

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Calendar July 2023

Day Long Observances:

July 1st: Canada Day

Canada Day, also known as Canada's birthday, is a national holiday in Canada that is celebrated annually on July 1st. It commemorates the enactment of the Constitution Act, 1867, which united three separate colonies into a single Dominion within the British Empire, called Canada. This act laid the foundation for the creation of the independent country we know today as Canada.

July 1st: SAR Establishment Day (Hong Kong)

Hong Kong was a British colony ruled by the British Governor until it was reunited with China as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on July 1st, 1997.

July 4th: Independence Day (United States)

A US federal holiday that celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776. The original thirteen American colonies declared independence from Britain and established themselves as the United States of America.

July 4th: NAIDOC (Australia)

NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. It is an annual celebration in Australia that honors the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is typically held in the first full week of July, with various events and activities taking place across the country.

July 7th: Tanabata (Japan)

Meaning "Seven Evenings" is a Japanese star festival, derived from Obon traditions and the Chinese star festival, Qi Xi. The festival is usually held on July 7th and celebrates the meeting of Orihime (Vega) and Hikoboshi (Altair).

July 8th: Canada Historic Places Day

Canada Historic Places Day is an annual event that celebrates and raises awareness about the rich history and cultural heritage of Canada's historic places. It is organized by the National Trust for Canada and various partners across the country.

July 9th: Nunavut Day

Every year on July 9th, we celebrate Nunavut Day - the day the Parliament of Canada passed the Nunavut Act. Along with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, it officially declared Nunavut as a distinct region that is legally separate from the Northwest Territories.

July 11th: Imamat Day

Celebrated every year by Ismaili's on the day that the Imamat or religious leader transferred from the past imam to the present Aga Khan.

July 11th: St. Benedict Day

The feast day of St. Benedict celebrated by some Christian denominations.

July 11th: Nadaam Festival (Mongolia)

The festival lasts for three days where the men compete in the Three Manly national sports of archery, wrestling and horse riding.

July 11th: World Population Day

An observance established in 1989 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program. The annual event is designed to raise awareness of global population issues.

July 14th: Bastille Day

A French federal holiday that commemorates the Storming of the Bastille, a fortress in Paris that held political prisoners who had displeased the French Nobility.

July 14th: International Nonbinary People's Day

Aimed at raising awareness and organizing around the issues faced by nonbinary people around the world while celebrating their contributions.

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July 18th: Nelson Mandela International Day

Nelson Mandela Day is an international observance held annually on July 18th to honor the legacy of Nelson Mandela, the renowned anti-apartheid activist and South Africa's first democratically elected president. Mandela dedicated his life to fighting for equality, justice, and human rights.

July 24th: International Self Care Day

International Self-Care Day is observed annually on July 24th as a global initiative to promote the importance of self-care and its positive impact on overall well-being. The day serves as a reminder for individuals to prioritize their physical, mental, and emotional health through self-care practices.

July 26th: Disability Independence Day

Disability Independence Day serves as a celebration of the progress made in advancing the rights of people with disabilities and raising awareness about the ongoing challenges they face. It recognizes the importance of inclusivity, accessibility, and the empowerment of individuals with disabilities to live independent, fulfilling lives.

July 26th: Tisha B'Av (Jewish)

Tisha B'Av, also spelled Tisha Be'av, is an annual Jewish fast day observed on the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, which typically falls in July or August on the Gregorian calendar. It is considered one of the most solemn and mournful days in the Jewish calendar.

Tisha B'Av commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, which were central to Jewish worship and communal life. It is a day of mourning and reflection on the numerous tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people throughout history, including the exile from the land of Israel and other calamities.

July 28th: World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis Day is observed annually on July 28th as a global initiative to raise awareness about viral hepatitis and its impact on individuals and communities worldwide. The day serves as a platform to promote prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hepatitis, as well as to advocate for greater access to healthcare services and support for affected individuals.

July 28th: Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval

On July 28, Canadians mark the Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval, a sad chapter in the history of the Acadian people.

On this day in 1755, British authorities ordered the deportation of French settlers living on lands in New France, which we know today as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. About 10,000 Acadians were deported, separated from their families, and sent to Anglo-American colonies, to France or to the Caribbean. Thousands of them never made it to their destination, succumbing to famine, disease and the horrific conditions of the voyage.

Despite the hardships and pitfalls, the Acadian people rose up through their strength, courage and determination. Many families returned to settle in Acadia, and their descendants shine like the gold star on the Acadian flag.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I invite all Canadians to honor the memory of the victims of the Great Upheaval and to highlight their resilience and perseverance, which ensured the survival of Acadian culture and heritage.

July 30th: International Day of Friendship

International Day of Friendship is observed annually on July 30th with the aim of promoting friendship and fostering greater understanding and solidarity among individuals, communities, and countries worldwide. The day celebrates the power and importance of friendship in promoting peace, harmony, and social cohesion.

The concept of International Day of Friendship was first proposed by the United Nations in 2011, recognizing the value of friendship as a fundamental aspect of human relationships and a force that transcends cultural, religious, and political boundaries.