



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CALENDAR

JANUARY

Date(s)	Name	Description	Category
All Month of January	Alzheimer's Awareness Month	A month that encourages learning about dementia and its impact on Canadians.	Awareness Days
January 1	New Year's Day	The first day of a new year. This date is commonly known as New Year's Day and is a statutory holiday in all Canadian provinces and territories, and organizations	Cultural Celebrations
January 1	Shogatsu / Gantan-sai (New Years)	New Year (正月, shōgatsu) is the most important holiday in Japan. Years are traditionally viewed as completely separate, with each providing a fresh start.	Cultural Celebrations
January 4	World Braille Day	A day to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.	Awareness Days

January 7	Orthodox Christmas Day	This date works out to be December 25 in the Julian calendar, and is similarly a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who is believed to be the Son of God.	Religious and Spiritual
January 14	Lohri/Makar Sankranti	An annual thanksgiving day in Hinduism and Sikhism and a popular harvest festival. Farmers celebrate Lohri during a rest period before cutting and gathering crops.	Religious and Spiritual
January 14	Orthodox New Year	Many Orthodox Christian Canadians celebrate the New Year on January 1 in the Julian calendar, which falls on or near January 14 in the Gregorian calendar.	Religious and Spiritual
January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	A federal holiday in the United States marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of the modern American Civil Rights Movement.	Cultural Celebrations
January 22	Lunar New year	Marks the beginning of Spring and the start of a new lunar cycle. It is celebrated over the course of 16 days throughout East Asia and its beginning date varies on the cycle of the moon that year.	Cultural Celebrations
January 25	Burns Night	A Burns supper is a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns, the author of many Scots poems.	Cultural Celebrations
January 27	Holocaust Remembrance Day	A holiday created by the United Nations to honor the millions of victims of Nazism and develop educational plans to prevent future genocides.	Awareness Days

FEBRUARY

Date(s)	Name	Description	Category
All month of February	<u>Black History Month</u>	To honor the fight for equality for African Americans. The month of February was chosen because of Fredrick Douglass' and Abraham Lincoln's birthday.	Awareness Days
February 4	<u>World Cancer Day</u>	A day where the world unites to create awareness about this disease, including the struggles with being diagnosed, treatment and post treatment that these individuals have to face.	Awareness Days
February 4	<u>National Day of Sri Lanka</u>	Marks the independence of Sri Lanka from British rule in 1948. Celebrated through ceremonies, dances, parades and performances.	Cultural Celebrations
February 14	<u>Valentines Day</u>	Celebrated to commemorate the love between two people. Fun Fact: Approximately 1 billion Valentine's day cards are exchanged every year!	National Holidays
February 21	<u>International Mother Language Day</u>	Promotes awareness of linguistic and cultural identity, as well as multiculturalism. It aims to protect all languages and celebrate both the complexity and beauty of our different mother tongues.	Other Celebrations
February 28	<u>National Science Day</u>	This is celebrated to facilitate the discovery by C.V. Raman. He discovered the "Raman Effect" which has to do with the scattering of light. He won the 1930 Nobel Prize in physics and became the first Asian and non-white to receive any Nobel Prize in the sciences.	Other Celebrations

MARCH

Date(s)	Name	Description	Category
March 2	World Book Day/Dr.Seuss' Birthday	Annual celebration of books and reading celebrated by reading, book related activities and dressing up as characters from books.	Other Celebrations
March 6th to 12th	Food Waste Action Week	A whole week of action to raise awareness of the environmental consequences of wasting food, and promoting activities that help to reduce the amount of food we waste.	Awareness Days
March 8	International Women's Day	A worldwide celebration of women's rights and celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.	Awareness Days
March 8	Holi	Also known as the "Festival of Colors" and one of the most popular traditions in Hinduism. It signifies the triumph of good over evil and eternal/divine love.	Cultural Celebrations
March 10	Mario Day	Celebration of the Super Mario Bros franchise which is celebrated by dressing up as Mario or simply playing Mario games.	Other Celebrations
March 14	Pi Day	Pi's mathematical value is taken to be 3.14, thus the third month and 14th day of the year.	Other Celebrations
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	Ireland's national day celebrates the Irish patron saint Patrick. The day is celebrated all around the world with Guinness and shamrock decorations.	National Holidays

March 21	World Down Syndrome Day	Its purpose is to educate the world on what Down syndrome is and how individuals with Down syndrome need to be valued in their communities.	Awareness Days
March 22 to April 21 (tentative as it changes according to the lunar calendar)	Ramadan	Ramadan is a holy month in Islam, observed by fasting from dawn until sundown each day to mark the anniversary of the revelation of the Quran, the Muslim holy book. The fast involves abstaining from food, drink and a variety of actions and behaviors, such as talking about people behind their backs, lying or cursing.	Religious and Spiritual
March 31	Wear A Hat Day Events/Brain Tumor Awareness Day	This fundraising day is in aid of Brain Tumor Research. Wear a hat to show your support for Brain Tumor Research.	Awareness Days

APRIL

Date(s)	Name	Description	Category
April 1	April Fools Day	A day to play pranks and practical jokes on friends and family.	Other Celebrations
April 2	Autism Awareness Day	To highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.	Awareness Days
April 2	Palm Sunday	It marks the beginning of Holy Week in the liturgical calendar and as such it is a movable feast, meaning the date changes every year. Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, commemorates Jesus Christ's arrival at the city of Jerusalem.	Religious and Spiritual

April 6	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Presents an opportunity to recognize the positive role sport and physical activity play in communities and in people's lives across the globe. Sport has the power to change the world; it is a fundamental right and a powerful tool to strengthen social ties and promote sustainable development and peace, as well as solidarity and respect for all.	Other Celebrations
April 6	Holy Thursday	Commonly referred to as Maundy Thursday, is a Christian holy day that takes place on the Thursday before Easter. It celebrates Jesus's Last Supper with his apostles, as well as the washing of the feet and the initiation of the communion.	Religious and Spiritual
April 7	Good Friday	Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.	Religious and Spiritual
April 7	Green Shirt Day	For organ donor awareness and recognizes the donation of Logan Boulet's organs to six lives after his death in the Humboldt bus crash.	Awareness Days
April 9	Easter Sunday	A major Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his death.	Religious and Spiritual
April 10	National Siblings Day	It is a day to celebrate the special relationships and bonds that brothers and sisters share with each other.	Other Celebrations
April 13	Functional Neurological Disorder Day	It aims to promote awareness, support patients, and advance research for the prevention as well as treatment for 'FND' or 'Functional Neurological Disorder.	Awareness Days
April 14	Day of Silence	It is a student-led observance with the purpose of bringing awareness to the bullying of lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender students by taking a vow of complete silence for the whole day in a representation of the silencing of the LGBTQ+ community.	Awareness Days

April 17	World Hemophilia Day	The theme of the event this year is “Access for All: Prevention of Bleeds. Building on last year’s theme, the call to action for the community in 2023 is to come together and advocate with local policy makers and governments for improved access to treatment and care with an emphasis on better control and prevention of bleeds for all people with bleeding disorders (PWBDs).	Awareness Days
April 21	World Creativity and Innovation Day	It reminds us to go beyond the drudgery of everyday life and do something different. It encourages us to step outside the box and change our world for the better. As a result of innovation and creative thinking, our world has progressively changed for the better. Life becomes much easier with the discovery and implementation of new techniques and ideas.	Other Celebrations
April 22	Earth Day	It is a day to educate people about the issues affecting the planet and to raise awareness for and celebrate the efforts in place to protect the environment.	Awareness Days
April 22 (tentative until Ramadan begins)	Eid al-Fitr	Marks the end of the holy month, Ramadan. This event involves many Muslims waking up early and praying either at an outdoor prayer ground or a mosque. People dress in their finest clothes and adorn their homes with lights and other decorations. Special foods are prepared and friends or relatives are invited to share the feast. Gifts and greeting cards are exchanged and children receive presents. Eid al-Fitr is a joyous occasion but its underlying purpose is to praise God and give thanks to him, according to Islamic belief.	Religious and Spiritual

MAY

Date(s)	Name	Description	Category
May 1- May 7th	Mental Health Week	This day aims to change societal beliefs and perceptions about mental health by removing surrounding stigma. The goal is to promote healthy behaviors and attitudes that will foster a culture of understanding and acceptance.	Awareness Days
May 4	Star Wars Day	“May the 4th be with you”	Other Celebrations

May 5	African World Heritage Day	An opportunity for people around the world, and particularly Africans, to celebrate the Continent's unique cultural and natural heritage.	Awareness Days
May 5	Cinco de Mayo	Translated to "the fifth of May", it is celebrated every year on May 5. It commemorates the victory of the Mexican over the French in the Battle of Puebla, in 1862, during the Franco-Mexican War.	Cultural Celebrations
May 8	Lag BaOmer	A day where those of Jewish faith take a break from the semi-mourning to celebrate joyfully, with bonfires and parades, and to hold special events such as weddings	Religious and Spiritual
May 10	World Lupus Day	To raise awareness and educate the public about the symptoms and health effects of lupus.	Awareness Days
May 14	Mother's Day	It is a day for celebrating mothers and showering them with gifts and treats.	Other Celebrations
May 18	Ascension Day	Also known as the Feast of the Ascension is a Christian observance that takes place on the fortieth day of Easter, a Thursday. It celebrates Jesus's ascension into heaven.	Religious and Spiritual

JUNE

Date(s)	Name	Description	Category
All month of June	- Pride Month - Caribbean American Heritage Month	- commemorates the Stonewall Riots and seeks to recognize the impact LGBT people have had around the world - recognizes the significance of Caribbean culture and history in the U.S.	Awareness Days
June 5	World Environment Day	largest global platform for environmental public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people across the world.	Awareness Days
June 8	Corpus Christi	This jubilant festival is celebrated by Roman Catholics and other Christians to proclaim the truth of the transubstantiation of bread and wine into the actual body of Christ during Mass.	Religious and Spiritual
June 12	Puerto Rican Day Parade (Puerto Rican)	largest demonstration of cultural pride in the United States. It promotes prominent, historical figures and seeks to raise awareness of critical issues in the community	Cultural Celebrations
June 19	Juneteenth	Commentates the liberation of slaves in Texas, and celebrated nationwide	Other Celebrations?
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada)	This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.	Awareness Days

June 27	Canadian Multiculturalism Day	Take this day to honor the many cultural communities that help build a strong and vibrant Canadian society. Take this opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity that enriches us collectively and reaffirm your commitment to equity, inclusion, and mutual respect.	Cultural Celebrations
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JULY

Date(s)	Name	Description	Category
July 1	Canada Day	Canada Day is one long party with official and unofficial events and celebrations all over the country. Common things to do include having picnics, BBQ's, attending firework displays, watching parades, and attending concerts.	Cultural Celebrations
July 1	International Joke Day	What do you call a funny mountain? Hill-arious.	Other Celebrations
July 2	World UFO Day	The goal of this day was to bring together those who believe in and have seen UFOs from across the United States, to exchange evidence and information, and to look in the skies for more UFO sightings. They also aim to spread awareness about UFOs to those who don't believe in them.	Other Celebrations
July 7	Global Forgiveness Day	Encourages the practice of forgiving others, and also ourselves. This was created to cultivate a feel-good environment amongst people and let go of the pain and guilt they may be holding onto.	Other Celebrations
July 11	Cow Appreciation Day	To raise awareness about cows and all that they do. This was started by the Chick-Fil-A fast food chain in the United States.	Other Celebrations

July 13	National French Fry Day	This holiday encourages the consumption of french fries, a popular finger food or side dish consisting of cut-up fried potatoes and usually served salted.	Other Celebrations
July 14	Bastille Day	The National Day of France, also known as Bastille Day, is one of the most important days in the history of the nation, as it marks the fall of the Bastille, a military fortress and political prison, then considered a symbol of the monarchy and armory.	Cultural Celebrations
July 26	Tisha B'Av	It is a day of mourning and fasting, as many disasters are said to have happened to the Jewish people on this day. The two main tragedies remembered on this day are the destruction of Solomon's Temple and the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Because of its meaning, Tisha B'Av is considered to be the saddest day in the Jewish calendar.	Religious
July 27	National Disability Independence Day	This day celebrates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 by President George Bush. This is to raise awareness about how those living with disability can thrive, and how we can help them to do the same. This act was designed to protect people with disabilities from discrimination.	Awareness Days
July 30	International Friendship Day	This is the United Nations' National Day of friendship with the belief that friendships can stop wars and help to build peace.	Other Celebrations

AUGUST

August 1	World Lung Cancer Day	The purpose of this day is to raise awareness about lung cancer in terms of the illness, treatment options, and preventative measures.	Awareness Days
August 2	National Ice Cream Sandwich Day	This holiday celebrates the ice cream sandwich, a popular sweet dish consisting of ice cream in the middle of a chocolate cookie.	Other Celebrations
August 4	International Beer Day	The purpose of this day is to gather with friends and enjoy beer, a popular alcoholic beverage made by the fermentation of grain.	Other Celebrations
August 7	International Cat Day	The purpose is to celebrate our pet cats, and raise awareness about how to protect them. It was created by the International Fund for Animal Welfare.	Awareness Days
August 12	World Elephant Day	Dedicated to the preservation and protection of elephants around the globe	Awareness Days
August 15	Relaxation Day	Kick back and do nothing!!	Other Celebrations
August 19	National Honey Bee Day	Let's celebrate and show our appreciation for the hard working Honey Bee, who works so hard to produce the liquid sugary treat that is loved so much by bees and humans.	Awareness Days

August 24	National Waffle Day	Celebrate and eat lots of waffles!!!!	Other
August 26	Women's Equality Day	Gender Equality!!	Awareness Days

SEPTEMBER

Month of September	Hispanic Heritage Month	Celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.	cultural
September 2	World Beard Day	One of the goals of this international day is to promote and elevate the status of beards throughout the world. It is a day for those who wear beards to be pampered by beardless folk. On this day, those around you are supposed to wait on your hand and foot.... and beard.	Other
September 5	Cheese Pizza Day	To celebrate Cheese Pizza Day, just order a cheese pizza. Or, make a homemade pizza. It is frowned upon to use any toppings other than cheese	other
September 6	Krishna Janmashtami	The Krishna Janmashtami festival marks the birth of Krishna, one of the most popular deities worshiped by Hindus. His birthday is celebrated eight days after Raksha Bandhan, a festival celebrating the bond between brothers and sisters.	religious

September 9	Teddy Bear Day	This day is meant to thank teddy bears for all their cuddles and the roles they've played throughout our lives.	
September 18	National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day	This day brings awareness to HIV/AIDS amongst the older population. This day is meant to combat stigmas towards those living with HIV/AIDS, as well as promoting treatment and prevention for HIV/AIDS.	Awareness Days
September 21	International Day of Peace	This day is meant to strengthen peace and harmony in all the relationships one has. This is between nations and peoples.	
September 22	World Car-Free Day	This day encourages people around the globe to ditch driving their vehicles for the day and use a bike to commute, or walk! This is aimed to help the environment out by reducing pollution.	
September 23	International Day of Sign Language	The International Day of Sign Languages is a unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users.	Awareness Days
September 25	Yom Kippur	Jewish people mark the day of Yom Kippur by fasting for 25 hours. They also wear white and they don't wear make-up, perfume, or leather shoes.	religious

OCTOBER

October 1	International Day for the Elderly	This day is for honoring, respecting, and caring for the world's elderly.	
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October 5	World Teacher's Day	Teachers not only educate, but they help to shape and frame your child's beliefs, values, and behaviors. Parents and students are encouraged to offer thanks and recognition today.	
October 6	World Smile Day	The intent of World Smile Day is to do an act of kindness or help one person to smile.	
October 9	Canadian Thanksgiving Day	Canadians give thanks for the successful harvest and have a huge feast. Because it is tied to the fall harvest, fall fruits and vegetables are included with the meal and on dessert trays.	Cultural
October 9	Indigenous People Day	This day is used to honor and celebrate indigenous people, those very first settlers of a region. Schools, libraries, historical societies, and local governments should use this day to provide educational programs, lectures, and exhibits on the indigenous people who first lived and worked the land in your area.	
October 11	Bring your Teddy Bear to Work Day	This is a great opportunity to show off your beloved Teddy Bear to work associates.	
October 15-21	Invisible Disability Awareness week	Providing awareness about invisible disabilities	Awareness days
October 14	National Dessert Day	This is a rich day filled with yummy treats!	
October 15	Navratri begins (Lasts 10 days)	How the festival is celebrated varies depending on where people live but during Navratri some families choose to fast, only having milk, water, fruit and nuts during the day, followed by a full meal after sunset. The celebrations mainly involve lots of dancing!	Religious
October 16	National Boss's Day	This is an opportunity to give your boss the appreciation that he or she truly deserves.	
October 18	National Persons Day	On Persons Day, we honor the bravery and determination of the Famous Five whose landmark case helped pave the way for women to participate equally in all aspects of life in Canada.	
October 26	Eid Milad ul-Nabi	People frequently commemorate the anniversary in numerous countries with large-scale public processions and house decorations. It honors the kindness, compassion, and teachings of the holy Prophet.	Religious

October 26	Intersex Awareness Day	Spread awareness by promoting and protecting the human rights of all individuals, including intersex persons, who often face discrimination, harmful medical practices, violence, and social stigma solely based on their sex characteristics.	Awareness Days
October 31	Halloween	Boo!	Religious

NOVEMBER

Month of November	Movember	This is an annual event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide.	Awareness Days
First Week of November	Treaties Recognition Week	This week is to honor the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships. Developing a stronger understanding and awareness of the treaty relationships will help move us towards reconciliation.	Awareness Days
November 2	Dia de los Muertos begins	Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a celebration of life and death. While the holiday originated in Mexico, it is celebrated all over Latin America with colorful calaveras (skulls) and calacas (skeletons).	Cultural
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development	This day highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.	Awareness Days
November 12	Diwali	The religious celebration, which is also referred to as the Festival of Lights, is an auspicious occasion that celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and hope over despair. In addition to lighting lamps, people visit with neighbors, relatives, and friends, bringing platters of sweets and other foods. The night sky glitters and rumbles from firecrackers. It is a time of prayer, fellowship, and feasting.	Religious
November 16	International Day for Tolerance	It is respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.	Other
November 20	Transgender Day of Remembrance	Participate in Transgender Day of Remembrance by attending and/or organizing a vigil on November 20 to honor all those transgender people	Awareness

		whose lives were lost to anti-transgender violence that year, and learning about the violence affecting the transgender community.	
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	This aims to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls around the world, calling for global action to increase awareness, promote advocacy and create opportunities for discussion on challenges and solutions.	Awareness
November 28	Red Planet Day	On Red Planet Day, take a few minutes to look upwards into the sky, and gaze at our neighbor.	Other

DECEMBER

December 1	World AIDS Day	World AIDS Day is a day to unite to help end HIV and remember those lost to AIDS-related illnesses.	Awareness
December 3	Advent	<p>In the early days of the church, Advent was a time of prayer and confession. Today, Advent is more a time of preparation and expectation of the coming of the Lord. The Advent Wreath is an important symbol of the Advent season. It usually sits on the dinner table and is a constant reminder of the holy season.</p> <p>There are a total of four candles lit during Advent Season: The first purple candle represents hope. The second purple candle stands for love. The third candle lit is the pink candle. It represents joy. The fourth is another purple candle. This symbolizes peace.</p>	Religious
December 8	First Day of Hanukkah	Hanukkah is a time for gift-giving so some people give gift baskets to others. Some organizations coordinate events, such as a Hanukkah Party, for children. These events often include singing, drama, and entertaining activities involving the <i>dreidel</i> , which is a toy used for games.	Religious
December 10	Human Rights Day	<p>The document focuses on global rights and freedoms, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the right to healthcare and education ● the right to live ● the right to freedom of speech and thought 	Awareness Days

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the importance of equal rights 	
December 12	Gingerbread House Day!	Whether you're a cookie building expert or your baked house falls apart as soon as you get the third wall glued on with icing, we can all agree the best part of building a gingerbread house is eating the sweet treat when we're done!	Other
December 15	National Ugly Sweater Day	This is a day to whip out your ugliest Christmas sweater - think tinsel applications, bells, tacky designs, and lights - and wear it for the whole day.	Other
December 17	National Maple Syrup Day.	This natural ingredient was created more than 600 years ago and has been consumed for various reasons ever since. The syrup is made from tree sap that comes from the maple tree. It is often used as a flavoring agent in breakfast items.	Other
December 24	Christmas Eve	Some people buy last-minute Christmas gifts for family members and friends while others wrap presents that they bought earlier.	Religious
December 25	Christmas Day	Christmas Day is celebrated on December 25 . In 2021, Christmas Day is on a Saturday. Christmas is a religious, cultural and commercial holiday, a day when most Americans spend time with family and friends, exchanging gifts and sharing meals.	Religious
December 31	New Years Eve	Welcoming a new year with reflection and celebration is something humans have been doing for thousands of years. The first New Year's festivities go back 4,000 years, to ancient Babylon	Other Celebrations