

### **2025 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar**

The 2025 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)

## 2025 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	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	Shogatsu/ Gantan-sai	Japanese New Year is the most important holiday in Japan. Years are traditionally viewed as completely separate, with each new year 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	Guru Gobind Singh Ji's Gurburab	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.	Faith (Sikhism)
Jan 14	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 14	Orthodox New Year	The start of the new year under the Julian calendar.	Faith (Eastern Orthodox Christianity)
Jan 14	Makar Sankranti	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	It is a celebration to thank the Sun, Mother Nature and the various farm animals that help to contribute to the harvest.	Faith (Tamil)
Jan 19	World Religion Day	To promote understanding and peace between all religions, encouraging people to learn about other faiths and their followers.	Faith
Jan 20	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	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
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)

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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 violent act of Islamophobia on Jan 29, 2017, in Québec City.	Ethnocultural
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	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 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 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 26	Maha Shivaratri	A festival celebrated in honour of God Shiva which marks overcoming the darkness and ignorance in the world.	Faith (Hinduism)
Feb 26	Pink Shirt Day	An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying.	People with Disabilities

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Feb 28 - March 29	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	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)
March 3	Clean Monday	A reminder that we should begin Lent with good intentions and a desire to clean our spiritual house.	Faith (Christianity)
March 5	Ash Wednesday	Marks the first day of Lent. A 40-day fasting period (excluding Sundays) observed by Christians, in preparation for Easter.	Faith (Christianity)
March 8	International Women's Day	A day to recognize and celebrate women and girls' social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. It raises awareness of the progress made towards achieving gender equality.	Gender
March 14	Sikh New Year (Nanakshahi Calendar)	Marks the beginning of the Chet month (first month) in the Nanakshahi calendar.	Faith (Sikhism)
March 14	Holi	The ancient Hindu Festival of Colours. It celebrates the blossoming of spring and marks the end of winter.	Faith (Hinduism)

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March 14 - 16	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 17	St. Patricks 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 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 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	Nowruz is the Iranian New Year or Persian New Year. Historically, it has been observed by Persians and other Iranian peoples but is now celebrated by many ethnicities worldwide.	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 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 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 in Buddhism.	Faith (Buddhism)

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March 29 - 30	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 30 - April 7	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)
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	A day to honour the importance of Indigenous languages and promote their survival.	Indigenous
April	World Autism Month	A global effort to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism.	People with Disabilities
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 their communities.	Ethnocultural
April	Celebrate Diversity Month	This celebration started in 2004 to honour diversity of cultures and populations, and to recognize our differences such as gender, race, and faith, among other identities.	Ethnocultural
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	A day to raise awareness for people with Autism around the world.	People with Disabilities



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April 6	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)
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 12	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.	2SLGBTQQA+
April 12 - 20	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 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 18	Orthodox Holy Friday (Julian Calendar)	This day commemorates the moments leading up to and including the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.	Faith (Christianity)
April 18	Good Friday (Gregorian Calendar)	A Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus.	Faith (Christianity)
April 20	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 20	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 21	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 21	Orthodox Easter Monday	This day celebrates Jesus' resurrection, according to Christian belief.	Faith (Christianity)
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	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 on 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, and history, as well as 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
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 4	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 5	National Day of Awareness for MMIWG2S	Also known as 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 7	National Youth & Mental Health Day	A day to build connections between young people and the caring adults in their lives to positively 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 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	Vesak Day	On this day, Buddhists celebrate the day that Buddha was born, the day he was enlightened, and the day that he passed away.	Faith (Buddhism)
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 13 - 19	Mental Health week	To continue to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and help end the stigma.	People with Disabilities
May 15	Global Accessibility Awareness Day	Focuses on digital access and inclusion for individuals 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+

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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 to learn to live together better.	Ethnocultural
May 25 - 31	National Accessibility Week	A week to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Canadians with disabilities and to promote accessibility and inclusion in all aspects of life.	People with Disabilities
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
June	National Indigenous History Month	A month to honour the stories and resilience of Indigenous people, who have lived on this land, 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 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 valuable 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 recognize and honour the courage and resilience of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ communities in Canada.	2SLGBTQQIA+
June 1 - 3	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 (Jewish)

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June 4 - 9	Hajj Pilgrimage	Hajj Pilgrimage is an annual event that gathers millions of Muslims around the world in the holy city of Mecca (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)
June 6 - 10	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)
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 20	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)
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 27	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day	An opportunity to speak out against the crime of torture and to honour and support victims and survivors throughout the world.	People with Disabilities
June 27	Canadian Multiculturalism Day	A day to honour 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+

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July 1	Canada Day	A day to remember the history of this country, positive and negative, and the contributions of the diverse people who live here today.	Ethnocultural
July 4	Tirgan	A Persian/Iranian celebration when Iran and Turan, two standing enemies declared peace by drawing the boundaries between the two empires.	Faith (Persian)
July 6	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 10	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)
July 10	Guru Purnima	Traditionally observed to honour one's chosen spiritual teachers or leaders.	Faith (Buddhism)
July 27	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	Recognized around the world to raise awareness on the issues faced by non-binary people and to celebrate the rich diversity of the community.	2SLGBTQQIA+
July 23	Birthday of Emperor Haile	This is one of the holiest days for Rastafarians. Celebrations include Nyahbinghi drumming, hymn singing and saying prayers.	Faith (Rastafarianism)
Aug	Caregivers Month	Encourages all Canadians to pay tribute to and celebrate caregivers.	Youth, People with Disabilities, Older Adults
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)

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Aug 1	Emancipation Day	Canada's House of Commons voted unanimously to officially designate this day as Emancipation Day. It marks the actual date in 1834 that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.	Ethnocultural
Aug 4	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 world's Indigenous populations and recognize the achievements and contributions that Indigenous people make to our society.	Indigenous
Aug 9	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 12	International Youth Day	This is a day to celebrate and promote young peoples' voices, actions, and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal, and equitable engagement.	Youth
Aug 13 - 15	Obon	A three-day festival honouring ancestors and is celebrated in Mahayana Buddhist traditions, particularly with Japanese Canadians.	Faith (Buddhism)
Aug 16	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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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 21 - 28	Paryushan Parva	An eight-day Jain festival which is celebrated to bring spiritual awareness and awakening.	Faith (Jainism)
Aug 26 - 27	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)
Aug 26 - Sept 4	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)
Aug 31	International Overdose Awareness Day	The world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember those we have lost to an overdose and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind.	People with Disabilities
Sept	Craniofacial Acceptance Month	An opportunity to raise awareness and improve understanding of orofacial clefts (clefts of the lip and palate) and other conditions of the head and face.	People with Disabilities
Sept 4	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 4 - 5	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)



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Sept 7	Ukrainian Heritage Day	An opportunity to highlight the contributions that Canadians of Ukrainian descent have made to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of Canada.	Ethnocultural
Sept 7 - 13	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 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 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 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 21- 27	Gender Equality Week	Highlights Canada's commitment to inclusivity and equality by recognizing and celebrating the diversity within the country.	Gender
Sept 22	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 22 - 24	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 anything wrong they feel they have done.	Faith (Jewish)

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Sept 22 - Oct 2	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)
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	Also known as Bisexual Pride Day, celebrates the bisexual community, its 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 30	Orange Shirt Day / National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	A national movement and annual event in Canada when 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 economic, political, social, and cultural achievements that Somali Canadians have made to Canadian society.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Women's History Month	A time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women from diverse backgrounds who are contributing to a better, more inclusive Canada.	Gender
Oct	Canadian Islamic Heritage Month	Recognizes the role that Muslim communities play in Canadian society and highlights their contributions. It also acknowledges the ongoing challenges and barriers that Muslim Canadians face.	Ethnocultural

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Oct	Latin American Heritage Month	Recognizes the role that Latin American communities play in Canadian society and highlights their extraordinary contributions.	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	Reflects on the contributions that Canadians with German heritage have made to our communities.	Ethnocultural
Oct	Learning Disabilities Awareness Month	This is a month to raise awareness for the many people that have learning disabilities, differences, or disorders.	People with Disabilities
Oct	Domestic Violence Awareness Month	A time to unite and support victims and survivors of abuse.	Gender
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	Encourages schools, communities, and organizations to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying.	Youth
Oct 1	Canadian National Seniors Day	Acknowledges the contributions that older adults in Canada have made and continue to make to our families, communities, and society.	Older Adults
Oct 1 - 2	Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)	Jews consider Yom Kippur 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 2	Mehregan	A traditional Zoroastrian autumn festival dedicated to the god of friendship, love, and affection-Mithra.	Faith (Zoroastrian)

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Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Oct 4	National Day for Action for MMIWG2S	On this day, we honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people by committing to ending the violence that disproportionately impacts their communities.	Indigenous
Oct 5 - 11	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 6 - 13	Sukkot	This is a joyful festival. A foliage-covered booth 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 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
Oct 11	National Coming Out Day	This day raises awareness for people within the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community and highlights the importance of coming out, challenges the stereotypes and prejudices, and promotes acceptance and inclusion.	2SLGBTQQIA+
Oct 11	International Day of the Girl Child	Dedicated to celebrating the voices and power of girls, championing their rights worldwide, and reflecting on the challenges they continue to face because of their gender.	Gender, Youth
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

### 2025 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Oct 16	World Food Day	It is a day when individuals, communities, and nations unite to raise awareness about the challenges of food scarcity and the need for sustainable agriculture and equitable distribution of resources.	People with Low Income
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 20	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 Jahangir.	Faith (Sikhism)
Oct 20	Diwali	Diwali or Deepavali is one of the biggest Hindu festivals that signifies "Victory of Light Over Darkness, Good Over Evil, and Knowledge Over Ignorance".	Faith (Hinduism)
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 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
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)
Nov	Indigenous Education Month	A day to recognize the advancements and tackle the challenges in Indigenous education in Canada.	Indigenous

## 2025 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
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	Day of the Dead	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 5	Guru Nanak Gurpurab	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 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, this day recognizes and celebrates Inuit language and culture and amplifies Inuit voices.	Indigenous

### 2025 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

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	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 Day	This day marks the death anniversary of Louis Riel in 1885. It also 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+
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



## 2025 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
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	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 30 - 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 support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities.	People with Disabilities
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)

### 2025 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Significant Dates Calendar

Date(s)	Significant Event	Description	Diversity Dimension
Dec 10	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 14 - 22	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 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)
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