



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar November - 2024

Month/Week-Long Observances:

Hindu Heritage Month: November has been designated as Hindu Heritage Month in Canada, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich culture and numerous contributions of Canadians of Hindu heritage. With nearly 830,000 individuals of Hindu descent residing in Canada, their positive influence spans across various fields including politics, art, business, and medicine. This month serves not only to highlight their achievements but also to reaffirm the country's commitment to fostering a more equitable, fair, and just society for everyone.

Lebanese Heritage Month: November has been officially designated as National Lebanese Heritage Month in Canada, a time to celebrate the cultural contributions and rich heritage of Lebanese Canadians. This observance, introduced in 2023, highlights the longstanding ties between Canada and Lebanon, dating back to the arrival of the first Lebanese immigrants in 1882. Lebanese Canadians have made significant contributions across various sectors, including arts, science, politics, and more, enriching Canada's multicultural landscape. The month serves as an opportunity for Canadians to learn about Lebanese culture, promote inclusion, and strengthen community connections, fostering a more united and open society.

Treaty Awareness Week: Treaties Recognition Week, held annually from November 3-9, is a time for Ontarians to reflect on the importance of treaties between Indigenous Peoples and European settlers, and their ongoing relevance today. Declared in 2016, the week promotes awareness of treaty rights, the history of treaty relationships, and their role in reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Through educational events, resources, and discussions, the week encourages learning about the shared history and legal significance of treaties, which continue to shape land rights, resource management, and governance in Ontario. It is a crucial opportunity for all Ontarians to engage with Indigenous history, recognize the continuing importance of these agreements, and support the journey toward healing and mutual understanding.

Day Observances:

November 1st—2nd Dia de Muertos: The Day of the Dead—is a vibrant celebration that takes place annually on November 1st and 2nd. Originating in Mexico, this tradition honors deceased loved ones through a blend of indigenous customs and Catholic rituals. November 1st is dedicated to remembering children, often referred to as "Dia de los Inocentes" or "Day of the Innocents," while November 2nd focuses on adults, known as "Dia de los Muertos."

November 1st All Saints Day: Observed on November 1st in the Roman Catholic Church, honors all saints, known and unknown. This solemn day celebrates the lives and virtues of those who have reached heaven, including martyrs and confessors. It serves as a reminder to Christians of their own call to holiness and the eventual goal of joining the saints in eternal life. The tradition includes attending Mass, praying for the intercession of the saints, and often involves the lighting of candles and visiting cemeteries to remember deceased loved ones.



November 8th Indigenous Veterans Day: Canada's Indigenous Veterans Day is observed on November 8th to honor the contributions and sacrifices of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis individuals who served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Approximately 12,000 Indigenous people have served in various conflicts, including the World Wars and the Korean War. Despite facing discrimination and challenges, Indigenous soldiers continue to distinguish themselves.

November 11th Remembrance Day: Remembrance Day, observed on November 11th, honors the men and women who served and sacrificed in armed conflicts, especially during World War I and World War II. The day commemorates the armistice agreement of 1918, with key traditions including two minutes of silence at 11:00 a.m., the wearing of red poppies, and ceremonies at war memorials. It's a time to reflect on the courage and sacrifices of those who served, ensuring their legacy is never forgotten.

November 14th World Diabetes Day: World Diabetes Day is observed on November 14th each year to raise awareness about diabetes as a critical global public health issue. Established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), it became an official United Nations day in 2006. The day commemorates the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin. The theme for 2024-26 is "Diabetes and Well-being", emphasizing the importance of access to diabetes care and support for the well-being of those living with diabetes.

November 16th International Day of Tolerance: International Day for Tolerance, observed on November 16th, promotes understanding and respect for diversity among cultures and peoples worldwide. Established by UNESCO in 1995, it emphasizes the importance of tolerance in building peaceful societies. The day encourages education and awareness campaigns to combat intolerance, discrimination, and violence, fostering a culture of peace and mutual respect. This day reminds us of the vital need for tolerance to bridge differences and strengthen communities globally.

November 19th International Men's Day: International Men's Day is celebrated on November 19th each year to recognize and celebrate the positive contributions men make to their families, communities, and society at large. The day aims to raise awareness of men's well-being and highlight positive male role models. It also addresses various issues men face, such as parental alienation, abuse, homelessness, suicide, and violence. The theme for 2024 is "Positive Male Role Models", encouraging people to appreciate and celebrate the men in their lives.

November 20th National Child Day: National Child Day in Canada, celebrated on November 20th, coincides with World Children's Day. It highlights the rights of children and Canada's commitment to these rights, emphasizing safety, health, and inclusion. It's an opportunity for educators, parents, and caregivers to teach and celebrate children's unique strengths and abilities.



November 20th Transgender Day of Remembrance: Transgender day of remembrance Canada Transgender Day of Remembrance is observed on November 20th in Canada to honor the memory of transgender individuals who have lost their lives to anti-transgender violence. Established in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, this day serves as a vigil to remember those who have been victims of transphobic violence. It's a time to reflect on the challenges faced by the transgender community and to reaffirm the commitment to ending violence and discrimination against transgender individuals.

November 20th World Children's Day: Observed on November 20th, was established by the United Nations to promote the welfare and rights of children globally. This day marks the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, emphasizing children's right to be safe, healthy, educated, and included. It serves as a reminder of the collective responsibility to advocate for children's rights and ensure their voices are heard and respected.

November 25th International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on November 25th to raise awareness about the pervasive issue of gender-based violence and to promote efforts to end it. This day marks the start of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, culminating on December 10th, Human Rights Day. The campaign emphasizes the need for prevention, better legislation, prosecution of perpetrators, and support services for survivors. The theme for 2024 is "Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women & Girls", highlighting the urgent need for resources and actions to eliminate this violence.

November 25th Day of the Covenant: Day of the Covenant is a Baha'i holy day celebrated on November 25th (or sometimes November 26th) to honor the appointment of Abdu'l-Baha as the Center of Baha'u'llah's Covenant. This day commemorates the unity and guidance provided by Abdu'l-Baha, ensuring the Baha'i Faith remains unified and protected from division. It's a time for Baha'is to reflect on the significance of the Covenant and its role in preserving the faith's teachings and principles.