



Days of Significance

Calendar Dates September 2019-August 2020

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|------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Sept 2019 | 1 | Installation of the Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib Ji | Sikhism |
| | 2-12 | Daslakshan - Parva | Jainism |
| | 2 | Ganesh Chaturthi | Hinduism |
| | 2 | Labour Day | Canadian Government |
| | 3 | Samvatsari Parva (Forgiveness Day) | Jainism |
| | 8 | International Literacy Day | United Nations |
| | 10 | Ashura* | Islam |
| | 12 | Anant Chaturdashi | Jainism |
| | 12 | Coptic New Year | Christianity - Coptic Eastern Orthodox |
| | 11 | Ethiopian New Year | Rastafarian Holy Day |
| | 14 | Holy Cross Day (Feast of the Cross) | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| | 15 | International Day of Democracy | United Nations |
| | 19 | Powley Day | First Nation, Métis |
| | 21 | International Day of Peace | United Nations |
| | 21 | Nativity of Mary | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
| | 23 | Ohigan (Fall Equinox) | Japanese National Holiday |
| | 23-27 | Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network Ally Week | GLSEN |
| | 27 | Elevation of the Holy Cross | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox |
| | 27 | Feast of the Cross | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
| | 29 | Mahalaya (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
| 29-Oct 7 | Navratri (Autumn) | Hinduism | |
| 30 | Orange Shirt Day | First Nation, Métis, Inuit | |
| 30-Oct 1 | Rosh Hashanah* | Judaism | |
| Oct 2019 | 1 | International Day of Older Persons | United Nations |
| | 5 | World Teachers' Day | United Nations |
| | 3 | Maha Panchami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
| | 4 | Maha Sasthi (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
| | 5 | Maha Saptami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
| | 6 | Maha Ashtami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
| | 7 | Maha Nabami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
| | 8 | Bijaya Dashami (Durga Puja Festival) | Hinduism |
| | 9 | Yom Kippur* | Judaism |
| | 9 | International Walk to School Day | Highway Safety Research Centre (University of North Carolina, USA) |
| | 10 | World Mental Health Day | World Health Organization |
| | 14-18 | Week Without Violence | YMCA |
| | 11 | International Day of the Girl | United Nations |
| | 14 | Thanksgiving Day | Canadian Government |
| | 14-20 | Sukkot* | Judaism |
| | 16 | World Food Day | United Nations |
| | 17 | International Day of the Eradication of Poverty | United Nations |
| | 17 | Karva Chauth | Hinduism |
| | 20 | Gurgadi of the Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib Ji as Guru | Sikhism |
| | 21-22 | Shemini Atzeret* | Judaism |
| | 22 | Simchat Torah* | Judaism |
| | 27 | Bandi Chhor Divas | Sikhism |
| | 27 | Diwali | Hinduism/Jainism/Sikhism |
| | 27 | Kathina Ceremony/Paváraná Day | Buddhism |
| | 28 | New Year (Enlightenment of Gautamswami) | Jainism |
| | 29 | Birth of the Bá'b* | Bahá'i |
| | 30 | Birth of Bahá'u'lláh* | Bahá'i |



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| Nov 2019 | 1 | All Saints Day | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| Hindu Heritage Month | 1 | Gyana Panchami | Jainism |
| | 1 | Samhain* | Wicca/Pagan |
| | 2 | Crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I | Rastafarian Holy Day |
| | 10 | Mawlid-al-Nabi* | Islam |
| | 11 | Remembrance Day | Canadian Government |
| | 14 | World Diabetes Day | United Nations |
| | 16 | Louis Riel Day (Toronto) | First Nations, Métis |
| | <i>To Be Announced</i> | <i>Lokasha Jayanti</i> | <i>Jainism</i> |
| | 19 | Buddha's Descent from Tushita Heaven | Buddhism -Tibetan |
| | <i>To Be Announced</i> | <i>Maun Agiyaras (Ekadashi)</i> | <i>Jainism</i> |
| | 20 | Universal Children's Day | United Nations |
| | 20 | International Transgender Day of Remembrance | Gwendolyn Ann Smith, US Trans Advocate |
| | 24 | Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur | Sikhism |
| | 23 | National Holodomor Memorial Day | Ukrainian Canadian Congress |
| | 25 | International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women | United Nations |
| | 26 | Day of the Covenant* | Baha'i |

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| Dec 2019 | 1 | World AIDS Day | United Nations |
| | 2 | International Day of the Abolition of Slavery | United Nations |
| | 1-24 | Advent | Christianity |
| | 3 | International Day of Persons with Disabilities | United Nations |
| | 4 | Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
| | 6 | National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women | Canadian Government |
| | 8 | Bodhi Day (Buddha Enlightenment) | Buddhism |
| | 8 | St. Clements of Ohrid Patrons Day | Christianity - Macedonian Orthodox |
| | 10 | Human Rights Day | United Nations |
| | 23-30 | Hanukkah* | Judaism |
| | 13 | Birthday of Imam Aga Khan | Islam |
| | 18 | International Migrants Day | United Nations |
| | 21 | Yule - Winter Solstice | Wicca/Pagan |
| | 25 | Christmas Day | Canadian Government and Christianity |
| | 26 | Zarathosht Diso Death | Zoroastrian |
| | 26 | Boxing Day | Canadian Government |
| | Dec 26-Jan 1 | Kwanzaa | African Canadian and American Celebration |

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| Jan 2020 | 1 | Gantan-sai New Year | Buddhism - Shinto |
| Tamil Heritage Month | 1 | New Year's Day | Canadian Government |
| | 5 | Prakash Guru Gobind Singh Ji | Sikhism |
| | 5 | Twelfth Night | Christianity |
| | 6 | Feast of the Epiphany/Dia de los Reyes | Christianity Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| | 6-7 | Pasha Putrada Ekadashi | Hinduism |
| | 7 | Ethiopian Christmas | Rastafarian Holy Day |
| | 7 | Feast of the Nativity/Orthodox Christmas | Christianity - Russian/Eastern Orthodox |
| | <i>See Footnote</i> | <i>Theravada Days of Mindfulness¹</i> | <i>Buddhism</i> |
| | 10 | Mehergan ² | Zoroastrian |
| | 12 | Baptism of Jesus | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |

¹ There are several Buddhist *Days of Mindfulness* throughout the year – (consult a Buddhist website for further information)



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| | 14 | New Year (Gregorian Calendar) | Christianity Eastern Orthodox |
| | 14 | Punjabi Lohri | Hinduism/Sikhism |
| | 15 | Maghi | Sikhism |
| | 15 | Makar Sankranti | Hinduism |
| | 15-18 | Thai Pongal | Hinduism/Tamil |
| | 19 | Baptism of Jesus | Christianity - Coptic Orthodox |
| | 19 | World Religion Day | Baha'i |
| | 20 | Buddhist New Year | Buddhism - Mahayana |
| | 21 | Feast of the Wedding of Cana | Christianity - Ethiopian Orthodox |
| | 21 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day | USA Federal Holiday |
| | 20-24 | No Name Calling Week | Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN) |
| | 24-30 | Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) | Chinese Cultural |
| | 25 | Chinese New Year | Buddhism |
| | 26 | St. Sava Devine Service | Christianity - Serbian Orthodox |
| | 27 | International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust | United Nations |
| | 29 | Vasant Panchami | Hinduism |
| | 30 | Jashn-e-Sadeh | Zoroastrian |

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| Feb 2020 | 1 | Imbolc | Wicca/Pagan |
| African Heritage Month | 3 | Setsubun | Buddhism - Shinto |
| Chinese Heritage Month <i>See Also Asian Heritage (May)</i> | 6 | Bob Marley Day | Jamaican Canadian Association |
| Black Queering Month | 6 | International Day of Zero Tolerance on Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation | World Health Organization |
| | 10-14 | Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Week | Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights |
| | 15 (NOTE: Some observe this day on Feb 8 th) | Buddha's Death – (Nirvana Day) | Buddhism – Various Sects |
| | 15 | Meeting of Our Lord | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
| | 17 | Family Day | New Brunswick Government |
| | 20 | World Day of Social Justice | United Nations |
| | 21 | International Mother Language Day | United Nations |
| | 21 | Maha Shivaratri | Hinduism |
| | 25-27 | Losar New Year | Buddhism - Tibetan, Nepal, Bhutan |
| | 26 | Ash Wednesday (1 st Day of Lent) | Christianity |
| | Feb 26-29 | Ayyám-i-Há | Baha'i |

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| March 2020 | 2 | Clean Monday | Christianity – Eastern Orthodox |
| Greek Heritage Month | 8 | International Women's and United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace | United Nations |
| | 9-10 | Holi* | Hinduism |
| | 10-12 | Holla Mohalla | Sikhism |
| | 10 | Purim* | Judaism |
| | 12 | Kuan Yin Birthday (Guan Yin) | Buddhism - Taiwanese |
| | 13 | L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday | Church of Scientology |
| | 14 | Sikh New Year | Sikhism |
| | 20 | Ohigan (Spring Equinox) | Japanese National Holiday |
| | 21 | International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | United Nations |
| | Does Not Occur in 2020 | Magha Puja Day/Lantern Festival | Buddhism |
| | 20 | Persian New Year (Eid-e-Navroz) | Baha'i/Zoroastrian |
| | 21 | Ostara (Spring Equinox) | Wicca/Pagan |
| | 21-22 | Persian New Year (National Holiday) | Iranian Government |
| | 22 | Isra'a Wal Miraj* | Islam |
| | 22 | World Water Day | United Nations |



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| | 24 | Saka New Year (Nyepi) | Hinduism |
| | 25 | Feast of the Annunciation | Christianity – Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| | 25 Mar - 23 April | Sha'ban* | Islam |
| | 25 | Ugandi (New Year) | Hinduism |
| | 26 | Prophet Asho Zartosht's Birthday | Zoroastrian |

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| April 2020 Genocide Awareness Month Latin American History Month (see also October Hispanic Heritage Month) Sikh Heritage Month | 2 | Sri Rama Navami | Hinduism |
| | 7 | Laudation of the Mother of God | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
| | 7 | Memorial to Christ's Death | Jehovah's Witness |
| | 7 | Rwanda (Tutsi) Genocide Memorial Day | Canadian Government |
| | 7 | World Health Day | World Health Organization |
| | 8 | International Day of Pink (2 nd Wed. in April) | Nova Scotia, High School (Unnamed) |
| | 9-16 | Pesach/Passover* | Judaism |
| | 10 | Good Friday | Canadian Government Holiday and Christianity - Western |
| | 12 | Easter Sunday | Canadian Government Holiday and Christianity - Western |
| | 13 | Easter Monday | Canadian Government Holiday and Christianity - Western |
| | 13 | Vaisakhi | Sikhism |
| | 14 | Puthandu (Tamil New Year) | Buddhism/Taoism |
| | 13 | Solar New Year (Mesha Sankranta) | Hinduism |
| | 15 | Birthday of Guru Nanak (1 st Guru) | Sikhism |
| | <i>To Be Announced</i> | <i>International Day of Silence</i> | <i>GLSEN</i> |
| | 19 | Easter (Pascha) | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
| | 21 | Groundation Day | Rastafarian Holy Day |
| | 22 | Earth Day (International Mother Earth Day) | United Nations |
| | 24 | Armenian Genocide Memorial Day | Canadian Government |
| | 24 Apr – 23 May | Ramadan* | Islam |
| 17 | Holy Friday | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox | |
| 19 | Easter (Pascha) | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox | |
| 21 | Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) | Judaism | |
| 25 | Feast of St. Mark | Christianity – East Orthodox and Western | |
| 26 | Akshaya Tritya | Hinduism | |
| 28 | National Day of Mourning | Canadian Government | |
| 30 | Vaisakhi Puja: (Buddha's Birthday) | Buddhism | |

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| May 2020 Asian Heritage Month Jewish Heritage Month Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month | 1 | Beltane | Wicca/Pagan |
| | 1 | Ridván (Holiday Ends: Holiday Begins 19 April '20) | Baha'i |
| | 3 | International Family Equality Day (1 st Sun. in May) | Family Equality Council |
| | 7 | Vesak Day | Buddhism |
| | 15 | International Day of Families | United Nations |
| | 17 | International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia | IDAHOTB |
| | 18 | Queen Victoria Day | Canadian Government Public Holiday |
| | 19 | Jumu'ah-tul Wida* | Islam |
| | 19 | Laylat al-Qadr* | Islam |
| | 21 | Ascension Day | Christianity - Western |
| | 23 | Declaration of the Bá'b* | Baha'i |
| | 24 | Eid al Fitr* (3 Day Holy Day) | Islam |
| | 25 | Africa Day | Member States of the African Union |
| | 25-29 | Bike to School Week | |
| | 28 | Ascension Day | Christianity – Eastern Orthodox |
| | 29-30 | Shavuot* | Judaism |



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| | 29 | Ascension of Baha'u'llah* | Baha'i |
| | 31 | Pentacost | Judaism, Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| | 31 | World No Tobacco Day | World Health Organization |

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| June 2020 Italian Heritage Month National Indigenous History Month Portuguese Speaking Heritage Month | 1 | Intergenerational Day | Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse |
| | 5 | World Environment Day (WED) | United Nations |
| | 12 | World Day Against Child Labour | United Nations |
| | <i>To Be Announced</i> | <i>Saga Dawa Festival</i> | <i>Buddhism - Tibetan</i> |
| | 16 | Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji | Sikhism |
| | 17 | World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought | United Nations |
| | 20 | World Refugee Day | United Nations |
| | 21 | Litha/Summer Solstice | Wicca/Pagan |
| | 21 | National Aboriginal Day (Canada) | First Nations, Métis, Inuit |
| | 21 | World Humanist Day | International Humanist and Ethical Union |
| | 24 | Nativity of St. John the Baptist | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| | 24 | St. Jean Baptiste Day | Quebec and Francophone Culture |
| | 26 | International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking | United Nations |
| | 26 | International Day in Support of Victims of Torture | United Nations |
| September 2019 - June 2020 School Year Ends | | | |

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|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| July 2020 | 1 | Canada Day | Canadian Government |
| | 5 | Asalha Puja Day (Dharma Day) | Buddhism |
| | 5 | Guru Purnima Day | Buddhism/Jainism |
| | 6 | Guru Purnima Day | Buddhism - Tibetan |
| | 10 | Martyrdom of the Bá'b* | Baha'i |
| | 11 | Imamat Day | Islam |
| | 16 | Ethiopian Constitution Day | Rastafarian Holy Day |
| | 18 | Nelson Mandela International Day | United Nations |
| | 23 | Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie | Rastafarian Holy Day |
| | 24 | Chokhor Ducchën Festival | Buddhism - Tibetan |
| | July 29-Aug 2 | Waqf al Arafa (Hajj)* | Islam |
| | July 31-Aug 3 | Eid al Adha* | Islam |
| | 30 | Tishah B'av* | Judaism |
| <i>To Be Announced</i> | <i>Jalsa Salana*</i> | <i>Islam</i> | |

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| Aug 2020 | 1 | Lughnassadh/Lammas | Wicca/Pagan |
| | 3 | Raksha Bandhan | Hinduism |
| | 6 | Transfiguration of Christ | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox and Western |
| | 9 | International Day of the World's Indigenous People | United Nations |
| | 11 | Krishna Janmashtami | Hinduism |
| | 12 | International Youth Day | United Nations |
| | 13-15 | Obon Festival | Buddhism - Shinto |
| | 15 | The Dormition of the Mother of God | Christianity – Russian Orthodox |
| | 15 | Feast of the Dormition | Christianity - Eastern Orthodox |
| | 16-23 | Paryushan Parva | Jainism |
| | 17 | Marcus Garvey's Birthday | Rastafarian Holy Day |
| | 19 | The Transfiguration of Jesus | Christianity - Russian Orthodox |
| | 20 | Al-Hijra New Year* | Islam |
| | 22 | Ganesh Chaturthi | Hinduism |
| | Aug 23 – Sep 1 | Daslakshan - Parva | Hinduism |



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| | 23 | International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition | United Nations |
| | 23 | Samvatsari Parva (Forgiveness Day) | Jainism |
| | 29 | Ashura* | Islam |

*NOTE reprinted and adapted from the source: TDSB 2019-2020

CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION IN CANADA



| MONTH | DATE | NAME/EXPLANATION |
|-----------|--|---|
| January | Last week | National Storytelling Week https://www.twinkl.ca/event/national-storytelling-week-2020 |
| February | Varies Varies | Moosehide Campaign https://www.moosehidecampaign.ca/ Have a Heart |
| March | 13(2019) 20(varies) | Formal apology by Justin Trudeau for treatment of Inuit @ TB sanitoriums Spring Equinox |
| April | | |
| May | 10 | Bear Witness Day (aka: Spirit Bear's birthday - Jordin's Principle) |
| June | 11(2008) 21(1996) 21 All month | Formal apology by Stephen Harper for Residential Schools National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada) Summer Solstice National Indigenous History Month https://www.canada.ca/en/services/culture/canadian-identity-society/indigenous-peoples-cultures/commemorative-days.html |
| July | | |
| August | 9(1994) | UN International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/ |
| September | 23(varies) 30(2013) | Fall Equinox Orange Shirt Day http://www.orangeshirtday.org/ |
| October | 1 (1985) 4(2005) Midmonth All month | Mi'kmaq 'Peace and Friendship Treaty' Day Sisters in Spirit https://www.nwac.ca/home/policy-areas/violence-prevention-and-safety/sisters-in-spirit/ Red Shawl Campaign – recognize MMIWG Mi'kmaq History Month http://mikmaghistorymonth.ca/ |
| November | | |
| December | 21 | Winter Solstice |

Helpful Links

<https://fncaringsociety.com/what-you-can-do>