

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar May - 2023

Diversity Thunder Bay is committed to an accessible, diverse, equitable, inclusive and respectful society which is anti-racist and free from discrimination and harassment. We all play a role, one way is by building our awareness and understanding of key days of observances by members of our community and how we can show support - allyship. It is important to recognize we need to actively address Anti-Black, Anti-Indigenous, Anti-Asian, racialized racism and Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and LGBTQIA2S+ phobia.

While, in this digest, it is not possible to capture every observance that is celebrated - that does not diminish their importance.

Month-Long Observances:

Asian Heritage Month: Canada. Asian Heritage Month is an opportunity to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian heritage who, throughout our history, have done so much to make Canada the country we know and love. This month is a reminder for all Canadians to come together to combat anti-Asian racism and discrimination in all its forms.

National Speech and Hearing Month Heritage Month: Canada to raise public awareness about communication health. Work to highlight the importance of early detection and intervention of communication disorders and the role that speech and hearing professionals play in helping people communicate.

Vision Health Month: Canada Vision Health Month is a great time to raise awareness about eye health and ways to prevent vision loss. A regular eye exam by a doctor of optometry is the best way to stay on top of eye health. Did you know that 1 in 7 Canadians will develop a serious eye disease in their lifetime? Yet 75% of vision loss can be prevented or treated with proper care. A comprehensive eye exam can also detect potentially life threatening conditions, like brain tumors, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Canada To pay tribute to all the survivors of sexual violence here and across the world. It is a time to raise awareness about the devastating impact of sexual assault and focus on the measures to prevent violence and support survivors.

South Asian Heritage Month: Canada. South Asian Arrival Day and South Asian Heritage Month recognize the presence of South Asian people in Ontario, celebrates their heritage, and commemorates their arrival from the Indian subcontinent to the Americas beginning on May 5, 1838. (Ontario) .

Jewish Heritage Month: Canada. Jewish Heritage Month is observed in May to celebrate Jewish culture, heritage, and history in Canada. It is an opportunity to appreciate the contributions of Jewish Canadians throughout history.



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Dutch Heritage Month: Ontario. Ontario is home to about 500,000 Dutch Canadians. Since the early 1800s, the Dutch Canadian community has made and continues to make significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Province of Ontario. Ontario recognizes the important contributions that Dutch Canadians have made to the economic, political, social and cultural fabric of Ontario's society.

May Hopi Kachina Dances: Indigenous. During late spring and early summer, long lines of Kachina Dancers.

April-May Iroquois Strawberry Season: Indigenous. Thanksgiving and Great Feather Dance. Early summer.

Islander Heritage Month: US. Observed in the United States during the month of May, and recognizes the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

Older Americans Month: US. It was established by presidential proclamation in 1963. The entire nation is encouraged to pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. It is celebrated across the country through ceremonies and events.

Mental Health Awareness Month: US. The month is observed with media, local events, and film screenings. Mental Health Awareness Month began in the United States in 1949 and was started by the Mental Health America organization.

Haitian Heritage Month: US/Canada. The month of May festivities are a **carryover of the island's Haitian Flag Day**, a national holiday dating back to 1804 when the island gained its independence and created the country's national flag.

Day Observances:

May 1 Beltane aka May Day: UK. A fire festival that celebrates the coming of summer and the fertility of the coming year. Greets the summer. It takes its name from the Celtic God Bel who unites with the Earth Goddess on this day. It was a mid summer fertility festival in Celtic paganism. Maypole dances are presently held.

May 3 Asian-American Women's Equal Pay Day: Global. To bring greater awareness of racial pay disparities, the Japanese-American community has organized

May 3 World Press Freedom Day: Global. A reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom. It is also a day of reflection among media professionals about issues of press freedom and professional ethics.

May 5 Red Dress Day: Canada. National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



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May 5 Dutch Heritage Day: Canada. Dutch Heritage Day to honor the sacrifices made by past members of the Canadian armed forces in the liberation of the Netherlands during the Second World War. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions that generations of Dutch Canadians have made—and continue to make—to this country we all know and love.

May 5 Wesak (Buddha Day): Global. Traditionally observed by Buddhists in South Asia and Southeast Asia as well as Tibet and Mongolia. It is the most important Buddhist festival.

May 5 South Asian Arrival Day: Ontario. South Asian Arrival Day recognizes the presence of South Asian people in Ontario, celebrates their heritage, and commemorates their arrival from the Indian subcontinent to the Americas beginning on May 5, 1838.

May 9 Lag Ba'Omer: Global. Traditionally observed Jewish day for welcoming the coming of spring. Begins at previous sundown .

May 14 Mother's Day: Global. Dedicated to honoring mothers and appreciating their role in families and community.

May 15 International Day of Families: Global. To promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic, and demographic processes affecting families.

May 16 International Day of Living Together in Peace: Global. 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.

May 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia: Global. More than one-third of all countries criminalize same-sex relationships. LGBTQIA2+ people face prejudice, discrimination, stigma, hostility, violence. They are denied legal protections, essential health care, civil and human rights, including the right to bodily autonomy when forced to go through medical treatment or needless surgery.

May 18 Global Accessibility Awareness Day: Global. An awareness day focusing on digital access and inclusion for the more than one billion people alive today who live with disabilities or impairments.

May 18 Ascension Day: Global. Traditional feast celebrated on the 40th day after Easter Sunday, that commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven.



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May 19 Birthday of Malcolm X: US/Global. An American Muslim minister and human rights activist who was a prominent figure during the civil rights movement. A spokesman for the Nation of Islam until 1964, he was a vocal advocate for Black empowerment and the promotion of Islam within the Black community.

May 20 Asian Gold Ribbon Day: Canada/US. Stand in Solidarity against Anti-Asian Racism.

May 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity, for Dialogue and Development: Global. Protect the diversity of cultural expressions. To educate people on the importance of cultural diversity and to raise awareness of the related issues faced in today's society.

May 22 National Patriots' Day: Canada. Statutory holiday in Québec to commemorate democracy and patriotic struggles for freedom from British rule during 1837-1838. (Québec)

May 22 Victoria Day: Canada. Queen Victoria's birthday (May 24, 1837-1901) was declared a holiday by the Legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845.

May 24 Declaration of the Bab: Baha'i. The Bahá'í faith began in Persia (now Iran) on this day in 1844, by the prophet Báb who announced his mission as the founder. The event is celebrated about two hours after sunset.

May 24 Pansexual and Panromantic Day: Global. A day to celebrate the pansexual and panromantic community and educate others.

May 24 Indigenous Awareness Week: Canada. Held on the four days that follow the Victoria Day long weekend. It was designed to increase awareness of Aboriginal peoples.

May 25 Africa Day: Global. The annual commemoration of the founding of the Organization of African Unity.

May 25 Ascension: Orthodox. Celebrated the 40th day of Easter. It occurs 39 days after Easter Sunday. It is a Christian holiday that commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven, according to Christian belief.

May 26 Buddha's Birthday: Global. Buddhism, the fourth largest religion in the world, being exceeded in numbers only by Christianity, Islam and Hinduism was founded in Northern India by the first known Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, thought to have lived in India from 563 B.C. to 483 B.C.

May 26 National Sorry Day: Australia. Also known as Journey of Healing Day commemorates the history of forcible removal of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children from their families and the painful repercussions of that action.

The logo for Diversity Thunder Bay features a stylized graphic of several overlapping, curved lines in black, yellow, and red, resembling a ribbon or a flame. Below this graphic, the word "Diversity" is written in a large, bold, black serif font, and "Thunder Bay" is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font below it.

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May 26-27 Shavout: Jewish. The feast of weeks, is celebrated seven weeks after the second Passover seder. Although Shavout began as an ancient grain harvest festival, the holiday has been identified since biblical times with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

May 28 Pentecost: 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 falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter. The holy Spirit was felt amongst the 12 apostles after Jesus' death. New members of the church are baptized on this day. It is called White Sunday because white clothes are worn for baptism.

May 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah: Baha'i. The prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith passed away in 1892 near Haifa, Israel. The event is observed at the actual time of his passing at 3am. Baha'is' honor this holy day with prayers and selections from the Bahá'í Writings. It is also one of nine days in the year where work should be suspended. Begins at previous sundown.

May 30 Provincial Francophonie Day (NL): Canada. The traditional raising of the Franco-Newfoundland and Labrador flag takes place symbolically in each of the province's Francophone regions. This day is an opportunity to celebrate the language and culture of Francophones.

May 30 Joan of Arc Day: France. St. Joan of Arc is the patroness of soldiers and of France. A peasant girl who, believing that she was acting under divine guidance, led the French army in a momentous victory at Orléans. She was burned at the stake on May 30, 1431 at the age of nineteen.