

Multicultural Calendar 2023

The Multicultural Calendar is an educational and informational resource only. It is not intended to be, nor should be relied upon as an authority on holy days or to guide accommodation decisions.

The calendar highlights multi-faith observances, cultural holidays and historical days of significance to further support and advance our learning community's values of diversity and inclusion.

Being mindful of diverse holidays—and opportunities for inclusion—is the key to create workplaces, schools and communities where our students and staff feel included every day.




While all efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of these dates, the actual day of observance may vary by a day or so. Please send any feedback, updates, or corrections to Community@sd61.bc.ca.

Some religious or cultural celebrations require fasting and some may require employees to take time away from work. Dates listed in the calendar should be taken into consideration if planning events. This is not an exhaustive list of holidays celebrated.

All British Columbia statutory and optional holidays are highlighted in yellow in the calendar.


January 2023

Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 	2	3	4 World Braille Day 	5	6 Epiphany 	7 Orthodox Christmas/ Feast of the Nativity 
8	9	10	11	12	13 Lohri 	14 Orthodox New Year 
15	16 Martin Luther King Jr Day 	17	18	19	20 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh 	21
22 Lunar New Year 	23	24 International Day of Education 	25	26 Vasant Panchami 	27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day 	28
	30	31				








February 2023

Black History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Tu BiShvat Lantern Festival	6 International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	7	8	9	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science 
12	13 World Radio Day 	14 Valentine's Day 	15 National Flag of Canada Day 	16	17	18 Maha Shivaratri 
19	20 Provincial Holiday World Day of Social Justice	21 International Mother Language Day Losar	22 Ash Wednesday (start of Lent) Pink Shirt Day	23	24	25
26	27 Start of Great Lent 	28				









March 2023

Women's History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>Zero Discrimination Day</u> 	2 <u>Nineteen Day Fast (start)</u> 	3	4
5	6 <u>Magha Puja Day</u> <u>Purim</u>	7	8 <u>Holi</u> <u>International Women's Day</u>	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 <u>St. Patrick's Day</u> 	18
19	20 <u>International Francophonie Day</u> <u>Nowruz</u> <u>Spring Equinox</u>	21 <u>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</u> <u>Naw-Rúz</u> <u>World Down Syndrome Day</u>	22 <u>Ramadan begins</u> 	23	24 <u>International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims</u>	25 <u>International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade</u> 
26	27	28	29	30 <u>Ram Navami</u> 	31 <u>International Transgender Day of Visibility</u> 	








April 2023

Multicultural Communications Month
Celebrate Diversity Month
Sikh Heritage Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <u>Palm Sunday</u> <u>World Autism Awareness Day</u>	3	4	5 <u>Passover</u> 	6 <u>Holy Thursday</u> <u>International Day of Sport for Development and Peace</u> <u>Theravada New Year</u>	7 <u>Good Friday (Western)</u> <u>World Health Day</u>	8
9 <u>Easter (Western)</u> 	10 <u>Easter Monday</u> 	11	12 <u>International Day of Pink</u> 	13	14 <u>Sinhalese New Year</u> <u>Vaisakhi</u>	15
16 <u>Easter (Orthodox/Eastern)</u> 	17	18	19	20 <u>Eid-Al-Fitr</u> 	21 <u>First Day of Ridván</u> <u>World Creativity and Innovation Day</u>	22 <u>Earth Day</u> 
23/30 <u>St. George's Day</u> <u>World Book and Copyright Day</u>	24	25	26	27 <u>International Girls in ICT Day</u> 	28 <u>World Day for Safety and Health at Work</u> 	29 <u>Ninth Day of Ridván</u> 



May 2023

Asian Heritage Month
Jewish Heritage Month
National Speech and Hearing Month










Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <u>Twelfth Day of Ridván</u> 	3 <u>World Press Freedom Day</u> 	4	5 <u>Vesak Day</u> 	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <u>Mother's Day</u> 	15 <u>International Day of Families</u> 	16 <u>International Day of Living Together in Peace</u> 	17 <u>International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia</u>	18 <u>Feast of the Ascension</u> 	19	20
21 <u>World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development</u>	22 <u>National Patriots' Day</u> <u>Victoria Day</u>	23	24 <u>Declaration of the Báb</u> 	25 <u>Shavuot</u> 	26	27
28 <u>Pentecost</u> 	29 <u>Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh</u> 	30	31			

June 2023

Indigenous History Month
Pride Month







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Global Day of Parents 	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 International Albinism Awareness Day 	14	15	16	17
18 Father's Day 	19 Juneteenth 	20 World Refugee Day 	21 National Indigenous Peoples Day Summer Solstice	22	23	24 St. Jean Baptiste Day 
25	26	27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day 	28 Eid al-Ahda 	29	30	

July 2023















Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Canada Day 
2	3 Asala Puja 	4	5	6	7	8
9 Nunavut Day 	10 Martyrdom of the Báb 	11 World Population Day 	12	13	14	15 World Youth Skills Day 
16	17	18 Nelson Mandela Day 	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28 World Hepatitis Day 	29 Muharram 

August 2023

Caregivers Month





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Civic Holiday 	8	9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10	11	12 International Youth Day 
13 Obon 	14	15 The Assumption of Mary into Heaven National Acadian Day	16	17 Marcus Garvey Day 	18	19 World Humanitarian Day 
20	21	22	23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Raksha Bandhan 	31		

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Labour Day 	5 International Day of Charity 	6 Krishna Janmashtami 	7	8 International Literacy Day 	9
10 World Suicide Prevention Day 	11	12 Enkutatash 	13	14	15 Rosh Hashanah 	16
17	18	19 Ganesh Chaturthi 	20	21 International Day of Peace 	22 Fall Equinox 	23 International Day of Sign Languages 
24 Yom Kippur 	25	26 Mawlid al Nabi 	27	28	29 Moon Cake Festival Sukkot	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 

October 2023

Autism Awareness Month
 Disability Employment Awareness Month
 Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month
 Mental Health Awareness Month
 Women's History Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>International Day of Older Persons</u> 	2	3	4 <u>National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls</u> <u>St. Francis Day</u>	5 <u>World Teachers' Day</u> 	6 <u>Shmini Atzeret</u> 	7 <u>Simchat Torah</u> 
8	9 <u>Thanksgiving</u> 	10 <u>World Mental Health Day</u> 	11 <u>International Day of the Girl Child</u> <u>National Coming Out Day</u>	12	13	14
15 <u>Navaratri</u> 	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 <u>Dussehra</u> 	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 <u>Halloween</u>  <u>Karva Chauth</u> 				







November 2023

Diabetes Awareness Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>All Saints' Day</u> 	2 <u>All Souls' Day</u> 	3	4 <u>Lhabab Düchen</u> 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 <u>Remembrance Day</u> 
12 <u>Diwali</u> 	13	14	15	16 <u>Birth of the Báb</u> 	17	18
19	20 <u>Transgender Day of Remembrance</u> 	21	22	23	24	25 <u>International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women</u>
26 <u>Day of the Covenant</u> 	27	28 <u>Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá</u> <u>Nativity Fast</u>	29	30		

December 2023

Universal Human Rights Month

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 World AIDS Day 	2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery 
3 Advent International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4	5 International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development	6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	7 Hanukkah 	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception 	9
10 Human Rights Day 	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 International Migrants Day 	19	20 International Human Solidarity Day 	21	22	23
24/31 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day 	26 Boxing Day Kwanzaa 	27	28	29	30

January

- 1** **New Year's Day:** The first day of the year of the modern Gregorian calendar (international).
- 4** **World Braille Day:** Observed 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. Celebrated on Louis Braille's birthday, the inventor of braille.
- 6** **Epiphany:** A Christian festival held in honour of the coming of the three kings to the infant Jesus Christ (Christian).
- 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 (Orthodox Christian).
- 13** **Lohri:** A popular wintertime Punjabi folk festival, celebrated primarily by Sikhs and Hindus from the Punjab region of the Indian subcontinent (Sikh/Hindu).
- 14** **Orthodox New Year:** The start of the new year under the Julian calendar (Orthodox Christian).
- 16** **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 (United States).
- 20** **Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh:** Born Gobind Rai, was the tenth Sikh Guru, a spiritual master, warrior, poet and philosopher (Sikh).
- 22** **Chinese New Year/Lunar New Year:** celebration of the beginning of a new year on the traditional lunisolar and solar Chinese calendar. Each new year is associated with one of the twelve different animals of the Zodiac. This year is the year of the rabbit.
- 24** **International Day of Education:** United Nations designated day to advance Sustainable Development Goal 4, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- 26** **Vasant Panchami:** The Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring. On this day Hindus worship Saraswati Devi, the goddess of wisdom, knowledge, music, art and culture (Hindu).
- 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 (international).

February

- 5 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 (Jewish).
- 5 Lantern Festival:** The first significant feast after the Chinese New Year, named for watching Chinese lanterns illuminate the sky during the night of the event.
- 6 International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation:** To promote the elimination of female genital mutilation, and to engender greater focus on human rights, gender equality, sexual education and attention to the needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences.
- 11 International Day of Girls and Women in Science:** A day designated for the dismantling of gender stereotypes—specifically to end institutional and systemic gender imbalances in science.
- 13 World Radio Day:** An international day for recognizing the enduring power of radio to promote the pluralism, representation and diversity that is needed to build a more peaceful and inclusive world.
- 14 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 (international).
- 15 National Flag of Canada Day:** This commemorates the official birth of the Maple Leaf Flag in 1965. Canadians often celebrate by wearing red and white.
- 18 Maha Shivaratri:** A Hindu festival celebrated annually in honour of God Shiva. It is also known as the Great Night of Shiva or Shivaratri and is one of the largest and most significant among the sacred festival nights of India (Hindu).
- 20 Family Day/Islander Day/Louis Riel Day/ Nova Scotia Heritage Day:** Family Day is a civic holiday in Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan which celebrates the importance of family. Islander Day is a civic holiday observed in PEI; Louis Riel Day is a civic holiday observed in Manitoba which commemorates the life of Louis Riel; Nova Scotia Heritage Day is a civic holiday observed in Nova Scotia (Canada).
- 20 World Day of Social Justice:** A day which recognizes the International Labour Organization’s ‘Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization’. It is premised on the tenet that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among nations. This is done by promoting gender equality, or the rights of Indigenous peoples and migrants or by working in concert to remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.
- 21 International Mother Language Day:** a worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.
- 21 Losar:** (Tibetan New Year). The holiday is a new year’s festival, celebrated on the first day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar, which corresponds to a date in February or March in the Gregorian calendar.
- 22 Ash Wednesday:** Marks the first day of Lent. The name is derived from the symbolic use of ashes to signify penitence (Christian).
- 22 Lent:** A 40-day fasting period (excluding Sundays) observed by Christians, in preparation for Easter; ends April 6 (Christian).
- 22 Pink Shirt Day:** An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying (international).
- 27 Great Lent:** Great Lent, or the Great Fast, is the most important fasting season in the church year in the Eastern Orthodox Church, Byzantine Rite Lutheran Churches and the Eastern Catholic Churches, which prepares Christians for the greatest feast of the church year, Pascha; ends April 8 (Orthodox Christian).

March

- 1 Zero Discrimination Day:** Celebrates the right of everyone to live a full and productive life—and live it with dignity. It highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and a movement for change in order to end all forms of discrimination.
- 2 Nineteen Day Fast:** Bahá'ís from the age of 15 abstain from food and drink between sunrise and sunset; ends March 20 (Bahá'í).
- 6 Magha Puja Day:** This festival commemorates the important teachings of the Buddha that were relayed to a gathering of disciples that were not summoned. The spiritual aims of the day include doing good and purifying one's mind (Buddhist).
- 6 Purim:** The festival of Purim commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people from Haman during the ancient Persian Empire (Jewish).
- 8 Holi:** A Hindu spring festival, originating from India, celebrated predominantly in India but has also spread to Nepal and many other Western countries, also known as the “festival of colours” or the “festival of love” (Hindu).
- 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 (international).
- 17 St. Patrick's Day:** A cultural and religious celebration held on March 17, the traditional death date of Saint Patrick, the foremost patron saint of Ireland (international).
- 20 International Francophonie Day:** A day to celebrate French language, culture and values (international).
- 20 Nowruz:** Marks the first day of spring and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox. It is celebrated as the beginning of the new year by more than 300 million people all around the world and has been celebrated for over 3,000 years in the Balkans, the Black Sea Basin, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and other regions.
- 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).
- 21 International Day for the Elimination 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 (international).
- 21 Naw-Rúz:** The Bahá'í New Year (Bahá'í).
- 21 World Down Syndrome Day:** A day to raise public awareness of Down syndrome and the effective and meaningful inclusion and participation of all people with Down syndrome in spaces where decisions are being made about matters relating to or affecting their lives.
- 22 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; ends April 20 (Muslim).
- 24 International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims:** This day was started in remembrance of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador who was assassinated in 1980 for denouncing violations of human rights. Its purpose is to honour the memories of victims and heroes whose lives were devoted or lost in the pursuit of human rights or its denial therein.
- 25 International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade:** This day offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. First observed in 2008, the day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.
- 30 Ram Navami:** A Hindu celebration commemorating the birth of Lord Rama, son of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya (Hindu).
- 31 International Transgender Day of Visibility:** Dedicated to celebrating trans people and raising awareness of the discrimination they face worldwide (international).

April

- 2 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 (Christian).
- 2 World Autism Awareness Day:** United Nations-sanctioned day to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism, fostering worldwide support.
- 5 Pesach (Passover):** The Passover starts on the 15th day of Nisan, the first ecclesiastical month of the Jewish year. It commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and the nation's freedom under the leadership of Moses; ends April 13 (Jewish).
- 6 Holy Thursday (Western):** Falling on the Thursday before Easter, Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ (Christian).
- 6 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace:** A day which recognizes the power of sport to strengthen social ties and promote sustainable development, peace, solidarity and respect.
- 6 Theravada New Year:** Celebrated for three days following the first full moon in April, Theravadan Buddhists celebrate the new year by going to the temple, offering prayers, wearing new clothes, cleaning their homes and hosting feasts (Buddhist).
- 7 Good Friday (Western):** A Christian holiday to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus (Christian).
- 7 World Health Day:** A global observance day to celebrate the work of nurses and midwives and remind world leaders of the critical role they play in keeping the world healthy.
- 9 Easter (Western):** One of the holiest days in the Christian (Western) calendar, Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death three days after his crucifixion (Christian).
- 10 Easter Monday:** The day after Easter Sunday and a holiday in some countries. Easter Monday in the Western Christian liturgical calendar is the second day of Eastertide and analogously in the Byzantine Rite is the second day of Bright Week (Christian).
- 12 International Day of Pink:** Celebrated every second Wednesday of April, this is a day when people around the world are encouraged to put on a pink shirt and stand in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to continue fighting for equality and acceptance.
- 14 Sinhalese New Year:** Generally known as Aluth Avurudda in Sri Lanka, is a Sri Lankan holiday that celebrates the traditional New Year of the Sinhalese people in Sri Lanka. It is celebrated by not only the Sinhalese people but by most Sri Lankans.
- 14 Vaisakhi:** Also known as Baisakhi, this is a harvest festival which is celebrated in the Punjab region of South Asia on the first day of Vaisakh on the Punjab calendar. It not only marks the beginning of the New Year but is also a day that honors the Sikh faith and traditions (Sikh).
- 16 Easter (Orthodox/Eastern):** Commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from death three days after his crucifixion; observed by Orthodox Christians (Christian).
- 20 Eid Al-Fitr:** A Muslim celebration to mark the end of Ramadan, the holy month of dawn to sunset fasting. Celebrated with feasts, gifts and prayers in honour of God (Muslim).
- 21 First Day of Ridván** (meaning "Paradise" in Arabic): The most important of the Bahá'í holy days. It is the day on which Bahá'u'lláh declared His mission as a Messenger of God (Bahá'í).
- 21 World Creativity and Innovation Day:** A UN-designated day to raise awareness of the role of creativity and innovation in all aspects of human development with special emphasis on the importance of cultural diversity for the growth of creative industries or sectors.

April (cont.)

- 22 Earth Day:** Aims to raise awareness and demonstrate support of environmental protection, with many events held around the world (international).
- 23 St. George's Day:** Celebration of 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 (Christian).
- 23 World Book and Copyright Day:** A day which celebrates the transformative power of authors and the importance of reading, fostering of children's growth as readers and promoting a lifelong love of literature and integration into the world of work.
- 27 International Girls in ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Day:** This is a designated day for the creation of a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider studies and careers in the growing field of information and communication technologies (international).
- 28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work:** International day to raise awareness on the adoption of safe practices in workplaces and the role that occupational safety and health play.
- 29 Ninth Day of Ridván:** The day on which Bahá'u'lláh's family joined Him in the Garden of Ridván (Bahá'í).

May

- 2 Twelfth Day of Ridván:** The day on which Bahá'u'lláh and His family left the garden to travel to Constantinople (Bahá'í).
- 3 World Press Freedom Day:** A designated day to remind governments of the need to respect their commitment to freedom of the press and a day of reflection among media professionals about issues of press freedom and professional ethics.
- 5 Vesak Day:** This day commemorates the birth, the enlightenment and the death of the Buddha; the date may vary based on Buddhist sect and area. This day is also recognized by the United Nations (Buddhist).
- 14 Mother's Day:** This day is dedicated to honouring mothers and appreciating their role in families and community (international).
- 15 International Day of Families:** A day which 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.
- 16 International Day of Living Together in Peace:** A day that embraces the principle of peace, non-violent conflict resolution and the elimination of all forms of conflict and intolerance including those based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.
- 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia:** A day to raise awareness of the discrimination and violation of rights experienced by the LGBTQ community (international).
- 18 Feast of the Ascension:** This day commemorates the Ascension of Jesus into heaven (Christian).
- 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for 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 (international).
- 22 National Patriots' Day:** Statutory holiday in Québec to commemorate democracy and patriotic struggles for freedom from British rule during 1837–1838 (Québec).
- 22 Victoria Day:** Victoria Day is celebrated in honour of the birth of Queen Victoria, the first sovereign of Canada post- Confederation (Canada).
- 24 Declaration of the Báb:** This day honours the Bab, who was perceived as the messenger of God and forerunner of Baha'u'llah, founder of the Baha'i Faith (Bahá'í).
- 25 Shavuot:** A Jewish observance of the giving of the Torah, the biblical laws of Judaism, from God to the nation of Israel; ends May 27(Jewish).
- 28 Pentecost:** The annual Christian festival commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus after his ascension from Earth to heaven on Ascension Day. It always falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter (Christian).
- 29 Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh:** 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 (Bahá'í).

June

- 1 Global Day of Parents:** A day for appreciating all parents for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.
- 13 International Albinism Awareness Day:** This is a day to stand in solidarity with people living with albinism through their triumphs and challenges. It is a day to stand up for the rights of persons with albinism to live a life that is free of stigma, discrimination, fear and violence.
- 18 Father's Day:** A day to celebrate and honour fathers and recognize their contributions to their families and the community (international).
- 19 Juneteenth:** Also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day, it is a holiday celebrating the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States.
- 20 World Refugee Day:** A day which recognizes the rights of forcibly displaced persons, be it refugees, asylum seekers, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and to remind the public that refugees can contribute to society and that every action counts in the effort to create a more just, inclusive and equal world.
- 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day:** A special occasion to learn more about the rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and histories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples (Canada).
- 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 (international).
- 24 St. Jean Baptiste Day:** This day is also known as Québec's National Holiday and is celebrated in honour of the nativity of Saint John, who baptised Jesus Christ (Québec).
- 27 Canadian Multicultural Day:** Multiculturalism day celebrates Canada's diverse cultures as well as the country's commitment to equality, democracy and mutual respect (Canada).
- 28 Eid al-Ahda:** A Muslim observance, also known as the Festival of Sacrifice, is celebrated in honour of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to God; ends July 2 (Muslim).

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 (Canada).
- 3** **Asala Puja (Dharma Day):** This celebration marks the day when the Buddha started teaching. Dharma Day is considered a time to reflect on the scriptures and express gratitude for the Buddha's teachings (Buddhist).
- 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; public holiday is July 10 (Nunavut).
- 10** **Martyrdom of the Báb:** The memorial of the execution of the Báb in 1850 (Bahá'í).
- 11** **World Population Day:** A day which is annually observed to reaffirm the human right to plan for a family. It encourages activities, events and information to help make this right a reality throughout the world.
- 15** **World Youth Skills Day:** The aim of World Youth Skills Day is to encourage youth to celebrate the value of acquiring and developing skills through technical and vocational education and training.
- 18** **Nelson Mandela Day:** Declared by the UN, Mandela Day is a day to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his values by helping our communities.
- 28** **World Hepatitis Day:** This is a day which spotlights the importance of stepping up national and international efforts on hepatitis, encourage actions and engagement by individuals, partners and the public and highlight the need for a greater global response.
- 29** **Muharram:** The first month of the Islamic calendar. It is one of the four sacred months of the year during which warfare is forbidden. It is held to be the second holiest month, after Ramadan (Muslim).

August

- 7 Civic Holiday:** A day to celebrate the enactment of the Constitution Act in 1867 thereby establishing Canada as a new federation with its own constitution (Canada).
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples:** Pronounced by the UN, this is a day to promote and protect the rights of the world's Indigenous populations and recognize the achievements and contributions that Indigenous peoples make to improve world issues such as environmental protection (international).
- 12 International Youth Day (IYD):** Held on August 12, this is a day to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement.
- 13 Obon:** A Japanese Buddhist custom to honour one's spiritual ancestors. For areas which follow the lunar calendar, Obon is celebrated from August 13-15 (Buddhist).
- 15 The Assumption of Mary into Heaven:** The Assumption is, according to the beliefs of the Catholic Church, Eastern and Oriental Orthodoxy, the bodily taking up of the Virgin Mary into Heaven at the end of her earthly life (Christian).
- 15 National Acadian Day:** Observed to celebrate Acadian culture (Canada).
- 17 Marcus Garvey Day:** A day which celebrates the birthday of the Jamaican politician and activist who is revered by Rastafarians. Garvey is credited with starting the Back to Africa movement, which encouraged those of African descent to return to the land of their ancestors during and after slavery in North America (Rastafarian).
- 19 World Humanitarian Day:** This day is dedicated to humanitarians worldwide and aims to increase public understanding of humanitarian assistance activities (international).
- 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition:** A day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade (international).
- 30 Raksha Bandhan:** This 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 not biologically related (Hindu).

September

- 4 Labour Day:** This day celebrates the achievements of workers and advocates for their rights and privileges (Canada).
- 5 International Day of Charity:** This is a UN designated day which promotes charitable efforts made to alleviate poverty worldwide (international).
- 6 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; ends on September 7 (Hindu).
- 8 International Literacy Day:** A day to raise people’s awareness of and concern for literacy issues in the world (international).
- 10 World Suicide Prevention Day:** World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on September 10 each year to promote worldwide action to prevent suicides. Various events and activities are held during this occasion to raise awareness that suicide is a major preventable cause of premature death (international).
- 12 Enkutatash:** The Ethiopian New Year (based on the Ethiopian calendar). Enkutatash means “gift of jewels” in the Amharic language and marks the end of the rainy season and the blossoming of the Adey Abeba flower. Families eat together and visit friends to celebrate.
- 15 Rosh Hashanah:** The Jewish New Year celebrates the creation of the first man and woman and the first day of the Jewish New Year; ends September 17 (Jewish).
- 19 Ganesh Chaturthi:** This Hindu festival commemorates the birthday of Lord Ganesha (Hindu).
- 21 International Day of Peace:** This is a day to recognize the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace. It is also considered to be a day of ceasefire—personal or political (international).
- 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 (international).
- 23 International Day of Sign Languages:** Celebrated annually across the world on September 23 every year along with International Week of the Deaf (international).
- 24 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; begins at sunset on the 24th (Jewish).
- 26 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 (Muslim).
- 29 Mid-Autumn 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 (international).
- 29 Sukkot:** Commonly translated as Festival of Tabernacles also known as Chag HaAsif, the Festival of Ingathering, is a biblical Jewish holiday celebrated on the 15th day of the seventh month, Tishrei (varies from late September to late October) (Jewish).
- 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:** The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities (Canada).

October

- 1** **International Day of Older Persons:** An international day to recognize the contributions of older persons/seniors and examine the issues that affect their lives (international).
- 4** **National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls:** This is a day to stand in solidarity with Indigenous families and communities to honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls whose lives have been cut short by violence (Canada).
- 4** **St. Francis Day:** Feast day for St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and environment celebrated by many Catholic denominations (Christian).
- 5** **World Teachers' Day:** A day that celebrates the role teachers play in providing quality education to all levels. This enables children and adults of all ages to learn to take part in and contribute to their local community and global society (international).
- 6** **Shmini Atzeret:** Literally meaning “The assembly of the eighth day”, this holiday is a celebration observed after Sukkot (Jewish).
- 7** **Simchat Torah:** A Jewish holiday that marks the completion of the annual Torah readings and begins a new reading cycle; begins the evening of October 7 and ends the evening of October 8 (Jewish).
- 9** **Thanksgiving:** A day of giving thanks to the harvest and blessings of the previous year (Canada).
- 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 (international).
- 11** **International Day of the Girl Child:** This is a day which promotes girls' rights and highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys. This day gives governments and organizations the opportunity to raise public awareness about gender bias and discrimination directed at girls (international).
- 11** **National Coming Out Day:** An annual LGBTQ awareness day (United States).
- 15** **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 (Hindu).
- 24** **Dussehra:** A Hindu celebration on the last day of Navaratri, celebrating the victory of good over evil; also known as Vijaydashami (Hindu).
- 31** **Halloween:** A North American celebration on the last day of October. On Halloween, many dress in costumes and children go door to door asking for candy, called trick-or-treating.
- 31** **Karva Chauth:** A one-day festival celebrated by Hindu women four days after Purnima (a full moon) in the month of Kartika (Hindu).

November

- 1 All Saints' Day:** All Saint's Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, Feast of All Saints or Solemnity of All Saints is a Christian festival celebrated in honour of all the saints, known and unknown (Christian).
- 2 All Souls' Day:** In Christianity, All Souls' Day commemorates All Souls, the Holy Souls or the Faithful Departed; that is, the souls of Christians who have died (Christian).
- 4 Lhabab Düchen:** One of the four Buddhist festivals commemorating four events in the life of the Buddha, according to Tibetan traditions. Lhabab Düchen occurs on the 22nd day of the ninth lunar month according to the Tibetan calendar and is widely celebrated in Tibet and Bhutan (Buddhist).
- 11 Remembrance Day:** Commemorates the members of the armed forces who have sacrificed their lives during the World Wars and other military efforts historically and currently.
- 12 Diwali:** Diwali or Deepavali is the Hindu festival of lights celebrated every year in autumn in the northern hemisphere (spring in southern hemisphere) (Hindu).
- 16 Birth of the Báb:** Celebrates the birth of the Bab, the founder of Bábism, and one of the central figures of the Bahá'í Faith (Bahá'í).
- 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.
- 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 (international).
- 26 Day of the Covenant:** Commemorating Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as the One to whom His followers should turn after His passing (Bahá'í).
- 28 Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá:** marks the passing of Abdu'l-Bahá in 1921 (Bahá'í).
- 28 Nativity Fast:** A period of abstinence and penance practiced by the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus; ends January 6, 2024 (Christian).

December

- 1 World AIDS Day:** Designated on December 1 every year since 1988, is an international day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease.
- 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery:** This day is held annually on December 2 to raise awareness of the atrocities of modern slavery. It is not to be confused with another UN day, the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.
- 3 Advent:** Advent marks a month-long period of preparation and anticipation for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day; ends December 24 (Christian).
- 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 (international).
- 5 International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development:** This day, which is also known as International Volunteer Day (IVD), gives volunteers a chance to work together on projects and campaigns promoting their contributions to economic and social development at local, national and international levels (international).
- 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women:** A day of remembrance of the murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montréal. It is about remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those who we have lost to it. It is also a time to take action and to work towards achieving a Canada free from gender-based violence (Canada).
- 7 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; ends December 15 (Jewish).
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception:** The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a celebration of the belief in the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (Christian).
- 10 Human Rights Day:** A day to honour the UN General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on December 10, 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights (international).
- 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 (international).
- 20 International Human Solidarity Day:** This is annually held on December 20 to celebrate unity in diversity. It also aims to remind people of the importance of solidarity in working towards eradicating poverty (international).
- 24 Christmas Eve:** Christmas Eve is the evening before Christmas which is often observed with a long meal, usually with family, sometimes accompanied by other celebrations such as midnight mass (Christian).
- 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 (Christian).
- 26 Boxing Day:** The day after Christmas Day was traditionally celebrated as the day tradesmen and servants would receive gifts from their employers.
- 26 Kwanzaa:** A celebration held in the United States and in other nations of the African diaspora in the Americas and lasts a week. The celebration honors African heritage in African-American culture and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving.