

Dates of Significance – October 2025

German Heritage Month: A time to recognize the contributions German Canadians have had and how their heritage has shaped Canada's current social and economic fabric.

Canadian Islamic History Month: A time when all Canadians can learn more about the culture, contributions, and achievements of the Muslim community.

Community Inclusion Month: This month celebrates the valuable contributions that people with developmental disabilities make and recognizes the importance of communities where everyone is included.

Latin American Heritage Month: A time to showcase the richness and vitality of Latin American cultures and heritage while reflecting on the contributions the Latin American community have made to Canadian culture.

Women's History Month: In 1992, the Government of Canada designated October as Women's History Month, marking the beginning of an annual month-long celebration of the outstanding achievements of women throughout Canada's history.

National Disability Employment Month: An awareness month to promote employment inclusion for persons with disabilities and to celebrate the many and varied contributions of workers with disabilities.

Date	Category	Day of Significance
October 1	Faith-based Judaism	<u>Kol Nidrei</u> A prayer evening which ushers in the Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur.
October 1	Health	<u>National Seniors Day</u> An occasion for Canadians to celebrate the contributions of seniors in our homes, communities and workplaces.
October 1	Faith-based Judaism	<u>Yom Kippur</u> Known as the Day of Atonement, many Canadians of Jewish faith in Canada spend the day fasting and praying. Its theme centers on atonement and repentance.
October 1-2	Faith-based Hinduism	<u>Dussehra</u> A Hindu event celebrated on the 10th day of the month of Ashvina (September–October), the seventh month of the Hindu calendar, with the appearance of the full

		moon, an event called the “bright fortnight” (<i>shukla paksha</i>).
October 4	Anti- Oppression Truth and Reconciliation	National Day of Action to Honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Trans, and 2-Spirited A day to commemorate and commit to taking action and seeking justice to end violence against Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people.
October 6-13	Faith-based Judaism	Sukkot This period, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, lasts for about seven days.
October 10	Health	World Mental Health Day A day that promotes mental health awareness and education, and advocates against social stigma relating to mental health.
October 11	Gender Equity	International Day of the Girl A day to recognize girls’ rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.
October 13	Cultural	Thanksgiving An official statutory holiday in Canada occurring on the second Monday of October. Though its origin is rooted in prayer for and celebration of the autumn harvest, Thanksgiving is no longer restricted to harvest activities and has become a day for gathering family to give thanks for their general well-being. These articles may be helpful in considering the Indigenous contributions to Thanksgiving traditions as well as the colonial undertones of the day.
October 14-15	Faith-based Judaism	Simchat Torah A celebratory Jewish holiday that marks the completion of the annual Torah reading cycle. Simchat Torah literally means "Rejoicing in the Law" in Hebrew.
October 15	SOGI-Inclusive	International Pronouns Day A day to make respecting, sharing, and educating about personal pronouns commonplace. #MyPronounsAre #ShareYourPronouns on social media.
October 16	SOGI-Inclusive	Spirit Day A day when people are encouraged to wear purple to create awareness for the bullying and harassment that the 2SLGBTQ+ community faces. Created in 2010 by Canadian teenager, Brittany McMillan, from Surrey BC and now promoted by GLAAD.

October 16	Anti-oppression Health	<u>World Food Day</u> A day to promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and for the need to ensure healthy diets for all.
October 17	Health Anti-poverty	<u>International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</u> This day presents an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty, a chance for them to make their concerns heard, and a moment to recognize that poor people are the first ones to fight against poverty.
October 18	Gender Equity	<u>Persons Day</u> This day marks the historic decision in 1929 to include women in the legal definition of “persons” was handed down by Canada’s highest court of appeal.
October 20	Faith-based Sikhism	<u>Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth</u> The anniversary of the day in 1604 when the Granth Sahib, the sacred text of Sikhism, was formally adopted at the site in Amritsar that became the Golden Temple.
October 20 - November 5	Faith-based Cultural	<u>Diwali</u> A festival of lights and one of the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika (between mid-October and mid-November).
October 24	Climate Sustainability	<u>Youth Climate Action Day</u> A worldwide movement of young people who are concerned about climate change and global injustice.
October 31	Cultural Faith-based Christianity	<u>Halloween</u> Halloween originates from the eve of All Saints’ Day (Roman Catholic/Christian), and the celebration has influences from Celtic paganism as well as Christian beliefs and practices. It has since become a cultural celebration observed in many countries. Articles such as <u>this one</u> and <u>this one</u> shine a light on cultural appropriation and Halloween.

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