



Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Calendar June - 2025

Month-Long Observances:

Indigenous History Month: Indigenous History Month, observed in June in Canada, is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, heritage, and diverse cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. Officially declared in 2009, the month serves to honor Indigenous contributions to society while also acknowledging the lasting impacts of colonization, including residential schools and systemic injustices. It is a vital opportunity for all Canadians to reflect on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and actively support reconciliation efforts. Throughout the month, communities host educational events, storytelling, art showcases, and cultural celebrations that highlight Indigenous resilience, innovation, and leadership. A key date within the month is June 21—National Indigenous Peoples Day—which coincides with the summer solstice and is dedicated to honoring Indigenous cultures across the country.

Men's Health Month: Men's Health Month, observed in June, is dedicated to raising awareness about health issues that affect men and boys, promoting early detection and treatment of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, depression, and diabetes. The month encourages men to adopt healthier lifestyles through regular exercise, a balanced diet, stress management, and routine medical checkups. It also aims to address the stigma around men's mental health and encourages open conversations about emotional well-being. Communities, health organizations, and workplaces often organize screenings, fitness challenges, educational campaigns, and events to support men in taking proactive steps toward better health.

Pride Month: Pride Month, celebrated every June, honors the LGBTQ+ community, their history, culture, and ongoing fight for equality. It commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Riots, a turning point in the LGBTQ+ rights movement. The month features parades, marches, and events to raise awareness about issues like discrimination and legal rights. Pride is both a celebration of love and identity, and a time to reflect on progress and ongoing struggles for equality. The rainbow flag, representing the diversity of the community, is widely displayed as people show support through activism, education, and celebration.

Filipino Heritage Month: Filipino Heritage Month is celebrated across Canada every June to recognize and honor the history, culture, and contributions of Filipino Canadians. Officially designated by the Canadian Parliament in 2018 through Motion M-155, the month highlights the vibrant traditions, values, and achievements of one of Canada's fastest-growing communities. It serves as a time for cultural events, community gatherings, and public education to celebrate Filipino identity and strengthen multicultural understanding. The tragic April 26, 2025 attack at the Lapu-Lapu Day festival in Vancouver, which killed 11 people and injured nearly 30, cast a somber tone on this year's observance, but also highlighted the resilience and unity of the Filipino community and its allies in the face of unimaginable loss.



Day-Long Observances:

June 1st—3rd Day Shavuot: Shavuot in 2025 will be observed from sundown on Sunday, June 1, until nightfall on Tuesday, June 3, in the Diaspora, and for one day in Israel . This Jewish festival commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and is traditionally celebrated with all-night Torah study, reading the Book of Ruth, and enjoying dairy foods like cheesecake and blintzes. In 2025, the holiday coincides with New Jersey's scheduled primary elections on June 3, prompting concerns about potential disenfranchisement of observant Jewish voters who refrain from work and travel during Shavuot.

June 5th World Environment Day: World Environment Day is celebrated every year on June 5th and is the United Nations' principal platform for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment. Established in 1972 and first held in 1974, it has grown into a global movement with participation from over 150 countries. Each year focuses on a specific theme—such as land restoration, biodiversity, or plastic pollution—and is hosted by a different country; in 2025, the theme is “Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience”, and the host country is Côte d'Ivoire. The day promotes global action through clean-up campaigns, tree planting, policy advocacy, and community engagement.

June 6th Eid al-Adha: Eid al-Adha, also known as the Festival of Sacrifice, is one of the most significant Islamic holidays and will be observed in 2025 from the evening of Friday, June 6 to the evening of Sunday, June 8, though dates may vary slightly depending on moon sightings. It commemorates the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God, and is marked by special prayers, the ritual slaughter of animals (qurbani), charity to the poor, and festive meals with family and friends. It also coincides with the Hajj pilgrimage, which takes place in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

June 8th Christian Pentecost: In 2025, Christian Pentecost will be observed on Sunday, June 8. It occurs 50 days after Easter and commemorates the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles, as described in the New Testament (Acts 2). Pentecost is considered the birth of the Christian Church and is celebrated with special church services, prayers, hymns, and sometimes processions. The day is marked by the use of red, symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit, and it is a time for Christians to reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. It's a significant day for many Christian denominations, especially Pentecostals.

June 10th Action Anxiety Day: Action Anxiety Day, observed on June 10th, is aimed at encouraging people to take proactive steps toward managing and overcoming anxiety. The day encourages individuals to take small but meaningful steps to improve their mental health, reduce anxiety triggers, and break free from patterns of avoidance. It serves as a reminder that while anxiety is common, taking action can help people regain control and improve their well-being.



June 12th World Day Against Child Labor: World Day Against Child Labour is observed on June 12 each year to raise awareness about the global issue of child labor and promote actions to eliminate it. The day focuses on highlighting the harmful effects of child labor on children's health, education, and overall well-being, while encouraging governments, organizations, and individuals to take steps toward ending exploitative practices.

June 12th Philippine Independence Day: Philippine Independence Day is celebrated on June 12 each year, marking the day in 1898 when the Philippines declared independence from Spanish rule. On this day, Filipinos led by Emilio Aguinaldo raised the Philippine flag in Kawit, Cavite, symbolizing the end of over 300 years of Spanish colonization. The day is celebrated with various activities, including flag-raising ceremonies, parades, cultural performances, and reflections on the country's history. It serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made for freedom and national sovereignty.

June 19th Juneteenth: Juneteenth, celebrated on June 19th, marks the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the United States. The day commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers, led by General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that enslaved people were free, two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. Juneteenth celebrates freedom, African American culture, and resilience, and has become a time for reflection, community events, educational programs, parades, and family gatherings.

June 20th World Refugee Day: World Refugee Day is observed on June 20th each year to honor the resilience and courage of refugees worldwide. The day aims to raise awareness about the struggles faced by displaced individuals and families, while also highlighting the importance of supporting refugees and finding solutions to global displacement issues. It serves as an opportunity to reflect on the rights and needs of refugees, promote inclusion, and encourage solidarity through events, advocacy, and fundraisers. World Refugee Day also emphasizes the collective responsibility of governments, organizations, and individuals to protect and assist refugees around the world.

June 21st National Indigenous Peoples Day: National Indigenous Peoples Day is celebrated on June 21st to honor the cultures, traditions, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. Falling on the summer solstice, it holds deep cultural and spiritual significance, marking a time of renewal and connection. The day was officially recognized in 1996 as "National Aboriginal Day" and renamed in 2017. Events are held across Canada to celebrate Indigenous cultures, and people are encouraged to participate through local festivities, social media, and community involvement. It's a time for reflection, celebration, and understanding of Indigenous



June 24th Saint-Jean Baptiste Day: Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, celebrated on June 24th, is the national holiday of Quebec and a major cultural event for French Canadians. Originally a Catholic feast honoring Saint John the Baptist, it has evolved into a secular celebration of Francophone heritage, identity, and pride. The day features parades, concerts, fireworks, and public gatherings, especially in cities like Montreal and Quebec City. It has been an official holiday in Quebec since 1925 and was declared the province's national holiday in 1977. Most businesses close for the day, and people proudly display Quebec's blue and white flag.

June 27th Canadian Multiculturalism Day: Canadian Multiculturalism Day, observed on June 27th, celebrates the rich cultural diversity and inclusive values that define Canada. Officially recognized in 2002, the day honors the contributions of all cultural communities, including Indigenous peoples, to Canadian society. It promotes respect, understanding, and harmony among the country's many cultures. Across Canada, the day is marked with festivals, performances, and community events that showcase music, food, art, and traditions from around the world. It reinforces Canada's identity as a multicultural nation where diversity is seen as a source of strength.