



# Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar September - 2024

## Month-Long Observances:

**Suicide Prevention Awareness Month:** September is recognized as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about suicide prevention, remembering those affected by suicide, and promoting resources for those in need. This month encourages open conversations about mental health, educates the public on warning signs and risk factors, and emphasizes the importance of seeking help.

## Day Observances:

**September 2 Labor Day:** Labor Day, observed on the first Monday in September, honors the contributions and achievements of workers. Established by the labor movement in the late 19th century, it became a federal holiday in 1894. The day not only celebrates workers' rights and their role in building the nation but also marks the unofficial end of summer, often celebrated with parades, parties, and various recreational activities.

**September 5 International Day of Charity:** International Day of Charity, observed on September 5, highlights the importance of charitable actions and the impact they have on global well-being. Established by the United Nations in 2012, this day aims to promote and acknowledge the efforts of those who contribute to alleviating poverty and suffering. It encourages individuals, organizations, and governments to engage in charitable activities and recognize the critical role of philanthropy in fostering social justice and enhancing quality of life.

**September 8 International Literacy Day:** International Literacy Day, celebrated annually on September 8th, was established by UNESCO to highlight the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights. This day aims to raise awareness about literacy issues around the world and promote efforts to improve literacy rates, ensuring that everyone can acquire essential reading and writing skills.

**September 10 Suicide Prevention Day:** World Suicide Prevention Day, observed annually on September 10th, was established by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). This day aims to raise awareness about suicide prevention, reduce stigma, and promote actionable steps to prevent suicide globally. It unites people worldwide in a common cause, emphasizing that through understanding, reaching out, and sharing experiences, we can create hope and save lives.



**September 15 International Day of Democracy:** International Day of Democracy is observed annually on September 15th. In 2024, this day will continue to highlight the importance of democratic principles, such as freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, the day serves as a reminder of the need for active participation by all citizens to uphold and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide.

**September 15 Mawlid al-Nabi:** Commemorating the birth of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad, this day is an opportunity to explore the rich diversity within Islamic traditions and their global impact.

**September 16 Mexican Independence Day:** Mexican Independence Day, celebrated on September 16th, marks the anniversary of the "Grito de Dolores" in 1810, when Miguel Hidalgo, a Catholic priest, called for Mexico's independence from Spanish rule. This day is a significant national holiday in Mexico, featuring parades, fireworks, and reenactments of the historic cry for independence, symbolizing the start of the Mexican War of Independence.

**September 18 International Equal Pay Day:** International Equal Pay Day, observed on September 18th, highlights the ongoing efforts to achieve equal pay for work of equal value. Established by the United Nations in 2019, this day raises awareness about the gender pay gap and promotes actions to close it. In 2024, the focus remains on addressing pay disparities and ensuring fair compensation for all, regardless of gender.

**September 21 International Day of Peace:** Established by the United Nations, this day is dedicated to promoting peace and non-violence worldwide. It encourages nations and individuals to cease hostilities and engage in activities that foster harmony and understanding.

**September 21 World Gratitude Day:** Celebrated globally, this day encourages people to express gratitude and appreciation for the positive aspects of their lives. It aims to foster a culture of thankfulness and improve overall well-being by recognizing and valuing the good around us.

**September 23 International Day of Sign Languages:** Celebrated annually on September 23, the International Day of Sign Languages promotes the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017, this day raises awareness about the importance of sign languages in the full realization of the human rights of deaf individuals. It underscores the need for early access to sign language education and services, recognizing sign languages as equal to spoken languages.

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

# Diversity Thunder Bay

**September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:** Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community intergenerational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters”.