



# INTERCULTURAL AND CITIZENSHIP CALENDAR

2024-2025

Original text in French

## JULY 2024

- 1 Canada Day
- 7 Ras el-Am el-Hejri, the Islamic New Year, the first day of the month of Muharram (year 1446)
- 13-15 O-bon, festival honouring the spirits of the ancestors
- 17 Ashura, Shiite Muslims remember the death of Imam Hussein, grandson of the prophet Mohammed. Sunni Muslims commemorate Moses and his people leaving Egypt
- 21 Asalha Puja, Theravada festival honouring the first teachings of the Buddha after his enlightenment near Benares
- 21 Guru Purnima, Nepalese and Indian festival dedicated to academic and spiritual teachers

## AUGUST 2024

- 1 Emancipation Day
- 12 International Youth Day
- 19 World Humanitarian Day

## SEPTEMBER 2024

- 2 Labour Day
- 7 Ganesh Chaturthi, festival of Ganesha, deity of education and protector of students
- 8 International Literacy Day
- 16 Mawlid an-Nabi, commemorating the birth of Muhammad, founder of Islam (September 21 for Shias)
- 17 Mid-Autumn Festival, or Full Moon Festival (China, Vietnam) celebrating the glittering moon
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 22 Autumnal equinox (7:43 a.m., EST)
- 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

End of September

Anti-Bullying and Violence Awareness Week at School (Québec)

## OCTOBER 2024

- Women’s History Month (Canada)
- Hispanic Heritage Month (Québec)
- 2 International Day of Non-Violence
- 2-4 Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year (year 5785)
- 3-12 Navaratri, Hindu festival dedicated to the worship of the deity Durga
- 11-12 Yom Kippur, Jewish Day of Atonement devoted to fasting and repentance
- 14 Thanksgiving (Canada)
- 16-23 Sukkot, Jewish Feast of Booths to mark 40 years in the desert
- 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 17 Pavarana, celebration marking the end of Vassa, a retreat monks hold during the rainy season (Theravadan Buddhism)
- 24 United Nations Day
- 31 Halloween and national UNICEF Day

## NOVEMBER 2024

Variable dates

Québec International Solidarity Days

Québec’s Week of Intercultural Encounters

- 1 All Saints’ Day
- 1 Diwali, Hindu festival of lights dedicated to the goddess Lakshmi
- 1 Diwali, Sikh festival commemorating the release from imprisonment of Guru Hargobind, the Sixth Sikh Master
- 2 All Souls’ Day
- 11 Anniversary of the signing of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement
- 11 Remembrance Day (Canada)
- 15 Birthday of Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism
- 20 Universal Children’s Day
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- 28 Thanksgiving (United States)



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## DECEMBER 2024

- 1 First Sunday in Advent
- 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- 8 Bodhi Day, the day that the Buddha experienced enlightenment (Mahayana Buddhism)
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 18 International Migrants Day
- 21 Winter solstice (4:20 a.m., EST)
- 25 Christmas (January 7 in the Julian calendar)
- December 25-January 2 Hanukkah, Jewish Festival of Lights

## JANUARY 2025

- 1 New Year’s Day (January 14 in the Julian calendar)
- 4 National Ribbon Skirt Day (Canada)
- 6 Theophany, Orthodox celebration commemorating the baptism of Jesus, when it was revealed that he was the son of God (January 19 in the Julian calendar)
- 6 Epiphany, the Magi visit Jesus (January 6 or the first Sunday after January 1st)
- 14 New Year, Mahayana Buddhism (year 2569)
- 15 Journée nationale du vivre-ensemble (Québec)
- 24 World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture
- 29 Chinese New Year (Chūn Jié) and Vietnamese New Year (Tết Nguyen Dan) (4723, Year of the Snake)

## FEBRUARY 2025

- Black History Month (Canada and United States)
- 2 Candlemas (February 15 in the Julian calendar)
- 11 Nelson-Mandela Day (Québec)
- 12 Magha Puja, Sangha Day (Theravadan Buddhism)
- 12 Red Hand Day, to protest against the use of child soldiers
- 14 Valentine’s Day, celebration of love
- 15 Parinirvana, commemorating the day of Buddha’s death and his attainment of Nirvana (Mahayana Buddhism)
- 21 International Mother Language Day
- 26 Maha Shivaratri, Hindu festival dedicated to the god Shiva
- 28 Beginning of Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, which ends around March 29

## MARCH 2025

- 3 Clean Monday, Beginning of Great Lent in preparation for Easter in Orthodox churches, ending around April 19
- 5 Ash Wednesday, marking the first day of Lent
- 8 International Women’s Day
- 13-14 Purim, festival commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people from the Persian Empire
- 14 Sikh New Year (year 557)
- 14 Holi, Hindu spring and colors festival
- 14-16 Hola Mohalla, Sikh festival
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day, celebration of the Irish people
- 20 International Francophonie Day
- 20 Spring (vernal) equinox (4:01 a.m., EST)
- 20/21 Nowruz, Persian New Year (year 1404)
- 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 29-30 Eid al-Fitr, feast celebrating the breaking of the fast after the month of Ramadan
- 31 National Indigenous Languages Day (Canada)
- End of March
- Francofête, celebration of the French language and francophone culture (Québec)
- Action Week Against Racism (Québec)



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## APRIL 2025

- 6 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
- 6 Rama Navami, Hindu festival celebrating the birth of Rama, seventh incarnation of the god Vishnu
- 12-20 Passover, Jewish festival commemorating the escape from slavery in Egypt
- 13 Palm Sunday, beginning of Holy Week commemorating the last days of Jesus
- 13 New Year, Theravadan Buddhism (year 2569)
- 13/14 Vaisakhi, Sikh festival celebrating the Khalsa religious fraternity
- 14 Indian New Year (year 1947 according to the Indian national calendar). Other regions in India celebrate on March 30 according to the Hindu calendar (year 2082)
- 18 Good Friday, crucifixion of Christ
- 20 Easter, celebration of the resurrection of Jesus three days after his death
- 22 International Mother Earth Day
- 23-24 Holocaust – Yom HaShoah Memorial Day (Québec) – International Holocaust Remembrance Day is on January 27
- 24 Armenian Genocide Memorial Day (Québec)

## MAY 2025

- Asian Heritage Month (Canada)
- 1 International Worker’s Day
  - 12 Vesak or Buddha Purnima, day commemorating Buddha’s birth (Mahayana tradition), and day commemorating his birth, enlightenment and passing to Nirvana (Theravadan Buddhism)
  - 17 International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
  - 19 Journée nationale des Patriotes (Québec)
  - 19 Victoria Day (Canada)
  - 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
  - 29 Feast of the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven

## JUNE 2025

- Beginning of June*
- Start of the First Nations Pow Wow season (Québec)
- 1-3 Shavuot, Jewish holiday commemorating the day Moses received the Torah at Mount Sinai
  - 4 Beginning of pilgrimage to Mecca
  - 6 Eid al-Adha, a great Muslim feast held at the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca
  - 8 Pentecost, feast celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles
  - 20 World Refugee Day
  - 20 Summer solstice (9:42 p.m., EST)
  - 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada)
  - 24 St-Jean-Baptiste – Québec’s National Holiday

Some dates can change according to the solar or lunar calendar, or according to the difference in time zones between Canada and other countries. Moreover, the dates of some thematic weeks were not known at the time of preparing this calendar; they are indicated here in the month during which they usually take place.

For more information, you may refer to the guide: [Discovering the Intercultural and citizenship calendar](#)

Please note that the Intercultural and citizenship calendar can be used to plan a variety of school activities and to mark certain significant events in the history of communities, countries and humanity. It should not, however, be used to determine statutory holidays for school staff as these are stipulated in the collective agreements and during specific negotiations between parties.

