



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar June - 2024

Month-Long Observances:

National Indigenous History Month: June is National Indigenous History Month in Canada, an opportunity to learn about the unique cultures, traditions and experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. It's a time to honour the stories, achievements and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, who have lived on this land since time immemorial and whose presence continues to impact the evolving Canada. The House of Commons designated June as National Aboriginal History Month in 2009. The name was changed to National Indigenous History Month in 2017.

Pride Month: Canada celebrates Pride Month throughout June. It's a time for LGBTQ+ communities and allies to come together, celebrate diversity, raise awareness about LGBTQ+ rights and issues, and advocate for equality. Pride events such as parades, marches, workshops, and parties take place across the country, creating spaces for people to express themselves freely and proudly. It's also an opportunity to reflect on the progress made towards LGBTQ+ rights and to acknowledge the ongoing struggles for equality, acceptance, and inclusion. Overall, Pride Month in Canada is a vibrant and important time for the LGBTQ+ community to affirm their identities and push for positive change.

Canadian Italian Heritage Month: Celebrated throughout June, is a time to honor the profound contributions of Italian Canadians to the cultural mosaic of Canada. Through a myriad of events spanning cultural festivals, culinary showcases, artistic exhibitions, and historical lectures, the month serves as a platform to celebrate the vibrant heritage and enduring legacy of Italian culture in Canada. From significant contributions in business, politics, arts, science, and sports, to the rich tapestry of traditions and values woven into the Canadian social fabric, Canadian Italian Heritage Month underscores the importance of diversity and multiculturalism while fostering greater appreciation and understanding among Canadians of all backgrounds.

Day Observances:

June 5th World Environment Day: World Environment Day, observed annually on June 5th, is a United Nations initiative aimed at raising awareness and promoting action on environmental issues. It serves as a global platform to inspire individuals and communities to engage in environmental conservation efforts and advocate for sustainable practices. Through various activities and events, World Environment Day encourages collective action towards a healthier planet.



Diversity
Thunder Bay

June 8th World Oceans Day: World Oceans Day, observed on June 8th, is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of ocean conservation. Established by the United Nations, it encourages action to protect marine ecosystems, reduce pollution, and promote sustainable practices.

June 12th World Day Against Child Labor: World Day Against Child Labor, observed on June 12th, raises awareness and promotes action to eliminate child labor worldwide. Established by the International Labor Organization (ILO), it advocates for policies and initiatives to protect children from exploitative work and ensure their access to education and safe environments.

June 16th Eid al-Adha: Eid al-Adha or "Festival of Sacrifice," is a significant Islamic holiday commemorating Prophet Ibrahim's obedience to God's command. It's celebrated by Muslims worldwide, symbolizing unity, sacrifice, and devotion. During Eid al-Adha, Muslims perform the symbolic act of sacrificing animals, sharing the meat with family, friends, and the less fortunate. While deeply rooted in Islamic tradition, Eid al-Adha also holds spiritual significance tied to the history of Jerusalem, where the events of Ibrahim's journey took place.

June 16 Fathers Day: Father's Day is a special occasion celebrated in many countries around the world to honor fathers and father figures, recognizing their role and contribution to family life and society. Typically observed on the third Sunday of June in many countries, including the United States and Canada, Father's Day is a time for expressing love, gratitude, and appreciation for fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, and other paternal figures. It's a day marked by gift-giving, heartfelt messages, and spending quality time together as families. Whether through small gestures or grand celebrations, Father's Day serves as an opportunity to celebrate the importance of paternal bonds and the positive influence of fathers in our lives.

June 18th The International Day for Countering Hate Speech: Observed annually on June 18th, underscores the importance of combating hate speech and promoting tolerance, understanding, and respect among individuals and communities globally. This day serves as a reminder of the damaging effects of hate speech on societies and the urgent need to address its proliferation. Hate speech undermines social cohesion, fosters discrimination and violence, and threatens the rights and dignity of individuals, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups. Through education, advocacy, and collective action, the International Day for Countering Hate Speech aims to raise awareness, mobilize support, and promote strategies for countering hate speech in all its forms, both online and offline. By fostering a culture of inclusivity, empathy, and mutual respect, we can build a more peaceful and harmonious world for present and future generations.



June 19th Juneteenth: Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced the end of slavery, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation had been issued. Juneteenth marks a significant moment in American history, symbolizing freedom, equality, and the ongoing struggle for civil rights. Today, Juneteenth is observed with various events and activities, including community gatherings, parades, educational programs, and celebrations of African American culture and heritage. It serves as a reminder of the resilience and perseverance of the African American community and the ongoing quest for justice and equality for all.

June 20th World Refugee Day: World Refugee Day, observed annually on June 20th, is dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of refugees worldwide and honoring their resilience, courage, and contributions. Established by the United Nations, this day serves as a reminder of the millions of people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, and violence. World Refugee Day seeks to advocate for the rights and well-being of refugees, promote empathy and understanding, and mobilize support for their protection and inclusion. It's a time to reflect on the challenges faced by refugees and to renew our commitment to creating a more compassionate and welcoming world for all displaced persons.

June 21st National Indigenous Peoples Day: National Indigenous Peoples Day, observed on June 21st, is a time to recognize and celebrate the history, heritage, resilience, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples across Canada. Originating from the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year, Indigenous groups and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage around this time for generations. The day was officially proclaimed in 1996 by then Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, following calls for such recognition from Indigenous groups and conferences. Originally known as National Aboriginal Day, it was renamed National Indigenous Peoples Day in 2017. This day is part of the Celebrate Canada program, emphasizing cultural diversity and inclusion, along with other holidays such as Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day and Canada Day. Various events and activities are organized nationwide to showcase the richness and diversity of Indigenous cultures, inviting everyone to participate and learn.

June 24th Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day: Celebrated across Canada as the National Day of Quebec, honoring Francophone culture and traditions. With nearly 10 million French speakers in the country, this day is a proud celebration of language and heritage, marked by festivities such as parades, concerts, and cultural events.



June 27th Helen Keller Day: Helen Keller Day in the United States, honoring the life and legacy of Helen Keller, a remarkable advocate for the deaf and blind. Keller's achievements in overcoming her disabilities and advocating for the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities continue to inspire people worldwide. On this day, various events and activities are organized to raise awareness about issues affecting individuals with disabilities and to celebrate Keller's contributions to society.

June 27th Canadian Multiculturalism Day: On June 27th, Canadian Multiculturalism Day celebrates the diverse cultural communities that contribute to Canada's strength and vibrancy. It's a chance to recognize and appreciate the richness of our cultural diversity, reaffirming our commitment to equity, inclusion, and mutual respect. Let's embrace and celebrate the myriad of cultures that enrich our collective identity as Canadians.