

## Dates of Significance – January 2025

**Tamil Heritage Month** - A month to celebrate the rich heritage and contributions of Tamil people in Canada.

| Date       | Category                       | Day of Significance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| January 1  | Indigenous Cultural Métis      | <a href="#"><u>Ochetookeskaw</u></a><br>Also known as Kissing day or Handshaking Day. A Métis day of celebration derived from the custom of visiting everyone in the community and bringing in the New Year with the shaking of hands and kissing.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| January 1  | Cultural                       | <a href="#"><u>New Year's Day</u></a><br>The first day of the year according to the Gregorian Calendar. Most New Year's festivities begin on December 31 (New Year's Eve), the last day of the Gregorian calendar, and continue into the early hours of January 1. Common traditions include attending parties, eating special New Year's foods, making resolutions for the new year and watching fireworks displays. |
| January 4  | Disabilities Diverse Abilities | <a href="#"><u>World Braille Day</u></a><br>A day to celebrate Braille and what it means for the human rights of people who are blind or partially sighted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| January 5  | Faith-based Sikhism            | <a href="#"><u>Guru Gobindh Singh Jayanti/Prakash</u></a><br>The birthday of Guru Gobind Singh. A Sikh festival to celebrate the 10th Guru of the Sikhs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| January 13 | Faith-based Hinduism           | <a href="#"><u>Maghi</u></a><br>Also known as Makar Sankranti. A Hindu celebration of the harvest.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| January 14 | Faith-Based Buddhism           | <a href="#"><u>Mahayana New Year</u></a><br>The celebration of Buddhist new year rituals on the first full moon of January month according to Georgian calendar.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| January 15 | Cultural                       | <a href="#"><u>Black Excellence Day</u></a><br>Created by the Ninandotoo Society to rejoice and learn about the stories, art, and history of Black people.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| January 17 | Anti-oppression                | <a href="#"><u>Raoul Wallenberg Day</u></a><br>A day to recognize Raoul Wallenberg for his work in saving tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| January 21 | Anti-racism                    | <a href="#"><u>Lincoln Alexander Day</u></a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|            |                                     | The birthday of Honourable Lincoln Alexander has been recognized across Canada since 2015. He was a pioneer in the fight for racial equity in Canada. Alexander's legacy is marked by many firsts as the first Black Member of Parliament, Cabinet minister, and Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.                                                                                                                                                      |
| January 24 | Cultural                            | <b><u>World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture</u></b><br>A day to celebrate and highlight the contributions of the many vibrant cultures of the African continent and the African people around the world, as well as their role in driving sustainable development, dialogue, and peace.                                                                                                                                                    |
| January 27 | Anti-oppression                     | <b><u>International Holocaust Remembrance Day</u></b><br>The anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. This day of remembrance was established to honor the six million Jews and millions of other victims of the Holocaust and Nazism. The United Nations calls on individuals to hold memorial services and undertake educational initiatives to learn more and help prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future.                |
| January 29 | Cultural<br>Faith-based<br>Buddhism | <b><u>Lunar New Year</u></b><br>Also known as the Spring Festival, Chinese New Year, Tet for <u>Vietnamese Canadians</u> , or Solnal for <u>Korean Canadians</u> — LNY is celebrated in Canada and several other countries. It is one of the largest celebrations for Canada's <u>Chinese</u> population, it is also celebrated by Canadians from Vietnam, Korea and Southeast Asia. This year marks the Year of the Snake.                           |
| January 29 | Anti-oppression                     | <b><u>National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia</u></b><br>A day to pay tribute to the memory of the 6 victims of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and to reaffirm a stand against Islamophobia in all of its forms.<br><b><u>Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia (in the Province of BC)</u></b><br>A reminder of the work that must be done to eradicate Islamophobia and hate in Canada. |

N.B. Schools and departments are encouraged to avoid scheduling any significant day and evening meetings/events on dates shown in **bold**.