

Dates of Significance – March 2025

Irish Heritage Month: March was declared Irish Heritage Month in the House of Commons in 2022. Irish Heritage Month celebrates Irish Canadians' contributions to Canada's story and serves as an opportunity to learn more about Irish-Canadian history.

Date	Category	Day of Significance
February 28 – March 29	Faith-based Islam	<u>Ramadan</u> Ramadan is the ninth month of Islamic lunar calendar. Muslims consider this whole month a blessed month. They fast during the days of this month and make special prayers at night. People also give more charity and do extra righteous deeds. Information is posted on Richnet here on how schools can recognize and be considerate of colleagues, students, and families.
March 1	Anti- Oppression	<u>Zero Discrimination Day</u> A UN recognized day to take action to end the inequalities surrounding income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity, race, class, ethnicity and religion that continue to persist around the world. Often used to highlight discrimination of people living with HIV.
March 5	Faith-based Christianity	<u>Ash Wednesday</u> In Western Christianity, the first day of Lent, occurring six and a half weeks before Easter.
March 8	Gender Equity	<u>International Women's Day</u> A time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.
March 13-14	Faith-based Judaism	<u>Purim</u> A Jewish celebration that is a lively festival that commemorates back in the 4th century BC, when Jewish people were saved from a death decree according to the book of Esther.
March 14	Faith-based Hinduism	<u>Holi</u> A Hindu festival that celebrates spring, colour, and love.
March 14-16	Faith-based Sikhism	<u>Hola Mohalla</u>

		A colourful 3-day Sikh festival celebrated during spring.
March 15	Anti-oppression	<u>International Day to Combat Islamophobia</u> The United Nations General Assembly resolution for this day stresses that terrorism and violent extremism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, or ethnic group. It calls for a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace, based on respect for human rights and for the diversity of religions and belief.
March 17-23	Anti-oppression Ableism	<u>Neurodiversity Celebration Week</u> A worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurodevelopmental disorders and learning disabilities.
March 19-20	Cultural	<u>Nowruz – Iranian (Persian) New Year</u> Also known as Baha’i, Iranian, or Persian New Year. It begins on the spring equinox and marks the beginning of Farvardin, the first month of the Solar Hijri calendar.
March 21	Anti-racism	<u>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</u> A United Nations day of remembrance and action. Observed annually on the day that 69 people lost their lives to the hands of the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, while demonstrating peacefully against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960.
March 21	Anti-oppression Ableism	<u>World Down Syndrome Day</u> World Down Syndrome Day is on 21 March every year. It is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. The goal is to help people understand and support those with Down syndrome better. The date being the 21st day of the 3rd month was chosen to represent the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.
March 30-31	Faith-based Islam	<u>Eid-al-Fitr</u> Many Muslims in Canada celebrate Eid al-Fitr on the first day of Shawwal in the Islamic calendar. It marks the end of the month-long fast of Ramadan and the start of a feast that lasts up to three days in some countries. The date is dependent on the sighting of the new crescent moon.
March 30-April 7	Faith-based Hinduism	<u>Chaitra Navratri</u> A Hindu nine-day festival to celebrate the first day of the Hindu calendar.

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