



IMvisible NB  
JeSuisVisible NB

# INTERCULTURAL CALENDAR



Proudly designed by [phanhlosophy design](#)



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Women and Gender  
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité  
des genres Canada



This calendar is developed by IMvisible NB project for the Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence (DIPV) Prevention Shelters (Transition Houses, Outreach and Second Stage) across our province. Through this calendar, we aim to encourage the celebration of diverse cultural events and festivals for newcomer clients. Let's together build a true belonging and support in recognizing more cultural events. We invite the DIPV Prevention workers to check in with their linguistically and culturally diverse clients about their significant cultural festivals. This calendar is editable for the DIPV Sector through Canva program.

**01 Jan** | **NEW YEAR'S DAY (GREGORIAN CALENDAR)**



**International**  
New Year's Day is recognized worldwide to celebrate the beginning of a new year in the Gregorian calendar. Many people start a countdown leading to midnight of the New Year. Gathering with friends and family takes place, there are foods that are eaten that bring in prosperity, and people like to create resolutions for the year ahead.


**07 Jan** | **JULIAN CHRISTMAS**



**Orthodox Christianity**  
The day of Julian Christmas is based on the Julian calendar. Many Orthodox Christians may fast prior to this date. The day is spent gathering with family after church to share a meal and exchange gifts.

The first new moon of the lunar calendar. (Typically, between Jan-Feb)

**LUNAR NEW YEAR**



**China, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Mongolia, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines.**  
Lunar New Year is the most important holiday in China. This fifteen-day celebration is spent with loved ones feasting, cleaning, offering sacrifices to ancestors, and giving red envelopes of money to children.

**14 Feb** | **VALENTINE'S DAY**



**International**  
Valentine's Day is recognized worldwide as a time to celebrate love. Items such as chocolates and flowers are gifted to loved ones. People whether coupled or single show their affection for the ones they love and spend time together.

**24 Feb** | **DRAGOBETE**



**Romania**  
Dragobete is the Romanian's celebration of love and the beginning of spring. Gifts are exchanged with loved ones.

Day before Ash Wednesday

**MARDI GRAS**



**Christianity**  
Mardi Gras is an occasion that brings people together at street parties with colourful outfits, lively music and dancing.

46 days before Easter Sunday

**ASH WEDNESDAY**



**Christianity**  
Ash Wednesday is the commencement of the Lent season. Lent is a holy period of prayer and fasting in various Western Christian denominations.

4th Sunday of the Christian festival of Lent, exactly 3 weeks before Easter Sunday

**MOTHER'S DAY**



**United Kingdom and Ireland**  
Mother's Day in the United Kingdom and Ireland is a time to celebrate mothers/mother figures by spending time with them, giving them gifts, and sharing a meal.

March (corresponding with the Hindu calendar month of Phalguna).

**HOLI (THE FESTIVAL OF COLOURS)**



**Hinduism**  
Hindu people celebrate the start of spring during this two-day festival by dancing outside and throwing around vibrant powdered colour dye.

Spring Equinox, usually March 20th or 21st

**NOWRUZ (PERSIAN NEW YEAR)**



**Zoroastrianism (Iran, Afghanistan, the Kurdish regions of Iraq, Turkey, Syria, and throughout Central Asia).**  
The Persian New Year "Nowruz" is celebrated for thirteen days amongst family and friends while they pray, dance, play music, and feast.


**21 Mar** | **MOTHER'S DAY**



**Most of the Arabic Countries**  
People in Arab countries spend Mother's Day showering their Mothers/Mother figures with gifts and flowers to show their appreciation.

Moon cycle (from new moon to full moon around spring equinox)

**RAMADAN HOLY MONTH**



**Islam**  
Ramadan is the month of fasting, prayers, peace, reflection, and community gatherings for Muslims all over the world.



15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, the first month of Aviv, or spring. (March-April)

**PASSOVER (PESACH)**



**Judaism**  
During the eight days of Pesach, those of Judaism faith gather for traditional meals called "Sedar", where a special book called "Haggadah" is recited in a specific order. The possession and consumption of "leavened" food is prohibited during this holiday.

The first Friday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox.


**GOOD FRIDAY**



**Christianity**  
Good Friday is spent remembering the day Jesus submitted to crucifixion as a sacrifice for humanity's sins through prayer and attending special church services.

The first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox.

**EASTER**



**Christianity**  
Easter is a day to recognize the resurrection of Christ and the beginning of spring. On this special Sunday, people attend church services, give chocolate to children, and have easter egg hunts.

One of the last 10 nights of Ramadan.

**LAYLAT AL-QADR (NIGHT OF POWER)**



**Islam**  
The holiest night of the year is spent in prayer to Allah and asking for forgiveness.

The First three days after Ramadan. (It starts directly after Ramadan)

**EID AL-FITR**



**Islam**  
Muslims feast away on a rich meal and gather in prayer after their Ramadan month-long fast.

April 20th or 21st until May 2nd

**THE FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN**



**Bahá'í Faith**  
During the Festival of Ridván, three of the twelve days are holy days, thus no one works or attends school on those days. Instead, people assemble for religious gatherings and prayers. The celebrations also feature musical and artistic acts.

Apr  
May

**EASTER**



**Orthodox Christianity**  
Orthodox Easter festivities typically include church services, egg decoration, activities, and eating traditional delicacies.

05  
May

**CINCO DE MAYO**



**Mexico**  
Cinco de Mayo is the celebration of Mexican heritage. Traditional food, music, dances, and outfits are shared.

First Sunday in May

**MOTHER'S DAY**



**Spain and Portugal**  
On Mother's Day, people shower their mothers/mother figures with gifts and flowers to show their appreciation.

10  
May

**MOTHER'S DAY**



**Mexico, El Salvador, and Guatemala**  
On Mexican Mother's Day, people make their mothers/mother figures feel special through gifting flowers, eating traditional foods, and having them serenaded.

Second Sunday in May

**MOTHER'S DAY**



**Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, most of Europe, India, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Uruguay, U.S., Venezuela, Zimbabwe and many others.**  
Mother's Day is a time to celebrate mothers/mother figures by spending time with them, giving them gifts, and sharing a meal.

Full moon in May

**VESAK**




**Buddhism**  
To celebrate Buddha's Birthday (Vesak), people perform charitable activities, engage in chanting and meditation, consider Buddhist teachings, bring offerings to the temple, and share food with others.



Third Thursday of May

**VYSHYVANKA DAY**



**Ukraine**  
 "Vyshyvanka" is an international holiday that aims to preserve the Ukrainian embroidered folk clothing called Vyshyvanka. People will gather to wear, sell, and purchase this traditional clothing.

Last Sunday in May

**MOTHER'S DAY**



**Algeria, the Dominican Republic, France, Haiti, Mauritius, Morocco, Sweden, Tunisia**  
 People spend Mother's Day showering their mothers/mother figures with gifts and flowers to show their appreciation.

June 24th or the closest weekend to (Summer Solstice)

**MIDSUMMER**



**Scandinavia**  
 Scandanavians celebrate Midsummer, the longest day of the year, outdoors, enjoying light and connecting to nature.

Day before Eid al-Adha

**DAY OF ARAFAH**



**Islam**  
 During Arafah, many Muslims spend the day fasting, in prayer, making du'a and asking Allah for forgiveness. Arafah occurs on the second day of the Hajj (pilgrimage to Makkah). It is also the holiest day of the Islamic Hijri lunar year.

Dates vary from year to year, shifting approx. 11 days earlier each year. (4 days of celebration)

**EID AL-ADHA**



**Islam**  
 For Eid al-Adha, a special prayer known as "Salat al-Eid" and a sermon known as a "khutbah" are the first parts of the Eid al-Adha celebration. Traditionally, the sacrifice comes next. The remainder of the days is spent visiting friends' and family's homes and celebrating "AL-Eid"

Full moon in the 8th lunar month (Jul-Aug)

**ASALHA PUJA (DHARMA DAY)**



**Buddhism**  
 Dharma Day is a time for Buddhists to commemorate the first Buddha's teachings by gathering at the temples for prayer, meditation, listening to the sermons, as well as making offerings to the temple and monks.

First day of the first month of the Islamic calendar (varies on the Gregorian Calendar)

**ISLAMIC NEW YEAR (HIJRI NEW YEAR)**



**Islam**  
 Those of Muslim faith engage in prayers and rituals at the (Masjed) mosque and historical public locations during Hijri New Year. Families gather for a meal together while sharing stories, ideas, experiences, and feelings to celebrate the new year.

Aug Sep

**PARYUSHAN**



**Jainism**  
 Paryushan is an eight-day (for Shwtemabar) and ten-day (for Digambar) holy period of studying, meditation, reflection and fasting.

Last day of Paryushan-parva

**SAMVATSARI**



**Jainism**  
 Samvatsari is the last day of the eight-day-long festival, Paryushan-Parva. Jains seek forgiveness for the sins of humanity. They also spend this day finding forgiveness for others who have wronged them.

Aug Sep


**KSHAMAVANI**



**Jainism**  
 During Kshanavani, Jains seek forgiveness and release grudges they have against others. They will approach their loved ones and neighbours and ask for them to be relinquished from their past faults to encourage peace.

Varies between September-October. 3rd month of the Islamic calendar

**MAWLEED AL-NABI**



**Islam**  
 Mawleed al-Nabi is the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Muslims who celebrate this occasion share food, attend lectures about the Prophet's life and virtues, prayer services, participate in marches, and recite the Qur'an, litanies, and devotional poetry of the Prophet.

The 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar. (Sep-Oct)

**MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL / TRUNG THU / CHUSEOK / TSUKIMI**

**China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam**  
 The festival is celebrated with family reunions, moon gazing and eating of moon cakes. In Vietnam, it is called 'Trung Thu.' On that night children form a procession and travel through the streets with bright lanterns, singing and dancing to the beat of drums. In Korea it is called 'Chuseok'. It is observed by paying homage to ancestors and expressing gratitude for rich crops.





The first 2 days of the year in the Hebrew calendar (between Sep-Oct)

**ROSH HASHANAH**

**Judaism**  
For Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, the two-day celebration kicks off each day with the sound of a ram's horn (shofar), attending services in synagogue, performing Tashlich (a prayer given by a body of freshwater), eating festive meals, and lighting candles in the evening.

**Sep Oct**

**DUSSEHRA/ VIJAYADASHAMI "THE DAY OF VICTORY"**

**Hinduism**  
The 10th day of the bright half (Shukla Paksha) of the month of Ashvin (Ashwayuja). Dussehra festivities last for many days and are spent immersed in songs, dances and large processions. Gatherings with loved ones are held where they exchange gifts and wear traditional outfits.

The 10th day of Tishrei (Sep-Oct)

**YOM KIPPUR (THE DAY OF ATONEMENT)**

**Judaism**  
Yom Kippur is a 25-hour solemn fast day where Jewish people spend praying, seeking forgiveness and a fresh start both with God and their souls.

Northern Hemisphere (Apr-May); Southern (Oct-Nov)

**BIRTH OF BÁB AND BAHÁ'U'LLAH "TWIN HOLY DAYS"**

**Bahá'í Faith**  
Twin Holy Days is the observance of the birth of the two prophets associated with the Baha'i revelation. Baha'is hold gatherings to pray, read from the Baha'i writings, sing, and dance.

Five days after Yom Kippur

**SUKKOT**

**Judaism**  
Sukkot is a seven-day festival to commemorate the times Jews spend time on pilgrimages. They build huts called "Sukkahs" and spend days eating and even sleeping in these huts like the pilgrims did previously.

**31 HALLOWEEN**

**International**  
Halloween is a day filled with spooky themes and stories. People dress in costumes, whether they are scary or funny, host parties, collect candy around the neighborhood, and go through haunted houses.

**Oct Nov**

**DIWALI: THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

**Hinduism**  
Diwali is a celebration that takes place over the span of five days. There are specific traditions for each day that include placing gold items and clay lamps around the house, holding worship ceremonies, having a lavish feast, exchanging sweets, and celebrating sibling bonds.

**1-2 Nov**

**DAY OF THE DEAD (DIA DE LOS MUERTOS)**

**Mexico**  
Dia De Los Muertos is an occasion for the living to connect with the dead. During this two-day holiday, altars are set up to honour dead loved ones that consist of offerings (Mexican cuisine), old photographs, Calaveras (sugar skulls), and Mexican marigold flowers. Rather than mourning those who have passed, this is a time to celebrate past and present life.

**03 Nov**

**BUNKA NO HI - CULTURE DAY**

**Japan**  
Bunka no Hi is a day spent celebrating Japanese art and culture. People attend exhibitions at art galleries and museums, cultural festivals, and parades.

**08 Dec**

**BODHI DAY**

**Buddhism**  
People who practice Buddhism celebrate the day of Buddha gaining enlightenment by decorating their houses and surrounding trees with multi-coloured string lights, meditating, praying, and reciting Buddhist texts.

The Hebrew calendar date of 25 Kislev (usually between Nov-Dec)

**HANUKKAH: FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

**Judaism**  
Hanukkah is celebrated by Jewish people by lighting the menorah (traditional candelabrum), playing a game called dreidel, and eating special holiday food.

**25 Dec**

**CHRISTMAS**

**Christianity**  
Christmas Day is a widely recognized holiday in Christianity and Western culture. Festivities take place throughout the entire month of December. Special church services take place to recount the story of the birth of Christ, people sing holiday carols, and an evergreen tree is placed and decorated in homes (real or fake). On the eve and actual day, people gather with their family and friends to share special meals and treats, as well as exchange gifts.

