



Cultural Calendar & Observations

Ottawa's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Resource Hub for Sport

Understanding Why

Having a general understanding of cultural calendars and observations can better assist a community sport organization to plan out its year. Being mindful of all religious celebrations also shows the commitment and celebration of diversity within the organization.



How It Works:



Certain events listed in the calendar may be observed at varying times in different regions worldwide, such as Mother's Day. The dates provided in this calendar reflect the occasions as celebrated in Canada.

1. Monthly Observances

These are month-long observances, to create awareness of an issue, commemorate a group or event, or celebrate something.

2. Set Dates

These events and observations occur on the same date each year.

3. Moving Dates

These events and observances occur on different dates each year.

Guide to Islamic Holidays and Notable Dates

The **Hijri** or Islamic calendar has 354-355 days.

This results in Islamic holidays not consistently falling into any specific date-range in the typical western calendar.

Islamic New Year

Start of the new Islamic year.

2024: Friday, July 19th

2025: Monday, July 7th

Laylat Al-Qadr

Marks the revelation of the Quran to Muhammad.

2024: Saturday, April 6th

2025: Thursday, March 27th

Hajj

One of the pillars of Islam is the Hajj - a pilgrimage to the Kaaba or house of God in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

2024: June 14th - June 19th

2025: June 4th - June 9th

Mawlid An-Nabi

Birthday of the prophet Muhammad.

2024: Friday, September 15th

2025: Monday, September 4th

First Day of Ramadan

Ninth month of the Islamic calendar and an especially holy month marked by fasting, prayer and reflection.

2024: Monday, March 11th

2025: Saturday, March 1st

Eid al-Fitr

Marks the end of the daylight fasting of Ramadan, often marked with a large feast.

2024: Wednesday, April 10th

2025: Sunday, March 30th

Eid al-Adha

Commemorates Abraham's dedication to god and his willingness to sacrifice his son. Because God ordered him to sacrifice a lamb instead, meat is often consumed and shared on this date.

2024: Friday, June 16th

2025: Tuesday, June 6th

Guide to Jewish Holidays and Notable Dates

Begins sunset every Friday Ends nightfall every Saturday. On all **Holy Days**, including the **Sabbath** (Saturdays), **work is forbidden**. Other significant days, may require some slight alteration to a normal work day in order to fully observe the day. For full details, please visit [this link](#).



Judaism

The collective spiritual, cultural, and legal traditions of the Jewish people.

Rosh Hashanah

The Jewish New Year, is one of the most important Jewish Holy Days.

2023/24: Sept 15th - Sept 17th

2024/25: Oct 2nd - Oct 4th

Sukkot

A seven day festival with historical and agricultural significance. No work is permitted on the first two days of Sukkot.

2023/24: Sept 29th - Oct 6th

2024/25: Oct 16th - Oct 23rd

Simchat Torah

Celebrates the resumption of the annual cycle of readings, no work is permitted.

2024: Oct 7th - Oct 8th

2025: Oct 24th - Oct 25th

Purim

Feast of Lots. Purim commemorates the deliverance of the Jews from a planned massacre at a time when Jewish communities were living under Persian rule in 450 BCE.

2023/24: Mar 23rd - Mar 24th

2024/25: Mar 13th - Mar 14th

Shavuot

The Holy Day commemorates the end of the spring harvest when, in biblical times, Jews brought the first fruits to the Temple in Jerusalem. Work is not permitted.

2024: June 11th - June 13th

2025: June 1st - June 3rd

Yom Kippur

Marking the end of the 10 days of repentance, this day is observed by twenty-five hours of fasting and prayer.

2023/24: Sept 24th - Sept 25th

2024/25: Oct 11th - Oct 12th

Shemini Atzeret

Marks the completion of the annual reading of the Torah, no work is permitted.

2023/24: Oct 6th - Oct 7th

2024/25: Oct 23rd - Oct 24th

Chanukah

Festival of lights. A festival commemorating the victory of the Maccabees over the Hellenist-Syrians, Chanukah begins in either November or December and lasts for eight days.

2023/24: Dec 7th - Dec 15th

2024/25: Dec 25th - Jan 2nd

Pesach

Celebration of the biblical Exodus of the Israelites, under the leadership of Moses acting in the name of G-d, from the slavery imposed by the Egyptians. Work is not permitted on the first two and last two days of Pesach.

2023/24: April 22nd - April 30th

2024/25: April 12th - April 20th

January

Set Dates



Kwanzaa

Weeklong cultural celebration in the US and other countries in the Americas honouring African and African-American/African-Canadian culture. Culminates in a communal feast called Karamu on the sixth day.



New Years Day

The first day of the new calendar year.

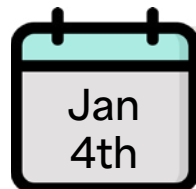


Gatan-Sai

Shinto (Japanese) New Year.

Cultural Affiliation: Japanese

Religious Affiliation: Shintoism



Braille Day

Recognizes the importance of the braille language as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people. Set on the birthday of Louis Braille's birthday - the inventor of Braille.

Affiliation:

People with disabilities.



International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Day acknowledging the victims of the Holocaust.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism



National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia

Religious Affiliation: Islam

Moving Dates

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Celebrates the life and achievements of American Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr's.

When: Third Monday of January

Affiliation: Black Community

Lunar New Year (specific names include Chunjie (China), Losar (Tibet), Tết Nguyên Đán or "Tết" (Vietnamese), Seollal (Korean New Year))

Celebrates the start of the new year according to the lunar calendar. Also observed in Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand.

When: First new moon between January 21st and February 20th.

Cultural Affiliation: Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, East and Southeast Asian

February

Set Dates



Groundhog Day

Folk holiday involve groundhogs predicting weather.



Valentine's Day

A romantic holiday celebrating love.



Random Acts of Kindness Day

Day encouraging random acts of kindness.



World Day of Social Justice

UN proclaimed day promoting social justice and tackling issues like poverty, gender inequality, human rights and other social protections.

Monthly Observances

Black History Month

Honours the history, legacies and communities of Black people.



February

Moving Dates

Maha Shivaratri

Honours the Hindu god Shiva. The festival also marks overcoming darkness and ignorance.

When: Based on the Hindu calendar, typically celebrated in February or March.

Religious Affiliation: Hinduism

Purim

Festival of Lots commemorate the Jewish people being saved from persecution in the ancient Persian empire.

When: Celebrated on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Adar. Primarily falls in March, seldomly in February.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Holi

Hindu festival celebrating love and the triumph of good over evil.

When: Full moon day in the month of Phalguna, primarily in March, very seldomly in February.

Religious Affiliation: Hinduism

Lantern Festival, Shangyuan Festival

Final day of Lunar New Years celebrations.

When: 15 days after Lunar New Year, typically in February or early March.

Cultural Affiliation: Chinese

Lunar New Year (specific names include Chunjie (China), Losar (Tibet), Tết Nguyên Đán or “Tết” (Vietnamese), Seollal (Korean New Year))

Celebrates the start of the new year according to the lunar calendar. Also observed in Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand.

When: First new moon between January 21st and February 20th.

Cultural Affiliation: Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, East and Southeast Asian

Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence leading into Easter.

When: 6 weeks before Easter (often in February or early March).

Religious Affiliation: Christianity

Family Day

A Provincial holiday that goes by various names across Canada. Not celebrated in Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

When: Third Monday of February.

Anti-bullying day, “Pink Shirt Day”

Encourages wearing pink to symbolize that you oppose bullying.

When: Last Wednesday of February.

March

Set Dates



Zero Discrimination Day

UN observance promoting equality for all.



International Women's Day

Celebrates the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

Cultural Affiliation: Women



St. Patrick's Day

Marks the death of Saint Patrick, an Irish Catholic martyr and the patron saint of Ireland.

Cultural Affiliation: Irish

Religious Affiliation: Catholicism



International Day of the Francophone

Celebrates French language and Francophone Culture.

Cultural Affiliation: Francophone



International Day of Happiness

UN Observation encouraging people to realize the importance of happiness within their lives.



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Commemorates the damaging impacts of racial injustice and discrimination and encourages working towards a racism-free future.



International Transgender Day of Visibility

Celebrates transgender people and raises awareness of the stigma and discrimination they face.

Affiliation: 2SLGBTQIA+

Monthly Observances

Women's History Month (International)

Celebrates the achievements and contributions of women, past and present.



March

Moving Dates

Easter Weekend
(Maudy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday)

Commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
When: First Sunday after the first full moon of Spring (after the Spring equinox). Falls between March 22nd (earliest) and April 25th (latest).
Religious Affiliation: Christianity

Purim

Festival of Lots commemorate the Jewish people being saved from persecution in the ancient Persian empire.
When: Celebrated on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Adar. Primarily falls in March, seldomly in February
Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Holi

Hindu festival celebrating love and the triumph of good over evil.
When: Full moon day in the month of Phalguna, primarily in March, very seldomly in February.
Religious Affiliation: Hinduism

Mardi Gras

The day before Lent - traditionally a day of feasting in preparation for the Lent period, in which participants frequently give up meat and/or dairy.
When: 6 weeks and 1 day before Easter (often in February or early March).
Religious Affiliation: Christianity

Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent, the six weeks of penitence leading into Easter
When: 6 weeks before Easter (often in February or early March).
Religious Affiliation: Christianity

Passover

Week-long Jewish holiday celebrating the Jewish people's escape from slavery in Egypt.
When: 15th day of the Jewish month of Nisan, primarily falling in March of April.
Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Earth Hour

Day encouraging people/communities/businesses to turn off non-essential lights for an hour (8:30-9:30PM).
When: Last Saturday of March.

First Day of Ramadan

Ninth month of the Islamic calendar and an especially holy month marked by fasting, prayer and reflection.
2024: Monday, March 11th
2025: Saturday, March 1st
Religious Affiliation: Islam

Laylat Al-Qadr

Marks the revelation of the Quran to Muhammad.
2024: Saturday, April 06th
2025: Thursday, March 27th
Religious Affiliation: Islam

Eid Al-Fitr

Marks the end of the daylight fasting of Ramadan, often marked with a large feast.
2024: Wednesday, April 10th
2025: Sunday, March 30th
Religious Affiliation: Islam

April

Set Dates



World Autism Awareness Day

UN observation to raise awareness of Autism.

Affiliation:

People with Disabilities

Note: some autism advocates prefer the name “Autism Acceptance Day” as an alternative because it more actively promotes overcoming the prejudices faced by people with autism.



World Health Day

World Health Organization sponsored day for promoting global health awareness - each year’s WHD is organized around a theme.



Earth Day

Demonstrates support for environmental protections.

Monthly Observances

World Autism Month

United Nations observation encouraging member states to raise awareness of autistic people throughout the world.

Sikh Heritage Month

Celebrates Sikh culture and contributions to Canada.

Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month

Honours victims of genocide and reflects on root causes of the these tragedies in order to prevent future atrocities.



April

Moving Dates

Shavuot

Festival of Lots commemorate the Jewish people being saved from persecution in the ancient Persian empire. **Work is not permitted.**

When: Celebrated on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Adar. Primarily falls in March, seldomly in February

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

First day of Riḍván

The 12-day festival of Riḍván is the holiest of Bahá'í festivals. It commemorates the 12 days that the religion's founder, Baha'u'llah, spent in the Garden of Ridvan.

When: April 20th or 21st.

Religious Affiliation: Bahá'í

Vaisakhi

Punjab festival marking the spring harvest and the start of the solar new year.

When: April 13th or April 14th.

Cultural Affiliation: Punjab, Northern India

Religious Affiliation: Sikhism

Easter Weekend

(Maudy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday)

Commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

When: First Sunday after the first full moon of Spring (after the Spring equinox). Falls between March 22nd (earliest) and April 25th (latest).

Religious Affiliation: Christianity

Passover or Pesach

Week-long Jewish holiday celebrating the Jewish people's escape from slavery in Egypt.

When: 15th day of the Jewish month of Nisan, primarily falling in March of April.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Laylat Al-Qadr

Marks the revelation of the Quran to Muhammad.

2024: Saturday, April 6th

2025: Thursday, March 27th

Religious Affiliation: Islam

Eid Al-Fitr

Marks the end of the daylight fasting of Ramadan, often marked with a large feast.

2024: Wednesday, April 10th

2025: Sunday, March 30th

Religious Affiliation: Islam

Vesak

The holiest festival in Buddhism, this dates marks the birth of Guatama Buddha. In South Asia and Southeast Asia, it also marks the enlightenment and death of Buddha.

When: Lands on the full moon of the lunar month of Vesakha. Typically falls in April, May or June.

Religious Affiliation: Buddhism

May

Set Dates



May 15th

International Day of Families

United Nations observation. This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.



May 16th

International Day of Living Together in Peace

United Nations observation intended to mobilize the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.



May 17th

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

Raises awareness of 2SLGBTQIA+ rights worldwide.

Affiliation: 2SLGBTQIA+

Monthly Observances

Asian Heritage Month

Celebrates the achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian heritage.

Jewish History Month

Recognizes the important contributions that Jewish Canadians have made to Canada's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.

Speech & Hearing Month

Each May, this annual event provides an opportunity to raise awareness about hearing and speech problems, and to encourage people to think about their own hearing and get their hearing checked.



May

Moving Dates

Purim

The Holy Day commemorates the end of the spring harvest when, in biblical times, Jews brought the first fruits to the Temple in Jerusalem. **Work is not permitted.**

When: Falls of the 6th to 7th day of Sivan, typically falls in May or June.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Ascension of Baha'u'llah

Marks the death of the Bahá'í founder-prophet Baha'u'llah.

Religious Affiliation: Bahá'í

Victoria Day

Originally in honour of Queen Victoria, this celebrates the reigning sovereign's birthday within Canada.

When: Last Monday of May.

National AccessAbility Week

Celebrates Canadians with disabilities, highlights the work towards removing barriers that people with disabilities often face, and reflects on ongoing efforts towards a more inclusive Canada.

When: Typically held the last week of May starting on the Sunday - can run into June.

Affiliation:

People with disabilities

CMHA Mental Health Week

Celebrates, promotes and protects mental health in schools, communities, and workplaces in Canada.

When: The first week of May, starting on the Monday.

Global Accessibility Awareness Day

Promotes digital access and inclusion for people with disabilities.

When: Third Thursday of May.

Affiliation: People with disabilities

Mother's Day

Celebrates mothers and honours their role in families and society.

When: Second Sunday of May.

Vesak

The holiest festival in Buddhism, this dates marks the birth of Guatama Buddha. In South Asia and Southeast Asia, it also marks the enlightenment and death of Buddha.

When: Lands on the full moon of the lunar month of Vesakha. Typically falls in April, May or June.

Religious Affiliation: Buddhism

June

Set Dates



Juneteenth

June 19th marks the end of slavery in the United States. In Canada, it unofficially celebrates Black Canadians diverse cultures, achievements and communities.

Affiliation: Black Community



World Refugee Day

UN Observation honouring refugees around the world.



National Indigenous People's Day

Day recognizing the unique heritage and diverse cultures of Indigenous Peoples.

Affiliation: Indigenous



National Indigenous History Day

Honours and celebrates Indigenous communities, cultures, history and achievements of the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples.

Affiliation: Indigenous



Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day

Also known as the Fête nationale du Québec, Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day is a cultural holiday celebrated in Quebec on June 24th each year. It honors the nativity of Saint John the Baptist and serves as a symbol of French Canadian heritage. The day is also a statutory holiday in Québec.



Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Acknowledges the contributions of the many diverse communities who make Canada their home.

Monthly Observances

Pride Month

Chosen to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, a spontaneous protest by the queer community of New York that is considered a foundational moment in 2SLGBTQIA+ rights. On the anniversary of the protests, gay pride parades were held, starting a tradition of observing June as Pride month. Pride celebrates the queer community and promotes 2SLGBTQIA+ rights.



June

Moving Dates

Father's Day

Honours fatherhood and the influence of fathers in society.

When: Third Sunday in June.

Hajj

One of the pillars of Islam is the Hajj - a pilgrimage to the Kaaba or house of God in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

2024: June 14th - June 19th

2025: June 4th - June 9th

Religious Affiliation: Islam

Eid al-Adha

Commemorates Abraham's dedication to god and his willingness to sacrifice his son. Because God ordered him to sacrifice a lamb instead, meat is often consumed and shared on this date.

2024: Friday, June 16th

2025: Tuesday, June 6th

Religious Affiliation: Islam

Vesak

The holiest festival in Buddhism, this dates marks the birth of Guatama Buddha. In South Asia and Southeast Asia, it also marks the enlightenment and death of Buddha.

When: Lands on the full moon of the lunar month of Vesakha. Typically falls in April, May or June.

Religious Affiliation: Buddhism

Shavuot

Festival of Lots commemorate the Jewish people being saved from persecution in the ancient Persian empire.

When: Celebrated on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Adar. Primarily falls in March, seldomly in February

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

July

Set Dates



Canada Day

Anniversary of Canada’s confederation in 1867 when Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Quebec were joined into the dominion of Canada.

Note: this day is not celebrated in Quebec (which celebrates St. Jean Baptiste day instead). It is also a holiday with a complicated legacy and impact for many Indigenous communities.



International Non-Binary People’s Day

Raises awareness of the issues facing non-binary people around the world.

Affiliation: 2SLGBTQIA+



International Day of Friendship

The International Day of Friendship was proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.

Moving Dates

Non-Binary Awareness Week

Raises awareness of the issues facing non-binary people around the world.

When: Starts on the Monday preceding July 14th (Non-Binary People’s Day).

Affiliation: 2SLGBTQIA+

Islamic New Year

Start of the new Islamic year.

2024: Friday, July 19th

2025: Monday, July 7th

Religious Affiliation: Islam

Monthly Observances

Disability Pride Month

Promotes empowerment and visibility of people with disabilities encouraging respect for their identities, cultures, legacies and contributions. A month of advocacy for people living with disabilities and acknowledgement of the continued barriers many face. The month is officially recognized in the USA but not by the Canadian Government - but it is informally practiced by many members of the community and/or organizations serving people with disabilities.



August

Set Dates



Emancipation Day

Marks the abolishment of slavery in the commonwealth in 1834.

Affiliation: Black community



International Day of World Indigenous People's

United Nations Observation for the promotion and protection of Indigenous communities and people around the world, recognizing their achievements, contributions, histories and cultures.

Affiliation: Indigenous



International Youth Day

A day for uplifting young people's voices and engaging with youth in meaningful and equitable ways.



World Humanitarian Day

Celebrates people helping people.

Moving Dates

Krishna Janmashtami

Marks the birth of the god Krishna.

When: Typically falls in August or September.

Religious Affiliation: Hinduism

Ganesh Chaturthi, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Vinayaka Chavithi

10 day festival honouring the god Ganesha, the god of beginnings, wisdom, arts and sciences.

When: Typically falls in August or September.

Religious Affiliation: Hinduism

Civic Holiday

The Civic Holiday is celebrated on the first Monday of August. It is known by many names in different provinces and municipalities but generally, it celebrates local heritage and history. Not celebrated in Québec.



September

Set Dates



International Literacy Day

United Nations observation emphasizing the importance of literacy.



International Day of Peace

United Nations observation dedicated to world peace.



International Day of Sign Languages

United Nations observation raising awareness of sign languages and strengthening their status.

Affiliation: People with Disabilities



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Orange Shirt Day

This day remembers the impacts of residential schools on Indigenous students, their families and communities. It also affirms commitment to the path of reconciliation and building good relations. People are encouraged to wear orange shirts.

Affiliation: Indigenous



September

Moving Dates

Rosh Hashana

Jewish New Year and the beginning of a 10 day period of penitence leading into Yom Kippur and the religious festivals of Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret.

When: First day of Tishrei, the first month of the Hebrew Calendar. Earliest possible day is September 5th, latest possible date is October 5th.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Sukkot

A seven day festival with historical and agricultural significance. **No work is permitted on the first two days of Sukkot.**

When: 15th day of Tishrei.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Gender Equality Week

This week advocates for breaking down barriers experienced by women and girls. Each year's week is themed.

When: Fourth week of September.

Cultural Affiliation: Women and girls

International Week of the Deaf

Celebrates deaf people around the world - founded by the World Federation for the Deaf. It promotes the human rights of Deaf people, raises awareness of deafness, and creates a forum for unity among the Deaf community.

When: Last full week of September.

Yom Kippur

The holiest day in Judaism - a day for atonement and repentance. The typical greeting on Yom Kippur is G'mar chatima tova.

When: 10th day of the month of Tishrei.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Marks the completion of the annual reading of the Torah, **no work is permitted.**

Celebrates the resumption of the annual cycle of readings, **no work is permitted.**

When: 22nd and 23rd of Tishrei.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Mawlid An-Nabi

Birthday of the prophet Muhammad.

2024: Friday, September 15th

2025: Monday, September 4th

Religious Affiliation: Islam

Labour Day

Celebrates workers and advocates for workers rights.

When: First Monday of September.

October

Set Dates



Oct
1st

International Day of Older Persons

United Nations observation celebrating and thanking older adults for their role in their communities. It also raises awareness of issues facing the health and well-being of older adults.



Oct
4th

National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Honours and remembers the lives and legacies of survivors and victims impacted by the violence towards Indigenous women and girls. This is a day for advocacy, support and remembrance.

Affiliation: Indigenous



Oct
10th

World Mental Health Day

United Nations observation raising awareness of mental health issues worldwide and mobilize efforts to support mental health. The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide.



Oct
11th

Coming Out Day

Annual 2SLGBTQIA+ awareness day intended to support anyone who is “coming out” to their friends, families, and peers and living their sexual orientation openly.

Affiliation: 2SLGBTQIA+



Oct
11th

International Day of the Girl Child

Celebrates the power and voices of girls, championing their rights worldwide and reflecting on the challenges they face due to their gender.

Cultural Affiliation:
Women and Girls

Monthly Observances

Disability Employment Awareness Month

Increases awareness of the positive outcomes of hiring persons with disabilities. Highlights the positive contributions of employees with disabilities within workplaces.

Latin American Heritage Month

Celebrate the heritage, cultures and achievements of Latin American and Hispanic communities.

Women’s History Month (Canada)

Opportunity to learn about the contributions of women and girls. Most of the world observes this month in March, however Canada selected October because it marks the anniversary of the Persons Case, which granted women the same political powers and rights as men.

October

Moving Dates

Rosh Hashana

Jewish New Year and the beginning of a 10 day period of penitence leading into Yom Kippur and the religious festivals of Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret.

When: First day of Tishrei, the first month of the Hebrew Calendar. Earliest possible day is September 5th, latest possible date is October 5th.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Sukkot

A seven day festival with historical and agricultural significance. **No work is permitted on the first two days of Sukkot.**

When: 15th day of Tishrei.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Thanksgiving

A harvest and thanksgiving holiday. Participants typically gather with friends and family to share a meal and express gratitude. The United States observes this day as Columbus Day in some states and Indigenous People's Day in others. **Note: this holiday can have complicated meaning for some Indigenous peoples and communities, owing to its associations to colonialism.**

When: Second Monday of October.

Mid-Autumn Festival, Moon festival, Mooncake Festival

One of the most popular Chinese holidays - a harvest and thanksgiving celebration. Observers often gather with friends and family, eat mooncakes, light lanterns, and more.

When: Held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunisolar calendar. Typically falls in mid-September to early October.

Cultural Affiliation: Chinese

Yom Kippur

The holiest day in Judaism - a day for atonement and repentance. The typical greeting on Yom Kippur is G'mar chatima tova.

When: 10th day of the month of Tishrei.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Marks the completion of the annual reading of the Torah, **no work is permitted.**

Celebrates the resumption of the annual cycle of readings, no work is permitted.

When: 22nd and 23rd of Tishrei.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Chuseok

A mid-autumn festival to celebrate the harvest, visit with family and pay respect to one's ancestors.

When: Held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the luni-solar calendar. Often on the autumn equinox, typically in September or October.

Cultural Affiliation: Korean

Diwali, Festival of Lights

Post-harvest festival symbolizing the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.

When: Typically falls between mid-October and mid-November.

Cultural Affiliation: Indian

Religious Affiliation: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism

November

Set Dates



National Indigenous Veterans' Day

Honours Indigenous veterans who have served Canada during times of conflict and peace.

Affiliation:
Indigenous



Remembrance Day

Memorial day honour armed forces who died in the line of duty. Date was selected because November 11th and 11:00AM marked the end of the first World War.



International Men's Day

Raises global awareness of issues facing men including abuse, homelessness, suicide and violence.



Transgender Awareness Week

Week-long lead-in to Trans Day of Remembrance. Raises the visibility of the issues facing trans communities.

Affiliation: 2SLGBTQIA+



Trans Day of Remembrance

Memorializes trans people who were murdered as a result of transphobia. This date also raises awareness of the consistent and continued threats to the trans communities' safety and rights.

Affiliation: 2SLGBTQIA+

Moving Dates

Chanukah

An 8-day Jewish festival celebrating the rededication of the Holy Temple and the miracle of the lights. It is marked with the lighting of eight candles over eight successive days.

When: 8 day festival, typically falling in late November through mid December.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Monthly Observances

Hindu Heritage Month

Celebrates Canadians of Hindu heritage and their many successes, contributions, cultures and identities.

December

Set Dates



International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

United Nations observation to raise awareness of modern slavery.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

United Nations observation promoting understanding of disabilities and mobilizing support for the rights of people with disabilities.



Human Rights Day

Honours the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).



Christmas

Honours the birth of Jesus Christ.



Kwanzaa

Weeklong cultural celebration in the US and other countries in the Americas honouring African and African-American/African-Canadian culture. Culminates in a communal feast called Karamu on the sixth day.



New Year's Eve

Marks the final day of the year.



Moving Dates

Chanukah

An 8-day Jewish festival celebrating the rededication of the Holy Temple and the miracle of the lights. It is marked with the lighting of eight candles over eight successive days.

When: 8 day festival, typically falling in late November through mid December.

Religious Affiliation: Judaism

Monthly Observances

Universal Human Rights Month