

Inclusive Calendar Guide

Introduction

The Inclusive Calendar Guide is a key initiative of the K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan. The Action Plan was built on feedback received from the Minister’s Community Roundtable in 2020, as well as feedback collected from the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture hosted community dialogues in 2019 exploring how government can build a safer, more inclusive province. The Action Plan was refined after the second Community Roundtable in 2021 that included feedback seeking a calendar that identified 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 provided to support school districts and/or schools to create or enhance an inclusive school calendar where everyone can see themselves identified, welcomed, 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 the 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, IBPOC, 2SLGBTQ+, 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](#)
 - [SOGI 123](#)
 - [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 demographic are not identifiably represented in the classrooms (e.g., Pink Shirt Day).
- Include local celebrations or events that have importance to the school community.
- Place “fun” days such as “school sports day” on other calendars, so as not to take away from the importance or value of culturally significant days.
- 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. Community engagements may include but is not limited to:
 - Surveys
 - Forums
 - Open Houses
 - Working Groups
 - PAC meetings
- When inviting engagement with community, ensure that a culturally safe space is awaiting them.
- 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 possible opposition from members of the community who do not understand why there are additions to the calendar. Consider providing the school community with helpful information as updates are made to understand how all students benefit when the diverse representation of their community is a part of their school environment.

3. Share resources.

- Post the list of dates publicly 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 happen

when dates of significance or celebration are identified in a minimal way without honouring the meaning behind the event. An example of tokenizing would be launching Pride Season with rainbow displays in the school without discussing the historical discrimination of the LGBTQ2S+ community and celebrating the resiliency and contributions of the community.

- 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 community and student 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.
- Plan to support the possible emotional needs of those with lived and living experiences.
- Update 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 may want to be added to the calendar.
 - School district demographics may have shifted to include new groups that do not see themselves in the calendar and therefore adjustments would want to be made.
- Note: Sometimes in sincere attempts to be inclusive, it is possible to create feelings of exclusion. It is not possible to include every special religious, spiritual, cultural or international day and therefore, important to be sensitive to those who may feel missed out. Recognize the importance of focusing on the uniqueness of the surrounding community and embedding these identities into planning and practices.
- 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](#)

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 that showcase the different members of the school community.

2. School administrators can:

- Set-up a bulletin board that showcases different days of celebration and significance.
- Create school clubs or organizations of students/teachers/community to recognize different days.
- Announce, identify, and honor days of relevance that may have specific school context based on the 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 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.

Due to the sensitive subject matter shared in some dates of significance, individuals may become triggered. Please ensure you have prepared a support system that is easily accessible. This may be an Elder, trusted adult, family, friend, counsellor and/or crisis contact number.

September

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	1 st 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	2 nd 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 towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further 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 on 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	<p>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</p> <p>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.</p>
Gender Equity	4 th week of Sep	<p>Gender Equality Week</p> <p>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.</p>
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	Last week of Sep	<p>International Week of the Deaf People</p> <p>A week created by the World Federation of the Deaf to bring awareness of the culture, contributions, and needs of the deaf community.</p>
Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>Rosh Hashanah</p> <p>A two-day Jewish celebration of the Jewish New Year that starts and ends at sundown.</p>
Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>Kol Nidrei</p> <p>Kol Nidrei is a prayer which ushers in the Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur.</p>
Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>Yom Kippur</p> <p>Yom Kippur is considered the most holy of days in the Judaism faith which includes a period of fasting for those who practice the faith.</p>
Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>Sukkot</p> <p>A weeklong Jewish holiday that comes five days after Yom Kippur. A celebration of the harvest gathering.</p>
Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>Simchat Torah</p> <p>A celebratory Jewish holiday that marks the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle. Simchat Torah literally means "Rejoicing in the Law" in Hebrew.</p>

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.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	All Month	Autism Awareness Month An opportunity for Canadians to learn more about autism and how we can support people living with autism, their families and their caregivers.
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 the valuable contributions that people with developmental disabilities make and recognizes the importance of communities where everyone is included.
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	2 nd Monday of Oct	Thanksgiving Day A day rooted in European agricultural tradition to celebrate the fall harvest and giving 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	16-Oct	World Food Day A day to promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure healthy diets 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 poor people 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" was handed down by Canada's highest court of appeal.
2SLGBTQIA+	3 rd Wednesday of Oct	International Pronouns Day International Pronouns Day seeks to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace.
2SLGBTQIA+	3 rd Thursday of Oct	Spirit Day Spirit Day is day where people are encouraged to wear purple to create awareness for the bullying and harassment that the 2SLGBTQ+ community faces. 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 in Oct. 31 and go into Nov. 1.
Cultural	Changes Annually	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	Changes Annually	Navaratri Navaratri is a Hindu festival that spans over nine nights (and ten days) and is celebrated every year in the autumn season.
Cultural	Changes Annually	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” (<i>1hukla paksha</i>).
Cultural	Changes Annually	Mawlid-al-Nabi (Milad) An Islamic celebration marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad.
Cultural	Changes Annually	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.
Health	Changes Annually	Youth Climate Action Day A worldwide movement of young people who are concerned about climate change and global injustice.

November

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	01-07 Nov	Down Syndrome Awareness Week A week to celebrate the diverse population and contributions of people with Down Syndrome.
Gender Equity	01-07 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 have died in the line of duty.
Anti-racism	16-Nov	International Day for Tolerance A day to recognize that people are diverse and only tolerance can ensure the survival of mixed communities in every region of the globe.
Indigenous	16-Nov	Louis Riel Day Time to reflect on the life of Louis Riel, his important role for the advocacy of the Métis Nation and his help in building the Canada we know today.

2SLGBTQIA+	18-Nov	<p>International day of LGBTQIA People in STEM</p> <p>A day to celebrate and highlight the work and barriers of LGBTQIA+ people in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM).</p>
Health	20-Nov	<p>World Children's Day</p> <p>World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.</p>
Health	20-Nov	<p>National Child Day</p> <p>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.</p>
2SLGBTQIA+	20-Nov	<p>Transgender Day of Remembrance</p> <p>Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.</p>
Anti-racism	3 rd week of Nov	<p>Multiculturalism Week</p> <p>A time to celebrate the contributions of our multicultural communities and to appreciate the way diversity enriches British Columbia.</p>
Cultural	24-Nov	<p>Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur</p> <p>A Sikh day of observance for the death and impact of the ninth Sikh Guru.</p>
Gender Equity	25-Nov to 10-Dec	<p>16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence</p> <p>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.</p>
Anti-racism	4 th Sat of Nov	<p>Holodomor Memorial Day</p> <p>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.</p>

Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>Hanukkah</p> <p>Hanukkah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights,” celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods.</p>
Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib</p> <p>A Sikh holiday that celebrates with a procession of songs and hymns.</p>

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 labor and though modern slavery is not defined in law, it is used as an umbrella term covering practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking – all situations of exploitation that a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, and/or abuse of power.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	03-Dec	UN International Day of Persons with Disability A day to increase public awareness, understanding and inclusion of people with disability 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 young 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 honor 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 a concern about world poverty. This day is celebrated to eradicate world problems like corruption, terrorism, hunger, and illiteracy and establish world peace and harmony.
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.
Cultural	Changes Annually	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.

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.
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.
Cultural	05-Jan	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh A Sikh festival to celebrate the 10th Guru of the Sikhs.
Cultural	14-Jan	Black Excellence Day Created 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 to end name-calling and bullying in schools. Focuses primarily on removing 2SLGBTQ+ 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 6 victims of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and to reaffirm a stand against Islamophobia in all of its forms.
Health	Changes Annually	Bell Let's Talk Day A day to encourage people to have important and open conversations about mental health.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Mahayana New Year A Buddhist celebration.

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.
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.
Indigenous	10-Feb	Moose Hide Campaign An Indigenous-led grassroots movement annual day of action to end violence against women and children in Canada.
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 2SLGBTQ+ Canadians have overcome. The day embraces love's diversity by celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ 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 draw attention to the issue which continues to grow, and the federal government has begun its inquiry, Indigenous women, girls, trans and two spirits continue to be murdered and go missing.
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.
Cultural	19-Feb	Family Day

		A day to celebrate the importance of family and community in daily life.
Anti-racism	20-Feb	World Day of Social Justice The day is an opportunity to remember that social justice is necessary for 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	3 rd week of Feb	Heritage Week A week to celebrate the diverse and rich heritages present in Canada.
2SLGBTQIA+	Last Wed of Feb	Pink Shirt Day A student created day in Canada to stand up to homophobic bullying.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Lantern Festival A Chinese celebration that marks the end of the Lunar New Year.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Vasant Panchami Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring.
Cultural	Changes Annually	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	Changes Annually	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.

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. Often used to highlight discrimination of people living with HIV.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	01-Mar	Disability Day of Mourning A day to remember the disabled 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 acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in 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 to 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 very rich and diverse heritage of Indigenous languages.
Cultural	Changes Annually	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	Changes Annually	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	Changes Annually	Hola Mohalla A colourful 3-day Sikh festival celebrated during spring.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Holi A Hindu festival that celebrates spring, colour, and love.
Cultural	Changes Annually	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	Changes Annually	Good Friday A Christian holiday commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which is observed on the Friday before Easter.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Easter A Christian festival and cultural holiday to celebrate the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, three days after his death.

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 as a result 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, which many 2SLGBTQ+ youth continue to face.
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 live.
2SLGBTQIA+	2 nd Fri of Apr	Day of Silence The GLSEN Day of Silence is a national student-led demonstration where 2SLGBTQ+ 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 2SLGBTQ+ 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.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Ramadan Ramadan is the ninth month of Islamic lunar calendar. Muslims consider this whole month a blessed month. They fast during the days of this month and make special prayers at night. People also give more charity and do extra righteous deeds.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Chaitra Navratri A Hindu nine-day festival to celebrate the first day of the Hindu calendar.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Ram Navami A Hindu Spring festival that falls on the ninth day of the month Chaitra according to the Hindu calendar.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Baisakhi or Vaisakhi A harvest festival celebrated in India, mainly by the Sikh community.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Passover begins Jewish Holiday that changes annually based on Canadian standard calendar. Commemorates the Jewish escape from Egypt.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Hanuman Jayanti A Hindu religious festival that celebrates the birth of Hindu God Hanuman.
Indigenous	Changes Annually	Gathering of Nations A weekend of celebrating the variety of Indigenous cultures in North America. Hosted annually in the USA.

May

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	All Month	Asian Heritage Month A month dedicated to honour and recognize the many 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.
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 2SLGBTQ+ 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 that helps communities understand the value of cultural diversity and learn how 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	2 nd last Monday of May	Victoria Day A federal statutory holiday to honour Queen Victoria, who is known as the "Mother of Confederation".
Anti-racism	4 th week of May	Anti-Racism Awareness Week A week to learn about anti-racism and the actions we can take to combat racism in all its forms.
Health	30-May	World Multiple Sclerosis Day A day to raise awareness about multiple sclerosis.
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	Starting on the last Sun in May	AccessAbility Week A week to celebrate the valuable contributions of Canadians with disabilities.
Health	Changes Annually	BC Child and Youth in Care Week A week to bring awareness, break down stereotypes, and celebrate the children who are in care.
Cultural	Changes Annually	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	Changes Annually	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	Changes Annually	Buddha's Birthday - Buddha Jayanti A Buddhist celebration of the spiritual leader who launched one of the world's most popular religions.

June

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
2SLGBTQIA+	Jun to Sep	<p>Pride Season Begins</p> <p>Pride Season is a unifying term that refers to the period between June and September when 2SLGBTQ+ communities and allies come together at different times throughout the summer to spotlight the resilience, talent, and contributions of 2SLGBTQ+ communities in many Canadian cities.</p>
Indigenous	All Month	<p>Indigenous Heritage Month</p> <p>A month to recognize the history, heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada.</p>
Cultural	All Month	<p>Italian Heritage Month</p> <p>A time to showcase the rich culture and heritage of Italian Canadians.</p>
Cultural	All Month	<p>Filipino Heritage Month</p> <p>A time to showcase the rich culture and heritage of Filipino Canadians.</p>
Cultural	All Month	<p>Portuguese Heritage Month</p> <p>A time to showcase the rich culture and heritage of Portuguese Canadians.</p>
Disabilities / Diverse Abilities	All Month	<p>Deafblind Awareness Month</p> <p>A month to honour the strength and perseverance of deaf and blind people and to celebrate their achievements.</p>
Health	04-Jun	<p>International Day of Innocent Children as Victims of Aggression</p> <p>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.</p>
Health	10-Jun	<p>Action Anxiety Day</p> <p>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.</p>
Health	12-Jun	<p>World Day Against Child Labour</p>

		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 Refugee's 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.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Shavuot A two-day Jewish holiday that celebrates the completion of the seven-week Omer counting period between Passover and Shavuot.

July

Category	Date	Date(s) of Significance
Cultural	01-Jul	<p>Sant Teja Singh Day</p> <p>A day to honor 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.</p>
Cultural	01-Jul	<p>Canada Day</p> <p>A day to celebrate the anniversary of Canadian Confederation which occurred on July 1, 1867.</p>
2SLGBTQIA+	14-Jul	<p>International Non-Binary People's Day</p> <p>A day aimed at raising awareness and organising around the issues faced by non-binary people around the world.</p>
Anti-racism	18-Jul	<p>Nelson Mandela Day</p> <p>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.</p>
Indigenous	3 rd Thu-Sun in Jul	<p>Métis Nation Day – Back to Batoche</p> <p>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.</p>
Cultural	Late July	<p>Chinese Cultural Heritage Week</p> <p>A week to celebrate the culture, contributions, and celebrations of the Chinese people who have made Canada home.</p>
Cultural	28-Jul	<p>Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval</p> <p>A day to honour the memory of the victims of the Great Upheaval while highlighting the history and heritage of the Acadian people.</p>
Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>The Hajj</p>

		Annual pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims must take at least once in their lives.
Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>Eid al-Adha</p> <p>Eid al-Adha is the Muslim holy day that honors 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 the needy.</p>
Cultural	Changes Annually	<p>The Islamic New Year (Arabic New Year or Hijri New Year)</p> <p>The first day of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar.</p>

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	1 st 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 to issues youth face and call to action to find solutions.
Cultural	15-Aug	National Acadian Day This day highlights the contribution of Acadians to the current Canadian cultural fabric, recognizes their historical presence, and celebrates their cultural specificity in all its diversity.
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.
Cultural	Changes Annually	Ganesh Chaturthi A Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Lord Ganesh, the God of new beginnings and a fresh start.