Inclusive Calendar Guide

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Education and Child Care

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BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Education and Child Care

Introduction

The Inclusive Calendar Guide is an important initiative in the K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan (the Action Plan). The Action Plan was built on feedback from participants in the Minister's Community Roundtable in 2020, as well as community dialogues hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture in 2019 exploring how government can build a safer, more inclusive province. Input from the 2021 Community Roundtable highlighted the need for a guide to creating a calendar that identifies significant events of advocacy, celebration, or honour to bring awareness and build equity in schools.

Research has demonstrated that "In anti-racism education, inclusion is the act of creating environments in which any individual or group can feel welcomed, respected, valued and able to fully participate in the school and district by both contributing to and benefiting from its continual development" (Paucholo, 2013).

The Inclusive Calendar Guide is for school districts and schools to use to build an inclusive school calendar where everyone can see themselves identified, celebrated, and valued.

What is an Inclusive Calendar?

An Inclusive Calendar is a living document that has dates of significance, recognition, and celebration for all members of the school community.

An Inclusive Calendar should recognize dates of significance and celebrate holidays of diverse cultures, races, places of origin, ethnicities, religions, economic statuses, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, disabilities and abilities of the local school community and greater British Columbia.

How to Create an Inclusive Calendar:

1. Gather the dates.
    - Connect with local Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, and community representatives to include local dates of significance and celebration that may not appear in Euro-centric calendars. Some days of importance are not located on specific calendar dates but rather are marked by seasonal changes or events.
    - Review established calendars for dates of significance and celebration that you may incorporate into your inclusive calendar. Calendars to review may include:
        - Governing bodies
            - Government of Canada - Important and Commemorative Days
            - Government of Canada – Health Promotion Days
            - Province of British Columbia – Proclamations

        - United Nations
    - Educational Agencies
        - B.C. Teacher's Federation
        - Simon Fraser University
    - Public culture calendars
        - Multicultural Calendar | Diversity Calendar | Multifaith Calendar
        - Diversity Calendar - Inclusion and Cultural Events (diversityresources.com)
        - The Complete Diversity & Cultural Calendar, Dates and Celebration Events
- Ensure that significant dates of social justice and anti-racism recognition are included to promote understanding and awareness even if members of those demographics are not identifiably represented in the classrooms (e.g., Pink Shirt Day).
- Include local celebrations or events that have importance to the school community.
- Consider the impact of some "fun" days and their activities like "school spirit days" and "crazy hair day" as these days may reinforce exclusionary norms. Find ways to ensure days and activities are inclusive for everyone.

2. Engage the community.
    - Meet with a diverse range of community members to review the proposed calendar and identify whether they see themselves represented in the calendar. When engaging with community members, ensure a culturally safe space. Community engagements may include:
        - Surveys
        - Forums
        - Open Houses
        - Working Groups
        - Parent Advisory Council meetings
    - Adjust the calendar based on the community feedback. Listening to and acting on community voice will create a stronger Inclusive Calendar for the school and/or district.
    - Be prepared for potential opposition from some members of the community. Ongoing communication about planned updates can help build understanding and support by highlighting how diverse representation contributes to a more inclusive and enriching environment for all students.

3. Share resources.
    - Publicly post the list of dates in schools and/or within the school district.
    - Invite community members to share their experiences and cultural practices, so that celebrations honour traditions and do not "tokenize" the dates. Tokenizing can occur

when dates of significance or celebration are reduced to symbols or activities without meaningful engagement with their historical or cultural importance.

- Include additional information about the calendar dates, such as descriptions, to assist teachers, students, and community members to learn more about the celebrations and days of recognition.
- Provide teachers and staff with appropriate resources that support the recognition and celebration of the day or event.
  - Example of a district that has created anti-racism and resource pages:
    - Kootenay Lake School District - Anti-Racism
  - Example of a district that has created celebration specific resource pages:
    - Delta School District – Black History Month
  - Examples of organizations with online resources:
    - Pink Shirt Day
    - Moose Hide Campaign
    - Down Syndrome Day
    - Black Excellence Day
    - Inclusion Resource Hub – West Vancouver Memorial Library
    - SOGI 123

4. Recognize and celebrate respectfully and authentically.
   - Include student and community voice in the planning and recognition of the day or event. Event planning for days of significance should include perspectives of those with lived and living experiences but should not become their sole responsibility.
   - Have a plan for how to support the emotional needs of those with lived and living experiences if needed.
   - Update the calendar annually.
     - Lunar calendar dates, such as those used by Jewish and Islamic communities, do not match static calendars and need to be matched to the traditional Canadian calendar on an annual basis.
     - New dates of significance may be proclaimed by governing bodies and could be added to the calendar.
     - Adapt the calendar to shifting school district demographics to reflect the changing diversity of the school community.
   - Understand the significance of each day and event as well as the proper pronunciation. Learn supporting language and share that with the school community. Examples of glossaries of terms that may be helpful include:
     - British Columbia's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner - Glossary
     - Delta School District - Learn the Terms
   - Note: Sometimes in sincere attempts to be inclusive, it is possible to create feelings of exclusion. It is challenging to include every special religious, spiritual, cultural or international day and therefore, important to be sensitive to those who may feel missed out.

Possible Ways to Use the Calendar in your School or District:

1. School boards can:
    - Highlight key dates on board websites.
    - Create and share educator resources specific to upcoming dates.
    - Host events to highlight the diversity of school community members.
2. School administrators can:
    - Set-up a bulletin board that showcases different days of celebration and significance.
    - Create school clubs or groups to recognize different days (e.g., a student-led and staff supported council, cultural diversity advisory council, connecting clubs with community organizations).
    - Announce, identify, and honour days of relevance that are specific to their school student population.
3. Educators can:
    - Align curricular themes or projects around dates of significance.
    - Use the calendar as a teaching tool to begin conversations or lead topics.
    - Use the calendar as a basis for art projects, theme days, or learning tasks that go beyond traditional dates celebrated in Canadian classrooms (e.g., Mother's Day).

Inclusive Calendar Example:

The example calendar shared below is an idea of what a school calendar may look like. The colour coding and labeling were created to assist educators to locate resources. This example calendar is not provided as an extensive list of dates, nor would it be expected that all dates on this calendar be observed or celebrated, but it does contain dates of significance that schools and districts may want to consider.

Content Alert

This resource contains descriptions of events related to racism, discrimination, and cultural harm. Some of the dates of significance and recognition highlighted in the guide may be distressing or re-traumatizing for some individuals. Please take care of your emotional well-being while engaging with this material and reach out for support if needed (see Appendix A). You are also encouraged to review your contract (for example, your CUPE/BCTF Collective Agreement) to access other mental wellness services.

Dates That Change Each Year

Many cultural and faith-based celebrations are determined by lunar, lunisolar, or traditional calendars. Because these calendars do not align exactly with the Gregorian calendar used in Canada, the dates of some observances change from year to year and may fall in different months. This section highlights celebrations with variable dates. Please verify the exact dates annually when incorporating these observances.

Category	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	**Baisakhi or Vaisakhi** A harvest festival celebrated in India, mainly by the Sikh community.
Cultural	**Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib** A Sikh holiday that celebrates with a procession of songs and hymns.
Cultural	**Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh** A Sikh celebration commemorating the birth of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru.
Cultural	**Bodhi Day** A Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day that Gautama Buddha (Shakyamuni) is said to have experienced enlightenment, also known as bodhi in Sanskrit and Pali.
Cultural	**Buddha's Birthday - Buddha Jayanti** A Buddhist celebration of the spiritual leader who launched one of the world's most popular religions.
Cultural	**Chaitra Navratri** A Hindu nine-day festival to celebrate the first day of the Hindu calendar.
Cultural	**Diwali** Diwali is a festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika (between mid-October and mid-November).
Cultural	**Dussehra** A Hindu event celebrated on the 10th day of the month of Ashvina (September–October), the seventh month of the Hindu calendar, with the appearance of the full moon, an event called the "bright fortnight" (Shukla

	paksha).
Cultural	**Easter** A Christian festival and cultural holiday to celebrate the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, three days after his death.
Cultural	**Eid al-Adha** Eid al-Adha is the Muslim holy day that honours the sacrifice Ibrahim (Abraham) was willing to make in obedience to God's command. Muslims now celebrate this event by sharing a slaughtered animal in three parts: one part for themselves, one for their family, and the third part is given to those in need.
Cultural	**Eid al-Fitr or Id al-Fitr** Many Muslims in Canada celebrate Eid al-Fitr on the first day of Shawwal in the Islamic calendar. It marks the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan and the start of a feast that lasts up to three days in some countries.
Cultural	**Ganesh Chaturthi** A Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Ganesh, the God of new beginnings and a fresh start.
Cultural	**Good Friday** A Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which is observed on the Friday before Easter.
Cultural	**Hanukkah** Hanukkah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime "festival of lights," celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods.
Cultural	**Hanuman Jayanti** A Hindu religious festival that celebrates the birth of Hindu God Hanuman.
Cultural	**Hola Mohalla** A colourful 3-day Sikh festival celebrated during spring.
Cultural	**Holi** A Hindu festival that celebrates spring, colour, and love.
Cultural	**Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth** A Sikh holiday that marks the anniversary of the day in 1604 when the Granth Sahib, the sacred text of Sikhism, was formally adopted at the site in Amritsar that became the Golden Temple.
Cultural	**Kol Nidrei** Kol Nidrei is a prayer which ushers in the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur.

Cultural	**Lantern Festival** A Chinese celebration that marks the end of the Lunar New Year.
Cultural	**Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year)** China's largest holiday and runs for two weeks. Based around the legend of Nian where people would have to create loud noises to scare away the legendary beast.
Cultural	**Magha Puja Day (Sangha Day, Fourfold Assembly)** A major holy day observed by most Buddhists on the first full moon day of the third lunar month. A day of prayers, chants, and offerings.
Cultural	**Maha Shivaratri** One of the major festivals in Hinduism dedicated to worshipping Lord Shiva. People celebrate Maha Shivaratri by fasting, keeping vigil and doing pujas at homes and temples.
Cultural	**Mahayana New Year** A Buddhist celebration.
Cultural	**Mawlid-al-Nabi (Milad)** An Islamic celebration marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.
Cultural	**Navaratri** Navaratri is a Hindu festival that spans over nine nights (and ten days) and is celebrated every year in the autumn season.
Cultural	**Nowruz – Iranian (Persian) New Year** Iranian or Persian New Year. It begins on the spring equinox and marks the beginning of Farvardin, the first month of the Solar Hijri calendar.
Cultural	**Passover begins** Jewish holiday commemorating the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt.
Cultural	**Purim** A Jewish celebration that is a lively festival that commemorates back in the 4th century BC, when Jewish people were saved from a death decree according to the book of Esther.
Cultural	**Ram Navami** A Hindu Spring festival that falls on the ninth day of the month Chaitra according to the Hindu calendar.
Cultural	**Ramadan** Ramadan is the ninth month of Islamic lunar calendar. Muslims consider this whole month a blessed month.

Cultural	**Rosh Hashanah** A two-day Jewish celebration of the Jewish New Year that starts and ends at sundown.
Cultural	**Shavuot** A two-day Jewish holiday that celebrates the completion of the seven-week Omer counting period between Passover and Shavuot.
Cultural	**Simchat Torah** A celebratory Jewish holiday that marks the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle. Simchat Torah literally means "Rejoicing in the Law" in Hebrew.
Cultural	**Sukkot** A weeklong Jewish holiday that comes five days after Yom Kippur. A celebration of the harvest gathering.
Cultural	**The Hajj** An annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam and a sacred journey that every Muslim who is able is expected to undertake at least once in their lifetime.
Cultural	**The Islamic New Year (Arabic New Year or Hijri New Year)** The first day of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar.
Cultural	**Vasant Panchami** Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring.
Cultural	**Vesak/Wesak/Buddha Day/Visakha Puja** The most sacred holy day of Theravada Buddhism. Vesak is an observation of the birth, enlightenment, and death (parinirvana) of the historical Buddha.
Cultural	**Yom Kippur** Yom Kippur is considered the holiest day in Judaism and includes a period of fasting for those who observe the faith.

September

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	1st Monday of Sep	**Labour Day** A day to celebrate the efforts and achievements of workers across the country.
Health	08-Sep	**International Literacy Day** A day to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society.
Health	09-Sep	**International Day to Protect Education from Attack** The day draws attention to the plight of more than 75 million 3-to-18-year-olds living in 35 crisis-affected countries and to their urgent need of educational support.
Cultural	2nd week of Sep	**Mennonite Heritage Week** This week is an opportunity to learn more about Mennonite Canadians, their unique history, their vibrant culture, and their contributions that have helped shape Canada.
Gender Equity	18-Sep	**International Equal Pay Day** This day represents the longstanding efforts to achieve equal pay for work of equal value and address systemic gender-based wage disparities. It builds on the United Nations commitment to human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	23-Sep	**International Day of Sign Languages** A unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users.
2SLGBTQIA+	23-Sep	**Bi+ Visibility Day** A day to celebrate and recognize the bisexual community and raise awareness of the prejudices and challenges faced by bisexual people.

Indigenous	30-Sep	**Orange Shirt Day** Created to recognize the impacts and history of residential schools, celebrate survivors, and be a call of action to reconciliation.

Indigenous	30-Sep	**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** The day honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.
Gender Equity	4th week of Sep	**Gender Equality Week** An opportunity to raise awareness of the important contributions women and gender diverse communities have made to the growth, development, character and identity of Canada.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	Last week of Sep	**International Week of the Deaf People** A week created by the World Federation of the Deaf to bring awareness of the culture, contributions, and needs of the deaf community.

October

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	All month	**German Heritage Month** A time to recognize the contributions German Canadians have had and how their heritage has shaped Canada's current social and economic fabric.
Cultural	All month	**Canadian Islamic History Month** A time where all Canadians can learn more about the culture, contributions and achievements of the Muslim community.
Cultural	All month	**Latin American Heritage Month** A time to showcase the richness and vitality of Latin American cultures and heritage while reflecting on the contributions the Latin American community have made to Canadian culture.
Gender Equity	All month	**Women's History Month** In 1992, the Government of Canada designated October as Women's History Month, marking the beginning of an annual month-long celebration of the outstanding achievements of women throughout Canada's history.
Health	All month	**Foster Family Month** A time to celebrate and break-down stereotypes of foster family structures.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	All month	**Community Inclusion Month** This month celebrates inclusion, diversity and the rights and contributions of people with developmental disabilities.
Health	01-Oct	**National Seniors Day** An occasion for Canadians to celebrate the contributions of seniors in our homes, communities and workplaces.
Health	09-Oct	**Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome (PANS) Awareness Day** A day to recognize those living with PANS in British Columbia.

Cultural	2nd Monday of Oct	**Thanksgiving Day** A day rooted in European agricultural tradition to celebrate the fall harvest and give thanks.
Health	10-Oct	**World Mental Health Day** A day which promotes mental health awareness and education, and advocates against social stigma relating to mental health.
Gender Equity	11-Oct	**International Day of the Girl** A day to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.
Health	12-Oct	**Youth Climate Action Day** A worldwide movement of young people who are concerned about climate change and global injustice.
Health	16-Oct	**World Food Day** A day to promote worldwide awareness and action for those who face food insecurity and ensuring access to healthy food for all.
Health	17-Oct	**International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** This day presents an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty, a chance for them to make their concerns heard, and a moment to recognize that people with low-incomes are the first ones to fight against poverty.
Gender Equity	18-Oct	**Persons Day** This day marks the historic decision in 1929 to include women in the legal definition of "persons" handed down by Canada's highest court of appeal.
2SLGBTQIA+	3rd Wednesday of Oct	**International Pronouns Day** International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace.
2SLGBTQIA+	3rd Thursday of Oct	**Spirit Day** Spirit Day is a day where people are encouraged to wear purple to create awareness of the bullying and harassment faced by the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Created by a Canadian student inspired by Pink Shirt Day. Takes place on the third Thursday of October.
Health	24-Oct	**International Day of Climate Action**

		A day to increase awareness to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts.
Cultural	31-Oct to 1-Nov	**Samhain (Northern Hemisphere)** A Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter or "darker-half" of the year. Celebrations begin on October 31 and go to November 1.

November

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	01 to 07-Nov	**Down Syndrome Awareness Week** A week to celebrate the diverse population and contributions of people with Down Syndrome.
Gender Equity	01 to 07-Nov	**Women and Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design, and Math (STEAM) Week** An opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women and non-binary people in science, technology, engineering, art and design, and math (STEAM) and encourage more women and girls to pursue technology-related areas of study.
Health	03-Nov	**Climate Action Day** A live, online event produced by Take Action Global, that serves as the culminating celebration of the Climate Action Project, a six-week initiative involving 2.7 million people across 145 countries. During the event, students and teachers will present questions to speakers and will showcase potential solutions for climate change.
Indigenous	08-Nov	**Indigenous Veterans Day** A day to recognize and acknowledge the many contributions and sacrifices of Indigenous people not only to Canada's war efforts but to its peacekeeping reputation.
Cultural	11-Nov	**Remembrance Day** A day to remember the end of World War I and honour armed forces members who died in the line of duty.
Anti-racism	16-Nov	**International Day for Tolerance** A global observance promoting respect, acceptance and appreciation of human diversity. This day emphasizes an active commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms.
Indigenous	16-Nov	**Louis Riel Day** Time to reflect on the life of Louis Riel, his advocacy for the Métis Nation and role in shaping Canada's history.

2SLGBTQIA+	18-Nov	**International Day of LGBTQIA+ People in STEM** A day to celebrate and highlight the work and barriers of LGBTQIA+ people in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
Health	20-Nov	**World Children's Day** World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on November 20 each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
Health	20-Nov	**National Child Day** National Child Day is celebrated in Canada on November 20 in recognition of our country's commitment to upholding the rights of children and two historic events: the 1959 signing of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.
2SLGBTQIA+	20-Nov	**Transgender Day of Remembrance** Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honours the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.
Anti-racism	3rd week of Nov	**Multiculturalism Week** A time to celebrate the contributions of diverse communities in B.C. and to promote cultural diversity.
Cultural	24-Nov	**Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur** A Sikh day of observance for the death and impact of the ninth Sikh Guru.
Gender Equity	25-Nov to 10-Dec	**16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** Every year, from November 25 to December 10, Canadians observe the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. It is an opportunity to come together to call out, speak up and renew our commitment to end gender-based violence**.**
Anti-racism	4th Saturday of Nov	**Holodomor Memorial Day** A day to remember and honour the millions of victims of the Holodomor, the famine genocide deliberately inflicted on Ukrainian people in 1932 and 1933 by Joseph Stalin's totalitarian regime.

December

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Health	01-Dec	**World AIDS Day** A day to help raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and create fundraising opportunities for a cure.
Anti-racism	02-Dec	**International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** A day to highlight that more than 150 million children are subject to child labour.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	03-Dec	**UN International Day of Persons with Disability** A day to increase public awareness, understanding and inclusion of people with disabilities and celebrate their achievements and contributions.
Gender Equity	06-Dec	**National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women** A day to remember the murder of 14 women at Polytechnique Montréal (December 6, 1989) and take action to eliminate acts of violence against women.
Anti-racism	09-Dec	**International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime** Celebrates the day the convention was signed and signifies the international community's commitment to "never again".
Anti-racism	10-Dec	**International Human Rights Day** A celebration of the day on which the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
Anti-racism	18-Dec	**International Migrants Day** A day to honour the contributions made by immigrants across the world.
Anti-racism	20-Dec	**International Human Solidarity Day** An initiative taken by the United Nations Assembly to raise concern about world poverty. This day is celebrated to eradicate world problems like corruption, terrorism, hunger, and illiteracy and establish world peace and harmony.

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Cultural	21-Dec	**Winter Solstice (Northern Hemisphere)** The shortest period of daylight and the longest night of the year. This date is celebrated by, and has significance to, multiple cultures and religions.
Indigenous	24-Dec to 07-Jan	**Quviasukvik** Inuit winter feast and festival observed by the Inuit, Yupik, Aleut, Chukchi, Iñupiat, and NunatuKavut. Celebrates the coming year and placates the roaming spirits for good luck in the year to come.
Cultural	25-Dec	**Christmas Day** A Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, usually observed as a religious and cultural celebration.
Cultural	26-Dec to 01-Jan	**Kwanzaa** Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural holiday that has been adopted around the world including in Canada to celebrate African family, community and culture.

January

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	All month	**Tamil Heritage Month** A month to celebrate the rich heritage and contributions of Tamil people in Canada.
Health	Date in January varies annually	**Bell Let's Talk Day** A day to encourage people to have important and open conversations about mental health.
Indigenous	01-Jan	**Ochetookeskaw - Kissing Day – Hand Shaking Day (Métis)** A Métis day of celebration.
Cultural	01-Jan	**New Year's Day** A day to celebrate the first day of the year according to the Gregorian calendar.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	04-Jan	**World Braille Day** A day to celebrate Braille and what it means for the human rights of people who are blind or partially sighted.
Anti-racism	14-Jan	**Black Excellence Day** Created by the Ninandotoo Society to rejoice and learn about the stories, art, and history of Black people.
Cultural	14-Jan	**Makar Sankranti or Maghi** A Hindu celebration of the harvest.
Anti-racism	17-Jan	**Raoul Wallenberg Day** A day to recognize Raoul Wallenberg for his work in saving tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust.
2SLGBTQIA+	Mid Jan	**No Name Calling Week** A week dedicated to ending name-calling and bullying in schools. Focuses primarily on removing 2SLGBTQIA+ insults.
Anti-racism	21-Jan	**Lincoln Alexander Day**

		A day to pay tribute to Canada's first Black Member of Parliament, Cabinet minister, and Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.
Cultural	24-Jan	**World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture** A day to celebrate and highlight the contributions of the many vibrant cultures of the African continent and the African people around the world, as well as their role in driving sustainable development, dialogue, and peace.
Anti-racism	27-Jan	**International Holocaust Remembrance Day** A day to pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and reaffirm a stand to counter antisemitism, racism, and other forms of intolerance.
Anti-racism	29-Jan	**National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia** A day to pay tribute to the memory of the six victims of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and to reaffirm a stand against Islamophobia.

February

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	All month	**Black History Month** A month to celebrate the rich history, stories, and contributions of Black People.
Cultural	3rd Monday of February	**Family Day** A day to celebrate the importance of family and community in daily life.
Health	01-07 Feb	**Eating Disorder Awareness Week** A week to recognize the impacts of eating disorders.
Cultural	03-07 Feb	**French Immersion Celebration Week** A time to celebrate and share achievements in French immersion programs.
Gender Equity	11-Feb	**International Day of Women and Girls in Science** A day to recognize and celebrate the achievements women have had in the fields of STEM.
2SLGBTQIA+	14-Feb	**Pink Triangle Day** An annual day of pride and recognition of the challenges 2SLGBTQIA+ Canadians have overcome. The day embraces diversity of love by celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ people, families, and communities.
Indigenous	14-Feb	**National Day of Action to Honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Trans, and 2-Spirited** A day to mark the start of the federal inquiry and to draw attention to the growing issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, trans and two spirit people.
Cultural	15-Feb	**Nirvana Day – Parinirvana** Buddhists commemorate the death of Buddha and his entry into final or complete Nirvana. A solemn day for reflection on death and impermanence.

Anti-racism	20-Feb	**World Day of Social Justice** The day is an opportunity to remember the importance social justice to achieve peace, security, and development around the world.
Cultural	21-Feb	**International Mother Language Day** A United Nations day that focuses on how languages and multilingualism can advance inclusion, and the Sustainable Development Goals' focus on leaving no one behind.
Anti-racism	3rd week of Feb	**Heritage Week** A week to celebrate the diverse and rich heritages present in Canada.
2SLGBTQIA+	Last Wednesday of Feb	**Pink Shirt Day** A student created day in Canada to stand up to homophobic bullying.

March

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	All month	**Irish Heritage Month** A month to celebrate the history and contributions of the Irish people in Canada.
Health	All month	**5 Days for the Homeless** Learn about and take action to address homelessness in Canada.
Anti-racism	01-Mar	**Zero Discrimination Day** A UN recognized day to take action to end the inequalities surrounding income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity, race, class, ethnicity and religion that continue to persist around the world.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	01-Mar	**Disability Day of Mourning** A day to remember people with disabilities who were murdered by their caregivers.
Gender Equity	08-Mar	**International Women's Day** A time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate all women who have shaped the history of their countries and communities.
Indigenous	19-Mar	**St. Joseph Day** In 1884, Louis Riel chose St. Joseph as the patron saint of the Métis and Saint John the Baptist as a secondary protector.
Cultural	20-Mar	**BC Francophonie Day** An annual celebration of the social, economic and cultural contributions French-speaking people have made and continue to make in B.C.
Anti-racism	21-Mar	**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** A United Nations day of remembrance and action. Observed annually on the day that 69 people lost their lives at the hands of the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, while demonstrating peacefully against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960.

Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	21-Mar	**World Down Syndrome Day** A day to bring awareness of people with Down Syndrome by wearing bright and colourful socks.
Anti-racism	25-Mar	**International Day of Remembrance of Slavery Victims and the Transatlantic Slave Trade** A UNESCO day intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.
Health	26-Mar	**Purple Day – Epilepsy Recognition** A day to increase public awareness and support people with epilepsy by wearing purple.
2SLGBTQIA+	31-Mar	**International Transgender Day of Visibility** The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and gender nonconforming people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve trans justice.
Indigenous	31-Mar	**National Indigenous Languages Day** An opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada to recognize and celebrate the rich and diverse heritage of Indigenous languages.

April

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	All month	**Sikh Heritage Month** A month to recognize and highlight the important contributions that Sikh communities have made and continue to make to Canada's social, economic, political, and cultural heritage.
Anti-racism	All month	**Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month** A month to honour the memory of the victims of genocide and reflect on the root causes of these tragedies.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	All month	**Autism Awareness Month** A month to identify the contributions, challenges, and successes of people with autism.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	02-Apr	**World Autism Awareness Day** A day to come together to raise awareness about autism, a condition that many Canadians live with.
Anti-racism	04-Apr	**Refugee Rights Day** An opportunity to bring attention to the advances made in the protection of refugee rights in Canada because of the Singh Decision.
Health	07-Apr	**World Health Day** A UN day created to highlight issues of health across the globe.
2SLGBTQIA+	14-Apr	**International Day of Pink** An opportunity to renew our commitment to diversity and inclusion by combatting all forms of discrimination that fuel bullying and violence, faced by many 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.
Cultural	14-20 Apr	**Bangla Heritage Week** A week to celebrate the contributions and culture of the Bengali speaking people.
Anti-racism	14-Apr	**Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Equality Day**

		An opportunity to reflect and renew our vows for addressing inequity in our personal and professional lives.
2SLGBTQIA+	2nd Friday in Apr	**Day of Silence** The Day of Silence is a national student-led demonstration where 2SLGBTQIA+ students and allies all around the country—and the world—take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in schools.
Cultural	24-Apr	**Human Values Day** A day to embrace the eternal and universal human values of truth, right-conduct, peace, love and non-violence.

May

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	All month	**Asian Heritage Month** A month dedicated to honour and recognize the contributions of people of Asian ethnicity to B.C. and Canada's rich cultural society.
Cultural	All month	**Canadian Jewish Heritage Month** A month to celebrate the richness of Jewish culture, heritage, and history in Canada.
Indigenous	Date in May varies annually	**Moose Hide Campaign** An Indigenous-led grassroots movement annual day of action to end violence against women and children in Canada.
Cultural	05-May	**Dutch Heritage Day** Created in recognition of the sacrifices made by Canadians in the liberation of the Netherlands, as well as the contributions made to Canada by those of Dutch heritage.
Indigenous	05-May	**Red Dress Day** A day to raise awareness about missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.
Cultural	05-May	**Cinco-de-Mayo** A day to commemorate Mexico's defeat of the French army.
Health	07-May	**National Child and Youth Mental Health Day** A day to raise awareness about the significance of the mental health of children.
Indigenous	10-May	**Bear Witness Day** The Anniversary of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal first non-compliance order called for Canada to fully implement Jordan's Principle by May 10, 2016. Jordan's Principle ensures First Nations children receive the services and supports they need when they need them.

2SLGBTQIA+	17-May	**International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia** A day to recognize the courage and resilience of 2SLGBTQIA+ activists of the past and present who have fought for equity and against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
Anti-racism	21-May	**World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue Development** A United Nations Day to promote the understanding and value of cultural diversity and learning to live together in harmony.
Anti-racism	23-May	**Anniversary of Komagata Maru** On May 23, 1914, the Komagata Maru steamship arrived in Vancouver's Burrard Inlet. On board were 376 Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus of South Asian origin and were denied entry into Canada based on racist laws.
Cultural	2nd last Monday of May	**Victoria Day** A federal statutory holiday to honour Queen Victoria, who is known as the "Mother of Confederation".
Anti-racism	4th week of May	**Anti-Racism Awareness Week** A week to learn about anti-racism and the actions to take to combat all forms of racism.
Health	30-May	**World Multiple Sclerosis Day** A day to raise awareness about multiple sclerosis.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	Starts on the last Sunday in May	**AccessAbility Week** A week to celebrate the valuable contributions of Canadians with disabilities.

June

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
2SLGBTQIA+	Jun to Sep	**Pride Season Begins** Pride Season is a unifying term that refers to the period between June and September when 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and allies come together at different times throughout the summer to spotlight the resilience, talent, and contributions of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
Indigenous	All month	**Indigenous Heritage Month** A month to recognize the history, heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.
Cultural	All month	**Italian Heritage Month** A time to showcase the rich culture and heritage of Italian Canadians.
Cultural	All month	**Filipino Heritage Month** A time to showcase the rich culture and heritage of Filipino Canadians.
Cultural	All month	**Portuguese Heritage Month** A time to showcase the rich culture and heritage of Portuguese Canadians.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	All month	**Deafblind Awareness Month** A month to honour the strength and perseverance of deaf and blind people and to celebrate their achievements.
Health	1st week of June	**BC Child and Youth in Care Week** A week to bring awareness, break down stereotypes, and celebrate the children who are in care.
Health	04-Jun	**International Day of Innocent Children as Victims of Aggression** The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.

Health	10-Jun	**Action Anxiety Day** A day to raise awareness about anxiety by sharing experiences and wearing blue and orange to show support and eliminate the stigma around anxiety disorders.
Health	12-Jun	**World Day Against Child Labour** A day to identify and take action on the fact that children are key contributors to the workforce in some countries.
Cultural	16-Jun	**Guru Arjan Martyrdom** A Sikh day of remembrance.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	18-Jun	**Autistic Pride Day** A day to raise awareness and celebrate the similarities and the uniqueness of people with autism.
Anti-racism	20-Jun	**World Refugees Day** A United Nations day that celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.
Indigenous	21-Jun	**National Indigenous People's Day** A day to recognize the history, heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.
Cultural	22-Jun	**Swahili Community Day** A day to recognize and celebrate the culture and contributions of the Swahili speaking people.
Cultural	24-Jun	**Jean-Baptiste Day** This day has roots in the Roman Catholic faith but has shifted to be a day of celebrating French-Canadian heritage.
Anti-racism	27-Jun	**Canadian Multiculturalism Day** A federally recognized day to discover and appreciate the wealth and diversity of Canadian society.

July

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	01-Jul	**Sant Teja Singh Day** A day to honour the work of Sant Teja Singh, a humanitarian, scholar and tireless advocate for Sikhs in Canada who dedicated his life to challenging inequality, fighting for a just society and serving without discrimination in accordance with the tenets of Sikhism.
Cultural	01-Jul	**Canada Day** A day to celebrate the anniversary of Canadian Confederation which occurred on July 1, 1867.
2SLGBTQIA+	14-Jul	**International Non-Binary People's Day** A day aimed at raising awareness about the issues faced by non- binary people around the world.
Anti-racism	18-Jul	**Nelson Mandela Day** Nelson Mandela International Day was launched in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July 2009 via unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly. It was inspired by Nelson Mandela's call to action to address social injustices in the world.
Indigenous	3rd Thu-Sun in Jul	**Métis Nation Day – Back to Batoche** An annual celebration held the third Thursday to Sunday in July in Batoche, Saskatchewan. An opportunity to share Métis culture, build relationships, honour the Métis veterans and connect to the land where Métis heroes fought in the 1885 Northwest Resistance.
Cultural	Late July	**Chinese Cultural Heritage Week** A week to celebrate the culture, contributions, and celebrations of the Chinese people living in Canada.
Cultural	28-Jul	**Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval** A day to honour the memory of the victims of the Great Upheaval while highlighting the history and heritage of the Acadian people.

August

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Anti-racism	01-Aug	**Emancipation Day** This day marks the actual day in 1834 that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.
Cultural	1st Monday of Aug	**British Columbia Day** A day to recognize the cultural achievements and the pioneers in the province of British Columbia.
Indigenous	09-Aug	**International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples** A day to recognize that Indigenous people have a special relationship with their lands and hold diverse concepts of development based on their own worldviews and priorities.
Health	12-Aug	**International Youth Day** Created by the UN to help draw awareness of issues faced by youth and a call to action to find solutions.
Cultural	15-Aug	**National Acadian Day** A day to recognize and celebrate the history, culture, language, and contributions of the Acadian people, who are descendants of French settlers in Canada's Maritime provinces, particularly New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.
Cultural	19-Aug	**Birth of Lord Krishna – Janmashtami** A day to celebrate the birth of one of the most popular deities in the Hindu faith, celebrated with a great festival.

Appendix A: Resources

Below are available resources. You are also encouraged to consult your contract (for example, the CUPE/BCTF Collective Agreement) to access mental wellness services.

Organization	Description/Link
KUU-US Crisis Line Society	KUU-US Crisis Line Society B.C.-wide Indigenous crisis line available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, toll-free from anywhere in British Columbia. KUU-US Crisis Line can be reached toll-free at 1-800-588-8717.
Crisis Line Association of B.C.	Mental Health and Information and Support Line Dial 310-6789 (no area code needed)
Trans Lifeline	Trans Lifeline A trans-led organization that connects trans people to the community, support, and resources they need to survive and thrive. Canada (877) 330-6366 US (877) 565-8860
Government of British Columbia	• erase = expect respect & a safe education - Province of British Columbia (gov.bc.ca) • HelpStartsHere • Report Hate Crime
Resilience BC	Resources for Victims of Racism and Hate