



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar March - 2025

Month-Long Observances:

Irish Heritage Month: Irish Heritage Month, celebrated in March, honors the cultural contributions of Irish Americans to the United States, coinciding with St. Patrick's Day on March 17th. Established in 1991 by a U.S. Congressional resolution, the month highlights the influence of Irish immigrants on American society, showcasing Irish traditions such as music, dance, literature, and art. Throughout the month, communities host parades, festivals, and cultural events to celebrate Irish heritage and its impact on American culture.

Ramadan: Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and is considered one of the holiest months for Muslims. During this time, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, refraining from eating, drinking, smoking, and sinful behavior. Fasting is seen as a way to purify the soul, develop self-discipline, and increase empathy for the less fortunate. Ramadan is also a time for prayer, reflection, and community. The month ends with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, a festival marking the end of fasting and a time for feasting, giving charity, and socializing with family and friends. The exact dates of Ramadan vary each year based on the lunar calendar.

Day Observances:

March 1st Zero Discrimination Day: Zero Discrimination Day, celebrated on March 1st, promotes equality and the elimination of discrimination in all forms. Established by the United Nations in 2014, it encourages inclusivity, respect, and the rights of marginalized groups, aiming for a world where everyone is treated with dignity.

March 4th Mardi Gras: Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday," is a lively celebration held before the start of Lent, typically in February or March. It involves parades, masquerades, music, dancing, and feasting, especially in cities like New Orleans. The festivities are known for their colorful costumes, beads, and traditional foods like King Cake. Mardi Gras marks the final day of indulgence before the period of fasting and reflection that begins with Ash Wednesday.

March 8th International Women's Day: International Women's Day, celebrated on March 8th, is a global event that honors the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It also raises awareness about gender equality and the ongoing fight for women's rights. The day encourages advocacy for women's empowerment and highlights issues like gender-based violence, pay equality, and access to education and healthcare. Each year, the celebration has a theme focused on advancing progress for women worldwide.



March 11th National Day of Observance for COVID-19: Canada's Fourth National Day of Observance for COVID-19, held on March 11, 2024, honors the lives lost to the pandemic, the ongoing impact of long COVID, and the tireless efforts of healthcare and essential workers. It marks four years since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, reflecting on the health, social, and economic challenges it brought. The day encourages remembrance, gratitude, and continued resilience in building a healthier future for all Canadians.

March 13th Purim: Purim in 2025 will be celebrated starting at sundown on March 13th and ending at nightfall on March 14th. Purim is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from the Persian Empire, as told in the Book of Esther. It is a festive holiday marked by reading the Megillah (the Book of Esther), giving charity to those in need, sharing food and drink with friends and family, and enjoying a celebratory meal. People often dress in costumes, and there are public celebrations and parades in many Jewish communities.

March 14th Holi: Holi, known as the Festival of Colors, is a vibrant and joyous Hindu festival that celebrates the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil. In 2025, Holi will be celebrated on March 7th. The festival is marked by people throwing colored powders at each other, dancing, singing, and enjoying festive foods. It also celebrates the bond of love, friendship, and the end of winter. Holi is celebrated widely in India and Nepal, and among Hindu communities around the world, with varying regional traditions and customs.

March 15th The International Day to Combat Islamophobia : The International Day to Combat Islamophobia, observed on March 15th, focuses on standing against Islamophobia and hate-based violence.

March 17th Saint Patrick's Day: Saint Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17th, honors Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is marked with parades, wearing green, and enjoying Irish food, music, and traditions. The day is widely celebrated around the world, especially in places with large Irish communities.

March 21st International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, observed on March 21st, aims to raise awareness about the ongoing struggle against racial discrimination and promote equality for all. Established by the United Nations in 1966, the day honors the memory of those who lost their lives in the 1960 Sharpeville massacre in South Africa, where peaceful protesters were killed by police. The day encourages governments, communities, and individuals to take action to eliminate racism, promote tolerance, and foster a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.



March 25th The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Observed on March 25th, honors the millions of people who suffered and died during the transatlantic slave trade. The day aims to raise awareness about the history of slavery, its impact on modern society, and the importance of promoting human rights and dignity. It serves as a reminder of the need to combat racism, discrimination, and inequality globally.

March 31st International Transgender Day of Visibility: The International Transgender Day of Visibility, celebrated on March 31st, honors the resilience and contributions of transgender, Two-Spirit, and non-binary individuals. It aims to raise awareness about the challenges these communities face, including discrimination, violence, and inequities, especially for Indigenous, Black, and racialized people. The day also emphasizes the importance of building an inclusive society and advocating for equality through supportive laws and community initiatives. It serves as a reminder to celebrate the achievements of transgender and non-binary people while continuing to work toward a more equitable future.

March 31st National Indigenous Languages Day: National Indigenous Languages Day, observed on March 31st, celebrates the linguistic heritage of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities in Canada. It highlights the crucial role of Indigenous languages in preserving culture and identity, while acknowledging the challenges they've faced. Efforts to revitalize these languages are supported by government funding and partnerships. The day also emphasizes the link between language revitalization and addressing the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people.