich history and honour the contributions of all Canadians, both past and present.	Ethnocultural
July 4	Tirgan	A Persian/Iranian summer celebration of when Iran and Turan declared peace by drawing the boundaries between the two nations, settling the long-standing land dispute. The day also celebrates the Zoroastrian deity, Tishtrya, who brings needed rain to farmers and their crops.	Faith (Persian)
July 5	National Injury Prevention Day	Highlights injury prevention across the lifespan, with a focus on older adults due to high rates of falls and fall-related hospitalizations	Older Adults
July 14	International Non-Binary People's Day	An internationally recognized day to raise awareness about the barriers and issues faced by non-binary people.	2SLGBTQQIA+
July 23	Birthday of Emperor Haile	This is one of the holiest days for Rastafarians. Celebrations include Nyabinghi drumming, hymn singing, and reciting prayers.	Faith (Rastafarianism)
July 24	International Self-Care Day	Recognized globally as a day to encourage self-care and wellness. Often used by senior serving organizations to promote healthy living in older age.	Older Adults
July 29	Guru Purnima	Traditionally observed to honour one's chosen spiritual teachers or leaders in Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist calendars.	Faith (Buddhism, Hinduism)
July 29-30	Asalha Puja	This celebration marks the day when Buddha started his first sermon or religious teachings after his enlightenment. It is also a time to reflect on the scriptures and express gratitude for the Buddha's teachings.	Faith (Buddhism)

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Aug 1	Lughnassadh/Lammas	A Gaelic celebration to give thanks to the spirits and deities for the beginning of the harvest season.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)
Aug 1	Emancipation Day	The date in 1834 that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.	Ethnocultural
Aug 3	Terry Fox Day	This day celebrates Terry Fox and his cross-Canada run that lasted 143 days and 5,373 kilometers to raise money and awareness for cancer.	People with Disabilities
Aug 9	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	A day to promote and protect the rights of the worlds Indigenous populations and recognize the achievements and contributions that Indigenous people make to our society.	Indigenous
Aug 12	International Youth Day	This is a day to celebrate and promote young people's voices, actions, and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal, and equitable engagement.	Youth
Aug 15	Ullambana	Commemorates the liberation of suffering beings and spirits from past negative karma. On this day, Buddhists will give prayers and offerings to their past ancestors, parents, and elders.	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. He started 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	World Humanitarian Day	Honouring humanitarian aid workers and recognizes their contributions and sacrifices to provide assistance to those affected by crises and disasters	People with Low Income
Aug 20 – 27	Paryushan Parva	An eight-day Jain festival which is celebrated to bring spiritual awareness and awakening.	Faith (Jainism)

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Aug 25 - 27	Obon	A three-day festival honoring ancestors celebrated in Mahayana Buddhist traditions, particularly with Japanese Canadians.	Faith (Buddhism)
Aug 25 – 26	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 world.	Faith (Islam)
Aug 26 - Sept 4	Onam	Celebrated by Malayalees and is believed to be based on the story of King Mahabali, a popular ruler of Kerala. The festival is a celebration of the end of the monsoon season and to welcome the new harvest.	Faith (Hinduism)
Aug 28	Raksha Bandhan	The Hindu festival that 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 31	International Overdose Awareness Day	The world's largest annual campaign to end overdose. The day honours those we have lost to an overdose and acknowledges the grief of the family and friends who were left behind.	People with Disabilities
Sept	Craniofacial Acceptance Month	An opportunity to raise awareness and improve understanding of orofacial clefts (a cleft of the lip and palate) and other conditions of the head and face.	People with Disabilities
Sept 4	Krishna Janmashtami	A birthday celebration of the Hindu deity, Krishna, known for giving the message of the Gita (encourages us to live life with purity, strength, discipline, honesty, kindness, and integrity) establishing vital and guiding Hindu principles.	Faith (Hinduism)

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Sept 6 - 12	Mennonite Heritage Week	Celebrates 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.	Faith (Christianity)
Sept 7	Ukrainian Heritage Day	An opportunity to highlight the contributions that Canadians of Ukrainian descent has made to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of Canada.	Ethnocultural
Sept 8	International Literacy Day	Highlights literacy as crucial for poverty eradication, affecting educational opportunities for low-income populations.	People with Low Income
Sept 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	This day is observed to raise awareness, end stigma, and promote worldwide action to prevent suicides.	People with Disabilities
Sept 11 - 13	Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)	The Jewish New Year celebrating the creation of the world and marks making a fresh start. It is a time to reflect on the past year, and to ask for forgiveness for past mistakes.	Faith (Jewish)
Sept 12 - 21	Welcoming Week	An annual campaign and celebration to showcase the movement of communities striving to be more welcoming places for all, including new immigrants.	New Immigrants
Sept 12	Pehla Prakash Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji	Marks the first Prakash (opening ceremony) of the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh scripture) at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India in 1604.	Faith (Sikhism)
Sept 15 – 16	Ganesh Chaturthi	A festival celebrating the birthday of Lord Ganesha, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. It is believed that Lord Ganesha makes his presence on earth on this day.	Faith (Hinduism)
Sept 19	National Youth Mental Health Day	A day to build connections between young people and the caring adults in their lives to	Youth

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
		positively impact the mental health of children and youth.	
Sept 19	Powley Day	This day marks the anniversary of the landmark Métis rights victory at the Supreme Court of Canada. It commemorates the most important Métis Rights recognition since the days of Louis Riel.	Indigenous
Sept 20 – 26	Gender Equality Week	Highlights Canada's commitment to inclusivity and equality by recognizing and celebrating gender diversity within the country.	Gender
Sept 20 – 21	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	The holiest and most solemn day of the year in Judaism, many will pray and attend the synagogue on this day. It begins at sunset on September 20 and ends at nightfall on September 21.	Faith (Jewish)
Sept 21 – 24	Mabon (Autumn Equinox)	A Pagan holiday, and one of the eight Wiccan sabbats that represents the first day of the fall, and one of two days in the year in which there are approximately equal amounts of day and nighttime.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)
Sept 23	International Sign Language Day	A day to celebrate and support the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users.	People with Disabilities
Sept 23	Bi-Visibility Day (Bisexual Pride Day)	This day celebrates the bisexual community and their culture, history, and norms. It is also aimed towards bringing more visibility to bisexual persons and the challenges they face in the world.	2SLGBTQQIA+
Sept 25	Franco-Ontarian Day	A day to recognize and celebrate the Franco-Ontarian community and their contribution to the cultural, historical, social, economic, and political life in Ontario.	Francophone
Sept 26 – Oct 2	Sukkot	A week-long celebration that honours the shelter Israelites used as they traveled from Egypt to	Faith (Judaism)

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
		the Promised Land. A foliage-covered booth called a “sukkah” is built outdoors where families will spend time together under the stars.	
Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day / National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	A national movement and annual event in Canada where Indigenous and non-Indigenous people come together in the spirit of hope and reconciliation to honour residential school survivors, their families, and communities.	Indigenous
Oct	Somali Heritage Month	Recognizes the contributions and achievements that Somali Canadians have made to our society.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Women’s History Month	Celebrating the achievements of women who contributed to a better, more inclusive Canada.	Gender
Oct	Canadian Islamic Heritage Month	Highlights the contributions of Muslim communities in Canada and raises awareness of ongoing challenges they face.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Latin American Heritage Month	Recognizes the role that Latin American communities play in Canadian society.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Autism Awareness Month	An opportunity to learn more about Autism and how we can better support people living with Autism, their families, and caregivers.	People with Disabilities
Oct	German Heritage Month	Reflects on the contributions that Canadians with German heritage have made in our communities.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Learning Disabilities Awareness Month	Raises awareness and promotes support for people with learning disabilities or disorders.	People with Disabilities
Oct	Domestic Violence Awareness Month	A time to unite and support victims and survivors of domestic abuse.	Gender
Oct	Down Syndrome Awareness Month	Raises awareness and celebrates the abilities of people living with Down Syndrome.	People with Disabilities
Oct	National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month	Encourages schools, communities, and organizations to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying.	Youth

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Oct 1	Canadian National Seniors Day	Acknowledges the contributions that older adults in Canada continue to make in our families, communities, and society.	Older Adults
Oct 1	International Day of Older Persons	Critically addresses older adults living in poverty and their specific needs.	Older Adults, People with Low Income
Oct 2	Mehregan	A traditional Zoroastrian autumn festival dedicated to Mithra, the god of friendship, love, and affection.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
Oct 2	World Day of Bullying Prevention	On this day students, schools, and communities all over the world wear blue together against bullying; marking the start of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month.	Youth
Oct 2 – 8	Mental Illness Awareness Week	A national public education campaign designed to promote acceptance and support for those affected by mental illness.	People with Disabilities
Oct 4	National Day for Action for MMIWG2S	Honours the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people. The day calls for action towards ending the violence that disproportionately affects their communities.	Indigenous
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	A day to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.	People Experiencing Homelessness
Oct 11 - Oct 19	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 11	National Coming Out Day	This day raises awareness about the importance of coming out and its' meaning for people within the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community.	2SLGBTQQIA+

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Oct 11	International Day of the Girl Child	Celebrating the voices and power of girls, championing their rights worldwide, and reflecting on the challenges they still face.	Gender, Youth
Oct 15	Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day	This day honours the babies that were lost from miscarriage, stillbirth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), ectopic pregnancy, medical abortion, and the death of a baby.	Gender
Oct 16	World Food Day	A day to raise awareness about the challenges of food scarcity. It highlights the need for sustainable and fair distribution of resources.	People with Low Income
Oct 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	An annual opportunity to renew commitments and show solidarity with the victims of extreme poverty, violence, and hunger.	People with Low Income
Oct 18	Person's Day	Marks the historic day in 1929 when the Canada's highest court of appeal included women in the legal definition of the term "persons".	Gender
Oct 26	Abanegan	A Zoroastrian festival of gratitude and reflection, giving offerings to all the water sources including streams, lakes, ponds, rivers, and oceans.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
Oct 30	Dress Purple Day	This day raises awareness on the important role of individuals and communities in supporting vulnerable youth and their right to safety.	Youth
Oct 31- 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)
Oct 31 – Nov 2	Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos)	A Mexican holiday where families welcome back the souls of their deceased relatives for a brief reunion that includes food, drinks, and a celebration.	Ethnocultural
Nov	Indigenous Education Month	A day to recognize the advancements and tackle the challenges in Indigenous education in Canada.	Indigenous

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Nov	Hindu Heritage Month	Acknowledges and celebrates the many contributions that Canadians of Hindu heritage continue to make in building a strong and prosperous country.	Ethnocultural
Nov	Diabetes Awareness Month	A time when individuals, community groups and organizations around the globe bring attention to diabetes and urge action to tackle the epidemic.	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 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 - 6	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 5	Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurpurab (Birthday)	On this day, Sikhs remember the first Guru, 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 7	Inuit Day (International Circumpolar Inuit Day)	This day recognizes and celebrates Inuit language and culture and amplifies Inuit voices.	Indigenous
Nov 8	Diwali	Also known as Deepavali, this day is one of the biggest Hindu festivals signifying "Victory of Light Over Darkness, Good Over Evil, and Knowledge Over Ignorance".	Faith (Hinduism)

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Nov 8	Bandi Chhor Divas	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 Jahagir.	Faith (Sikhism)
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	This day commemorates the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives during the World Wars and other military efforts in history and currently.	Older Adults, People with Disabilities
Nov 13 - 19	Transgender Awareness Week	A week when transgender people and their allies take action to bring attention to the trans community through education and sharing of their stories and experiences.	2SLGBTQQIA+
Nov 14	World Diabetes Day	This day raises awareness about the escalating health threat posed by diabetes.	People with Disabilities
Nov 16	Louis Riel's Death Anniversary	This day marks the death anniversary of Louis Riel in 1885. It recognizes the many contributions of the Métis to Canada and highlights the struggles that the Métis continue to face.	Indigenous
Nov 19	National Men's Day	Celebrates the positive contributions and achievements of men while addressing important issues affecting men's health, well-being, and gender equality.	Gender
Nov 20	International Transgender Day of Remembrance	This is a day to remember those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia, and to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community.	2SLGBTQQIA+

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Nov 20	World Children's Day	First established in 1954, this day promotes international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.	Youth
Nov 22	National Housing Day	It is a day to recognize the important work done by housing partners across Canada to improve access to housing for everyone.	People Experiencing Homelessness
Nov 24	Adargan	A Zoroastrian celebration of the creation of the life-giving element fire. Fire is a reminder to live a righteous life.	Faith (Zoroastrian)
Nov 25 – Dec 10	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	An opportunity to reflect on what we can do in our own classrooms, communities, and lives to eliminate the violence faced by women, girls, and members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities.	Gender
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 rape, domestic violence, and other forms of violence.	Gender
Nov 29 – Dec 24	Advent	Advent marks a month-long period of preparation and anticipation for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.	Faith (Christianity)
Dec	Universal Human Rights Month	People across the globe are encouraged to come together and stand up for equality, justice, and the dignity of all humans.	All Diversity Dimensions
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 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Promoted by the UN, this day is to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize	People with Disabilities

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
		support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities.	
Dec 4 - 12	Hanukkah (or Chanukah) (Festival of Lights)	Hanukkah (Chanukah) is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights,” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers, and fried food.	Faith (Jewish)
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)	Buddhists believe that Siddhartha Gautama - the founder of Buddhism and widely known as Buddha, achieved enlightenment through meditation on this day.	Faith (Buddhism)
Dec 10	International Human Rights Day	The day on which the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.	New Immigrants
Dec 16 - 24	Posadas Navidenas	Las Posadas is a countdown to Christmas that is celebrated in Mexico, Guatemala, Canada, and other parts of the world.	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	The oldest Pagan celebration that simultaneously celebrates the shortest day of the year, midwinter, the return of the Sun, and a festival of rebirth.	Faith (Wicca/Pagan)
Dec 25	Christmas Day (Gregorian Calendar)	A holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is recognized as a public holiday in many countries around the world and is also celebrated secularly by many non-Christians.	Faith (Christianity)
Dec 26	Zartosht No-Diso	An important day of remembrance for Zoroastrian’s, commemorating the death anniversary of the Prophet Zoroaster.	Faith (Zoroastrian)

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Dec 26 - Jan 1	Kwanzaa	Kwanzaa is a week of festivities honouring African American culture and heritage. Friends and family gather each day to give thanks, exchange gifts, and share feasts.	Ethnocultural