



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar October - 2024

Month-Long Observances:

Canadian Islamic History Month: Canadian Islamic History Month is celebrated every October in Canada to recognize the significant contributions of Canadian Muslims to the country's social, cultural, and economic development. It was officially declared in 2007 by the Canadian government. The month is a time to honor the diverse heritage, culture, and history of Muslims in Canada, while also promoting a better understanding of Islam and Muslim communities.

Canadian Women's History Month: Canadian Women's History Month is celebrated every October to recognize the contributions of women to the country's history, culture, and society. It was officially established in 1992, and each year, it highlights the achievements of women across various fields, including politics, science, arts, and activism. The month often features events, educational programs, and resources aimed at raising awareness about women's history and contemporary issues facing women in Canada. Themes may vary yearly, focusing on specific groups or significant milestones in women's rights and achievements.

Canada Latin American Heritage Month: Canada Latin American Heritage Month is celebrated in October to honor and recognize the contributions of Latin American communities to Canadian society and culture. The month acknowledges the rich histories, traditions, and achievements of individuals from Latin American countries. This celebration was officially recognized in 2018, reflecting Canada's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Events throughout the month may include cultural festivals, art exhibitions, educational workshops, and community gatherings, showcasing Latin American music, dance, cuisine, and more.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed every October to raise awareness about breast cancer, promote education about the disease, and encourage early detection and treatment. It aims to inform the public about risk factors, screening options, and the importance of regular mammograms. The month is marked by various activities, including fundraising events, walks, and campaigns that often feature the iconic pink ribbon symbol. Organizations, communities, and individuals come together to support those affected by breast cancer, celebrate survivors, and remember those who have lost their battles with the disease.

Day Observances:

October 2 International Day of Non-Violence: International Day of Non-Violence, observed on October 2nd, honors Mahatma Gandhi's birthday and promotes the principles of non-violence, peace, and conflict resolution. It encourages individuals and societies to resolve disputes through peaceful means, reflecting Gandhi's philosophy of "ahimsa" (non-violence) and advocating for global peace and tolerance.

The logo for Diversity Thunder Bay features the word "Diversity" in a large, bold, dark font, with "Thunder Bay" in a smaller, lighter font below it. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of several overlapping, curved lines in shades of grey, yellow, red, and black, resembling a fan or a set of wings.

Diversity Thunder Bay

October 2 Rosh Hashanah: Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, will begin at sundown on October 2, 2024, and end at nightfall on October 4. This significant holiday has its roots in ancient Jewish tradition, believed to have been established during the Babylonian exile in the 6th century BCE. It marks the creation of the world and serves as a time for reflection, repentance, and renewal. Celebrated with festive meals featuring symbolic foods like apples and honey, Rosh Hashanah encourages introspection and community bonding, paving the way for Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, ten days later.

October 7 World Habitat Day: International Literacy Day, celebrated annually on September 8th, was established by UNESCO to highlight the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights. This day aims to raise awareness about literacy issues around the world and promote efforts to improve literacy rates, ensuring that everyone can acquire essential reading and writing skills.

October 10 World Mental Health Day: World Mental Health Day 2024, observed on October 10, focuses on raising awareness about mental health issues and promoting mental well-being worldwide. This year's theme highlights the importance of mental health education, emphasizing the need for accessible resources and support systems that empower individuals to prioritize their mental wellness. By fostering open conversations and reducing stigma, we can create a more supportive environment for those affected by mental health challenges, encouraging everyone to seek help and connect with others.

October 11 National Coming Out Day: Observed on October 11, celebrates the LGBTQ+ community and encourages individuals to openly express their sexual orientation or gender identity. Established in 1988, this day aims to promote awareness, acceptance, and support, highlighting the importance of coming out as a means to combat stigma and foster understanding. By sharing personal stories and experiences, both individuals and allies help create a more inclusive society, reinforcing the message that everyone deserves to live authentically and without fear.

October 11 Yom Kippur: Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, will be observed from the evening of October 11 to the evening of October 12 in 2024. It is the holiest day in Judaism, marked by fasting, prayer, and reflection. During this time, individuals seek forgiveness for their sins and strive for spiritual renewal. Yom Kippur culminates in a Neilah service, where the gates of repentance are symbolically closed, and the community comes together in hope and introspection, reaffirming their commitment to a righteous life.

October 11 International Day of the Girl Child: October 11 is International Day of the Girl Child, a day dedicated to celebrating the voices and power of girls, championing their rights worldwide, and reflecting on the challenges they continue to face because of their gender. The United Nations subsequently adopted a resolution to formally recognize this important date. Across Canada and around the world, girls are making an impact and creating positive change in their communities and far beyond.



October 14 Thanksgiving: Canadian Thanksgiving in 2024 will be celebrated on Monday, October 14. This holiday is a time for Canadians to gather with family and friends to give thanks for the harvest and blessings of the past year. Traditional meals often feature turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie, reflecting a blend of cultural influences. Many Canadians also take the opportunity to enjoy autumn activities, such as hiking and celebrating the changing leaves, while reflecting on gratitude and togetherness.

October 16 Sukkot: In 2024, Sukkot will begin at sundown on October 16 and end at nightfall on October 23. This Jewish festival, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, commemorates the Israelites' journey in the desert and their reliance on God for sustenance. Observers build temporary structures called sukkahs, where they eat meals and sometimes sleep, symbolizing the fragile nature of life. The week is marked by joyful celebrations, including special prayers, festive meals, and the ritual waving of the lulav and etrog, representing unity and gratitude for the harvest.

October 17 The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty will be observed on October 17, 2024. This day aims to raise awareness about the global struggle against poverty and to promote efforts to eradicate it in all its forms. Established by the United Nations, the day highlights the importance of collaboration, sustainable development, and social justice to uplift marginalized communities. Various events and campaigns will take place worldwide to engage individuals and organizations in discussions about solutions to poverty, emphasizing that it is a shared responsibility that requires collective action.

October 17 Spirit Day: Spirit Day in 2024 will be observed on October 17. This annual event promotes awareness of LGBTQ+ bullying and encourages people to wear purple in solidarity with LGBTQ+ youth. Established in 2010, it honors those lost to anti-LGBTQ+ violence and fosters a culture of acceptance and support, reinforcing that everyone deserves respect and understanding.

October 18 Persons Day: October 18 is Persons Day in Canada. It marks the day in 1929 when the historic decision to include women in the legal definition of "persons" was handed down by Canada's highest court of appeal. This gave some women the right to be appointed to the Senate of Canada and paved the way for women's increased participation in public and political life. It is important to note that this decision did not include all women, such as Indigenous women and women of Asian heritage and descent.

October 20 Sikh Holy Day (birth of Guru Granth): On Sunday, October 20, 2024, Sikhs will celebrate a holy day honoring the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, their central scripture. This day includes readings and prayers, emphasizing its teachings of equality and devotion, and recognizing its unique significance among world scriptures.



October 22 International Stuttering Awareness Day: International Stuttering Awareness Day will be observed on October 22, 2024. This day aims to raise awareness about stuttering, promote understanding, and support those who experience it. Activities typically include educational campaigns, workshops, and discussions to foster empathy and reduce stigma, highlighting the importance of communication and acceptance for individuals who stutter.

October 24 United Nations Day: United Nations Day will be observed on October 24, 2024. This day commemorates the establishment of the UN in 1945 and celebrates its mission to promote peace, security, and human rights globally. Events typically include discussions, cultural activities, and educational initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the UN's work and its impact on global issues, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation for a better world.

October 31 Halloween: Halloween 2024 will be celebrated on Thursday, October 31. This festive occasion has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, where people believed that the boundary between the living and the dead was blurred, allowing spirits to roam the earth. To ward off these spirits, Celts would light bonfires and wear costumes. As Christianity spread, the holiday evolved, incorporating elements from All Hallows' Eve, the night before All Saints' Day. Today, Halloween is marked by a variety of traditions, including trick-or-treating, costume parties, haunted houses, and spooky decorations. Communities engage in pumpkin carving, known as jack-o'-lanterns, and children go door-to-door collecting candy, making it a lively celebration that embraces both fun and fright. Halloween also serves as a time for creative expression, with people of all ages showcasing their imaginative costumes and participating in community events, celebrating the rich tapestry of history and folklore that defines this beloved holiday.

October 31 Diwali: Diwali in 2024 will be celebrated from the evening of October 31 to November 1. Known as the Festival of Lights, Diwali symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. Festivities include lighting oil lamps (diyas), decorating homes with rangoli, and sharing sweets and gifts. Families perform prayers to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, and Ganesha, the remover of obstacles. The celebrations often feature fireworks, festive meals, and community gatherings, fostering joy and unity as people reflect on renewal and cultural heritage.