



2018 Multicultural Calendar

JANUARY

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

Legend:

 Canadian or Provincial Statutory Holiday.

 Other Holiday or Diversity-related celebration/observance.

Using this Calendar:

Some religious or cultural celebrations require fasting and some may require employees to take time away from work. Dates listed above should be taken into consideration if planning events.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of holidays celebrated. CCDI hopes to incorporate more in the future. If you have feedback on this calendar, or feel we have missed an important event, please contact mail@ccdi.ca.

Consult the next pages to view the names, countries or religions, and descriptions of the specific holidays.



2018 Multicultural Calendar

| Date | Name of Holiday/Celebration | Country or Religion |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| January | Alzheimer Awareness Month | |
| January 1 | New Year's Day | International |
| January 6 | Epiphany | Christian |
| January 7 | Orthodox Christmas/Feast of the Nativity | Orthodox Christian/Christian |
| January 13 | Lohri/Maghi | Punjab/Sikh |
| January 14 | Orthodox New Year | Orthodox Christian |
| January 15 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day | United States |
| January 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day | International |
| January 30-31 | Tu BiShvat | Judaism |
| February | Black History Month | |
| February 12 | BC Family Day | British Columbia |
| February 14 – March 31 | Lent | Christian |
| February 14 | Ash Wednesday | Christian |
| | Valentine's Day | International |
| February 16 | Chinese New Year/Lunar New Year | Confucianism, Buddhism, Daoist |
| February 19 | Family Day/Nova Scotia Heritage Day*/ Louis Riel Day**/Islander Day*** | AB, ON, SK/NS*/MB**/PEI*** |
| February 28 | Pink Shirt Day | International |
| March | Women's History Month | |
| March 1-19 | Nineteen Day Fast | Baha'i |
| March 2 | Holi | Hindu |
| March 8 | International Women's Day | International |
| March 20 | International Francophonie Day | International |
| | Spring Equinox | Wiccan |
| March 20-21 | Naw Ruz (Persian New Year) | Iran + International |
| March 21 | International Day for the End of Racial Discrimination | International |
| March 25 | Palm Sunday | Christian |
| | Ram Navami | Hindu |
| March 26 | Birth of Prophet Zarathustra | Zoroastrianism |
| March 30 | Good Friday | Christian |
| March 30-April 7 | Pesach (Passover) | Judaism |
| March 31 | International Transgender Day of Remembrance | International |
| April | Multicultural Communications Month | |
| April 1 | Easter Sunday | Christian |
| April 2 | Easter Monday | Christian |
| April 11 | International Day of Pink | International |
| April 14 | Vaishaki/Baishaki | Punjab/Sikh |
| April 21 | First Day of Ridvan | Baha'i |
| April 22 | Earth Day | International |
| April 23 | St. George's Day | NL |
| May | Asian Heritage Month | |
| May 13 | Mother's Day | International |
| May 15-June 14 | Ramadan | Islam |
| May 17 | International Day Against Homophobia | International |
| May 19-21 | Shavuot | Judaism |
| May 21 | International Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development | International |
| | Victoria Day | Canada |
| | Patriots' Day | Quebec |
| May 23 | Declaration of the Bab | Baha'i |
| May 29 | Ascension of Baha'u'llah | Baha'i |

Dates in yellow highlight are statutory holidays in at least one province or territory.



2018 Multicultural Calendar

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| June | Aboriginal History Month | |
| June 15 | Eid-al-Fitr (Ramadan ends) | Islam |
| June 17 | Father's Day | Canada |
| June 21 | National Indigenous Peoples Day | Canada (NWT holiday) |
| | Summer Solstice | Wiccan |
| June 25 | St. Jean Baptiste Day | Quebec |
| June 27 | Multiculturalism Day | Canada |
| July | | |
| July 1 | Canada Day | Canada |
| July 9 | Nunavut Day | Nunavut |
| July 18 | Nelson Mandela Day | International |
| August | Caregivers Month | |
| August 6 | Civic Holiday | AB, BC, ON, SK, NB, NU |
| August 9 | International Day for the World's Indigenous Peoples | International |
| August 15 | National Acadian Day | Canada |
| August 23 | International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition | International |
| August 25 | Raksha Bandhan | Hinduism |
| September | Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month | |
| September 2 | Eid-al_Adha | Islam |
| | Krishna Jahmashtami | Hinduism |
| September 3 | Labour Day | Canada |
| September 9-11 | Rosh Hashanah | Judaism |
| September 11-October 9 | 1 st Muharram | Islam |
| September 18 | Yom Kippur | Judaism |
| September 22 | Fall Equinox | Wiccan |
| September 24 | MidAutumn Festival (Moon Cake Festival) | Chinese |
| September 24-30 | Sukkot | Judaism |
| September 30 | Orange Shirt Day | Canada |
| October | Disability Employment Awareness Month | |
| October 1 | Shemini Atzeret | Judaism |
| October 2 | Simhat Torah | Judaism |
| October 8 | Thanksgiving | Canada |
| October 9-17 | Navaratri | Hinduism |
| October 10 | World Mental Health Day | International |
| October 11 | National Coming out Day | North America |
| October 19 | Dussehra | Hinduism |
| November | Diabetes Awareness Month | |
| November 11 | Remembrance Day | Canada |
| November 14 | Bikarami-Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib | Sikh |
| November 27 | Advent Begins | Christian |
| December | Universal Human Rights Month | |
| December 11-12 | Mawlid al Nabi | Islam |
| December 24-January 1 | Hanukkah | Judaism |
| December 25 | Christmas Day | Christian |
| December 26 | Boxing Day | Commonwealth Nations |

Dates in yellow highlight are statutory holidays in at least one province or territory.



2018 Multicultural Calendar

Detailed Description

| Date | Description |
|-----------------------|---|
| January | Alzheimer Awareness Month |
| January 1 | New Year's Day. The first day of the year of the modern Gregorian calendar. |
| January 6 | Epiphany. A Christian festival held in honour of the coming of the three kings to the infant Jesus Christ. |
| January 7 | Orthodox Christmas/Feast of the Nativity. The equivalent of December 25th on the Julian calendar. Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas day on or near this date. |
| January 13 | Lohri/Maghi. A celebration welcoming the beginning of harvest season. It marks the last day of winter and is celebrated in worship of the sun and fire. |
| January 14 | Orthodox New Year. The start of the new year under the Julian calendar. |
| January 15 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day. American federal holiday which marks the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. and falls on the third Monday of January, close to King's actual birthday on January 15. |
| January 27 | International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Designated by the United Nations (UN), this day commemorates the genocide that resulted in the death of millions of people at the hands of the Nazi regime and its collaborators. |
| January 31 | Tu BiShvat. Commonly known as the 'New Year of the Trees', Tu Bishvat is marked on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat. |
| February | Black History Month |
| February 12 | BC Family Day. Civic holiday in British Columbia which celebrates the importance of family. |
| February 14- March 31 | Lent. A 40-day fasting period (excluding Sundays) observed by Christians, in preparation for Easter. |
| February 14 | Ash Wednesday. Marks the first day of Lent. |
| | Valentine's Day. A day of romance when people celebrate their love for one another. The origin of this holiday dates back to the 5th century and is named after a Christian martyr, St. Valentine. |
| February 16 | Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year is also commonly known as Chinese New Year. Each New Year is associated with one of the twelve different animals of the Zodiac. This year is the Year of the Rooster. |
| February 19 | Family Day/Islander Day. Civic holiday in AB, NB, ON, SK which celebrates the importance of family. Islander Day is a civic holiday observed in PEI. |
| | Mi'kmaq and Nova Scotia Heritage Day. Civic holiday in Nova Scotia which celebrates Mi'kmaq heritage and culture. |
| | Louis Riel Day. Civic holiday in Manitoba which commemorates the life of Louis Riel, a Canadian politician and leader of the Métis people |
| February 28 | Pink Shirt Day. An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying. |



2018 Multicultural Calendar

Detailed Explanation

| March | Women's History Month |
|------------------|---|
| March 1 | Purim. The festival of Purim commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people from Haman during the ancient Persian Empire. |
| March 1-19 | Nineteen Day Fast. This period of fasting immediately follows the Bahá'í New Year and is meant for adult Bahá'ís to focus on their spiritual lives. |
| March 2 | Holi. A Hindu celebration which marks the beginning of spring, the season of hope and joy. |
| March 8 | International Women's Day. A day to recognize and appreciate the role women play in society. In some countries, this day is an official holiday and treated equivalently to Mother's Day. |
| March 20 | Spring Equinox. According to Wiccans, this date marks the beginning of Spring, and is one of two days in the year when there are approximately equal amounts of day and night time. |
| | International Francophonie Day. A day to celebrate the French language, culture, and values. |
| March 20-21 | Naw Ruz (Persian New Year). The beginning of the new year under the Persian calendar. It welcomes the arrival of spring with various rituals, traditions and festivals. It is celebrated in Iran and in various ethno-linguistic communities around the world. |
| March 21 | International Day for the End of Racial Discrimination. Declared by the UN, this day remembers the damaging effects of racial discrimination and is a reminder to continue building a world with justice and equality. |
| March 25 | Palm Sunday. A Christian celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem the week prior to his death and resurrection, which marks the start of Passion Week. |
| | Rama Navami. Rama Navami is a Hindu celebration of commemorating the birth of Lord Rama, son of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya. |
| March 26 | Birth of Prophet Zarathustra. This day celebrates the birth of Zarathustra, an Iranian prophet and reformer who was recognized as the founder of an ancient pre-Islamic religion known as Zoroastrianism. |
| March 30-April 7 | Pesach (Passover). The Passover starts on the 15th day of Nisan, the first ecclesiastical month of the Jewish year. It commemorates the Exodus of Egypt and the nation's freedom under the leadership of Moses. |
| March 30 | Good Friday. A Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus. |
| March 31 | International Transgender Day of Visibility. The annual holiday dedicated to celebrating trans people and raising awareness of the discrimination they face worldwide. |
| April | Multicultural Communications Month |
| April 1 | Easter. One of the holiest days in the Christian calendar, Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death, two days after his crucifixion. |



2018 Multicultural Calendar

Detailed Explanation

| | |
|----------------|---|
| April 2 | Easter Monday. The day following Easter Sunday honouring the resurrection of Jesus. It is typically celebrated as a day of reflection of the Holy Week |
| April 11 | International Day of Pink. A day to promote anti-bullying. |
| April 14 | Vaishaki/Baishaki. This day celebrates the New Year and marks the beginning of the harvest season. It also commemorates the establishment of the Khalsa, the community of baptized Sikhs. |
| April 21 | First Day of Ridvan. The Festival of Ridvan is a twelve-day period that celebrates the claim to prophethood of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i Faith. |
| April 23 | Earth Day. Earth Day aims to raise awareness and demonstrate support of environmental protection, with many events held around the world. |
| | St. George's Day. This day is meant to celebrate the feast day of the Christian saint, St. George, who was a roman soldier and martyr. It is also observed as a provincial holiday in Newfoundland and Labrador. |
| May | Asian Heritage Month |
| May 13 | Mother's Day. This day is dedicated to honouring mothers and appreciating their role in families and community. |
| May 15-June 14 | Ramadan. In Islam, Ramadan is the holy month whereby Muslims fast during daylight hours. It is a period that aims to cleanse one's body and soul from impurities and re-focus oneself to the worship of God. |
| May 17 | International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. A day to raise awareness of the discrimination and violation of rights experienced by the LGBTQ community. |
| May 19-21 | Shavuot. A Jewish observance of the giving of the Torah, the biblical laws of Judaism, from God to the nation of Israel. |
| May 21 | International Day of Diversity Dialogue and Development. A day to educate people on the importance of cultural diversity and to raise awareness of the related issues faced in today's society. |
| | Victoria Day. Victoria Day is celebrated in honour of the birth of Queen Victoria, the first sovereign of Canada, post-Confederation. |
| | Patriots' Day. Statutory holiday in Quebec to commemorate democracy and patriotic struggles for freedom from British rule during 1837-1838. |
| May 23 | Declaration of the Bab. This day honours the Bab, who was perceived as the messenger of the God and forerunner of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i Faith. |
| May 28-29 | Ascension of Baha'u'llah. A Baha'i celebration which commemorates the death and ascension of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i Faith, whose teachings centre around the unification of humanity. |



2018 Multicultural Calendar

Detailed Explanation

| June | |
|---------------|---|
| | Pride Month and Aboriginal History Month |
| June 15 | Eid Al-Fitr. A Muslim celebration to mark the end of Ramadan, the holy month of dawn to sunset fasting. This day is celebrated with feasts, gifts, and prayers in honour of God. |
| June 17 | Father's Day. A day to celebrate and honour fathers, and recognize their contributions to their families and the community. |
| June 21 | Summer Solstice. This marks the beginning of Summer – although it was originally conceived by Wiccans as a celebration of midsummer – and marks the day with the longest period of sunlight in the northern hemisphere. |
| | National Indigenous Peoples Day. National Indigenous Peoples Day honours the unique cultures, heritage as well as achievements of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis population of Canada. |
| June 25 | St. Jean Baptiste Day. This day is also known as Quebec's National Holiday and is celebrated in honour of the nativity of Saint John, the Baptist of Jesus Christ. |
| June 27 | Canadian Multiculturalism Day. Multiculturalism day celebrates Canada's diverse cultures as well as the country's commitment to equality, democracy, and mutual respect. |
| July | |
| July 1 | Canada Day. A day to celebrate the enactment of the Constitution Act in 1867 thereby establishing Canada as a new federation with its own constitution. |
| July 9 | Nunavut Day. A day to commemorate the passing of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act and the Nunavut Act in 1993. It is a holiday in recognition of Nunavut's history and traditions. |
| July 18 | Nelson Mandela Day. Declared by the UN, Mandela day is a day to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his values, through volunteering and community service, to fight poverty and promote peace, reconciliation and cultural diversity. |
| August | |
| | Caregivers Month |
| August 6 | Civic Holiday. The August Civic Holiday is known by a variety of names across Canada and is celebrated according to local municipal traditions and history. |
| August 9 | International Day of the World's Indigenous People. Pronounced by the UN, this is a day to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population, and recognize the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection. |
| August 15 | National Acadian Day. Observed to celebrate Acadian culture. |
| August 23 | International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. A day designated by the UN to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade. |
| August 25 | Raksha Bandhan. The Hindu festival celebrates the love, bond and duty that exists between brothers and sisters. It can also be used to celebrate any brother-sister-like relationships even for those who are biologically unrelated. |



2018 Multicultural Calendar

Detailed Explanation

| September | |
|---|---|
| Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month | |
| September 2 | Eid Al-Adha. A Muslim observance, also known as the Festival of Sacrifice, is celebrated in honour of Abraham's sacrifice of his son to God. |
| | Krishna Janmashtami. A Hindu celebration of the birthday of the Hindu deity, Krishna, known for giving the message of the Gita, establishing vital and guiding Hindu principles. |
| September 3 | Labour Day. This day celebrates the achievements of workers and advocates for their rights and privileges. |
| September 9-11 | Rosh Hashanah. The Jewish New Year celebrates the creation of the first man and woman. |
| September 11-October 9 | 1st Muharram. The Islamic New Year. 1st Muharram is a period of peace in worship of various significant events in Islamic history that have occurred in the first month. |
| September 18 | Yom Kippur. The Jewish Day of Atonement which comprises a 25-hour fast whereby people refrain from working, eating and drinking. Synagogue services are also attended in worship of this sacred day. |
| September 22 | Fall Equinox. According to the Wiccans this represents the first day of Fall and one of two days in the year in which there are approximately equal amounts of day and night time. |
| September 24 | MidAutumn Festival (Moon Cake Festival). A harvest festival occurring on the 15th day of the eighth month of the Han Calendar. It is commonly referred to as the Moon Festival due to the full moon observed that evening |
| September 24-30 | Sukkot. A Jewish observance in honour of the Hebrew people who wandered through the desert for 40 years after their exile from Egypt. |
| September 30 | Orange Shirt Day. This event commemorates the residential school experience. It honours Canada's commitment to reconciliation. The date was chosen because this was the time of year children were taken from their homes and placed in residential schools. |
| October | |
| National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month | |
| October 1 | Shemini Atzeret. Literally meaning "The assembly of the eighth day", this holiday is a celebration observed after Sukkot. |
| October 2 | Simchat Torah. A Jewish holiday that marks the completion of the annual Torah readings and begins a new reading cycle. |
| October 8 | Thanksgiving. A day of giving thanks to the harvest and blessings of the previous year. |
| October 9-17 | Navaratri. A Hindu festival of nine nights in worship of the Hindu goddess Durga, celebrated with various traditions and rituals in honour of a different form of the goddess each night. |
| October 10 | World Mental Health Day. A day with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. |
| October 11 | National Coming Out Day. An annual LGBTQ awareness day. |
| October 19 | Dussehra. A Hindu celebration on the last day of Navaratri, celebrating the victory of good over evil. |



2018 Multicultural Calendar

Detailed Explanation

| November | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Diabetes Awareness Month | |
| November 7 | Diwali. A five-day Hindu Festival of Lights that coincides with the Hindu New Year and celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil. |
| November 11 | Remembrance Day. Commemorates the members of the armed forces who have sacrificed their lives during the World Wars and other military efforts in history and currently. |
| November 20 | Transgender Day of Remembrance. A day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia and to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community. |
| November 21 | Mawlid al Nabi. A Muslim celebration that commemorates the birth of Islamic prophet Muhammad in the third month of the Islamic calendar. It is recognized as a national holiday in many Muslim-prevalent countries around the globe. |
| November 23 | Bikarami. Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib. A Sikh celebration of the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib, founder of Sikhism and the first of the Sikh Gurus. It is one of the most sacred festivals of Sikhism. |
| November 25 | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Designated by the UN, this is a day to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence. |
| December | |
| Universal Human Rights Month | |
| December 2 | Advent Begins. Advent marks a month-long period of preparation and anticipation for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. |
| December 3 | International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Promoted by the UN, this day is to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. |
| December 3-10 | Hanukkah. Also known as the Jewish Festival of Lights or Feast of Dedication, Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish holiday in memory of the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. |
| December 10 | Human Rights Day. A day to honour the UN General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights. |
| December 18 | International Migrants Day. Declared by the UN, this is a day to honour the international convention on the protection of the rights of migrants. |
| December 21 | Winter Solstice. This is the day when Wiccans celebrate the onset of Winter, and also represents the day with the fewest hours of sunlight in the northern hemisphere. |
| December 25 | Christmas Day. A holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is recognized as a public holiday in many nations around the world and is also celebrated secularly by many non-Christians. |
| December 26 | Boxing Day. The day after Christmas Day was traditionally celebrated as the day tradesmen and servants would receive gifts from their employers. |