

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar June - 2023

Month-Long Observances:

National Indigenous History Month:

National Indigenous History Month in Canada, observed in June, is a significant time dedicated to acknowledging and honoring the historical and cultural contributions of Indigenous peoples. Throughout this month, Canadians engage in a range of activities, events, and initiatives to deepen their understanding and appreciation of Indigenous history, heritage, and contemporary issues. The month serves as an opportunity to recognize the resilience, wisdom, and diverse cultures of Indigenous communities across the country. It aims to shed light on the unique experiences, struggles, and achievements of Indigenous peoples, fostering a greater sense of unity and respect.

Pride Month:

During Pride Month, cities worldwide organize a variety of events, parades, marches, and cultural activities that bring together LGBTQ2+ individuals, their allies, and the wider community. These events aim to create safe and inclusive spaces where people can express their authentic selves, celebrate their identities, and raise awareness about the challenges faced by the LGBTQ2+ community.

Canadian Men's Health Month:

Canadian men's health month is a month to promote men's health in a variety of ways. This involves both the physical and mental health of men in Canada. The month is primarily promoted by the Canadian Men's Health Foundation. The foundation provides vital resources to men who are struggling and also focuses on encouraging men to be physically active when able.

Day-Long Observances:

June 4th Trinity Sunday (Christian) :

Trinity Sunday is a significant Christian observance that falls on the first Sunday after Pentecost. It is a day when Christians reflect and celebrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity, which is the belief in one God who exists as three distinct persons. Sunday serves as an opportunity for Christians to deepen their understanding and appreciation of this foundational aspect of their faith.

June 4th — June 10th Canadian Environment Week:

Canadian Environment Week is an annual observance held in the first week of June to promote environmental awareness and conservation in Canada. This week-long event serves as an opportunity to engage individuals, communities, organizations, and government bodies in activities and initiatives that focus on environmental sustainability and protection.

June 8th World Oceans Day

World Oceans Day is a global celebration held annually on June 8th to raise awareness and promote the importance of our oceans. It serves as a reminder of the critical role that oceans play in sustaining life on Earth and highlights the need to protect and conserve these vast bodies of water.

June 10th Action Anxiety Day

Organized by Anxiety Canada, action anxiety day is a time to recognize the issue of anxiety and how it affects Canadians from coast to coast. The day also encourages those who are affected by anxiety to seek help. It is estimated that one in four Canadians are impacted by anxiety every year.

June 11th — 17th National Public Service Week (Canada)

National Public Service Week (NPSW) was created in 1992. Its objective is to “recognize the value of the services rendered by federal public service employees” and to “acknowledge the contribution of federal public service employees to the federal administration.”

June 13th International Albinism Awareness Day (UN)

International Albinism Awareness Day is observed annually on June 13th to raise global awareness about albinism and promote the rights and well-being of individuals with albinism. Albinism is a genetic condition that affects the production of melanin, resulting in a lack of pigmentation in the skin, hair, and eyes. People with albinism may face various challenges, including vision impairment, vulnerability to sunburn and skin cancer, and social discrimination.

June 15th World Elder Abuse Day (UN)

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed annually on June 15th. It is an international day designated to raise awareness about the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults. This day serves as a reminder to promote the rights and dignity of older individuals and to work towards preventing elder abuse in all its forms. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day aims to increase understanding of the importance of identifying and addressing elder abuse, as well as promoting the well-being and safety of older adults.

June 18th Fathers Day

Father's Day is a special day celebrated in many countries around the world to honor and appreciate fathers and father figures. On Father's Day, people celebrate their fathers through various gestures of appreciation. This may include giving gifts, writing heartfelt cards or letters, spending quality time together, or organizing special outings or activities. It is a time to show fathers how much they are loved and valued for their dedication and care.

June 19th Juneteenth (American)

Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day or Freedom Day, is an annual holiday celebrated on June 19th in the United States. It commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and serves as a reminder of the end of slavery in the United States.

June 20th World Refugee Day (UN)

World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build empathy and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

June 21st National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

June 23rd International Widows' Day (UN)

For many women around the world, the devastating loss of a partner is magnified by a long-term fight for their basic rights and dignity. Despite the fact that there are more than 258 million widows around the world, widows have historically been left unseen, unsupported, and unmeasured in our societies. On International Widows' Day, 23 June, take a look at some of the issues affecting widows around the world and what must be done to safeguard and advance their rights.

June 24th Inti Raymi (Peru)

Celebrated in Cusco and is the second biggest festival in Latin America. This Inca festival celebrates the winter solstice, where the God of the Sun, Wiracocha, is honoured.

June 24th Dia de San Juan (Puerto Rico)

Dia de San Juan, also known as the Feast of St. John, is a vibrant celebration observed in various parts of the world. The festival honors St. John the Baptist, who is considered a symbol of renewal and purification. Dia de San Juan is deeply rooted in both religious and cultural traditions. It brings communities together to commemorate St. John's birth and to mark the summer solstice, which is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

June 24th St Jean Baptiste Day (Christian)

The patron saint of French—Canadians in Quebec. It is a national holiday and there are parades, bonfires and fireworks to celebrate his birthday. Originated from celebrations of the summer solstice, an ancient pagan tradition in which fires were lit to celebrate light on the longest day of the year. In France, the Roman Catholic Church adopted the holiday and associated with John The Baptist, cousin of Jesus.

June 25th The Hajj (Islamic)

The Hajj pilgrimage is one of the most significant religious journeys in Islam, undertaken by millions of Muslims from around the world. It is an annual pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, which holds great historical and spiritual importance to Muslims worldwide. The history of the Hajj dates back to the time of the Prophet Muhammad in the 7th century. According to Islamic tradition, the Kaaba, located in the Grand Mosque of Mecca, was built by the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and his son Ismail (Ishmael) as the first house of worship dedicated to Allah. The Kaaba serves as the focal point of the Hajj pilgrimage.

June 27th Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Canadian Multiculturalism Day is an annual celebration held on June 27th to honor and recognize the diverse cultures, traditions, and contributions of Canada's multicultural society. It is a day that highlights the importance of multiculturalism as a fundamental value and strength of the nation. Canadian Multiculturalism Day acknowledges the rich tapestry of cultures that exist within Canada, stemming from the country's indigenous peoples as well as generations of immigrants from around the world. It recognizes that Canada is a land of many cultures, languages, religions, and ethnicities, all coexisting and contributing to the country's social, economic, and cultural fabric.

June 27th PTSD Awareness Day

PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) Awareness Day is observed annually on June 27th to raise awareness about PTSD, its effects, and the importance of support for those who are living with this condition. The purpose of PTSD Awareness Day is to educate the public about the impact of trauma on mental health and to reduce the stigma surrounding PTSD.

June 27th Birthday of Helen Keller

Helen Adams Keller was an American author, disability rights advocate, political activist and lecturer. Born in West Tuscumbia, Alabama, she lost her sight and her hearing after a bout of illness at the age of 19 months. A pioneer in advocating for those with disabilities.

The logo for Diversity Thunder Bay features a stylized graphic of three curved lines in black, yellow, and red, resembling a ribbon or a stylized 'D'. Below the 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.

Diversity Thunder Bay

June 28th Eid Al-Adha (Islamic)

Eid al-Adha, also known as the Feast of Sacrifice, is one of the most important religious holidays celebrated by Muslims worldwide. It commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to Allah, as well as the ultimate divine intervention where a ram was provided as a substitute sacrifice. The historical background of Eid al-Adha is rooted in the story found in Islamic, Jewish, and Christian traditions.

June 29th — July 3rd Gahambar Maidyoshem (Zoroastrian)

Gahambar Maidyoshem is a significant festival celebrated by followers of the Zoroastrian faith. It is one of the six seasonal festivals, known as Gahambars, that occur throughout the Zoroastrian calendar year. Gahambar Maidyoshem is specifically dedicated to the celebration of the mid-winter season.