



Indigenous Education Council

Significant Events Forecast

The intended purpose for this list is to serve as a monthly forecast of dates and events commonly observed and promoted.

January

National Ribbon Skirt Day – January 4th:

This day originates with the story of Isabella Kulak, a member of Cote First Nation, who was shamed for wearing her handmade ribbon skirt to a formal wear day at her elementary school. Traditionally worn by First Nations and Métis peoples, ribbon skirts are a meaningful symbol of identity, resilience, and survival for Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, and represents a direct connection to Mother Earth.

A day where Indigenous women across the country are encouraged to wear their traditional regalia to celebrate their culture, their strength and their connection as women.

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- [Understanding history, protocol important for allies who want to wear ribbon skirts: Advocates | CBC News](#)
- [Walk A Mile In A Ribbon Skirt Day: CANADA 30s 1920x1080 EN \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Women walk a mile in ribbon skirts to honour those who wear them | APTN News \(youtube.com\)](#)
- <https://www.theribboniskirtproject.ca>

February

Have a Heart Day - February 14:

Have a Heart Day is observed on February 14. It's an annual event organized by the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada. Activists, organizers, and community members march to the parliament to raise their voices against the discrimination and marginalization faced by the Indigenous people of Canada. National Have a Heart Day is about organizing a movement that creates sustainable change in the lives of First Nations children and fills it with respect, love, and

equal opportunities. (from: nationaltoday.com)

- [Have a Heart Day | First Nations Child & Family Caring Society \(fncaringsociety.com\)](http://fncaringsociety.com)

MMIWG2S+ Women’s Memorial March – February 14:

February 14th, marks the 32nd annual Women’s Memorial March, which honours the lives of Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people lost to violence. The march was started in 1992 in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside (DTES), on the traditional and unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, in response to the murder of an Indigenous woman in the area. Now, this march takes place in communities across the country, which are organized and led by Indigenous women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, families, and survivors. (from: familyurvivorscircle.ca)

- [Final Report | MMIWG \(mmiwg-ffada.ca\)](http://mmiwg-ffada.ca)
- [NFSC Recognizes the 2023 Women’s Memorial March • National Family and Survivors Circle Home • National Family and Survivors Circle \(familyurvivorscircle.ca\)](http://familyurvivorscircle.ca)
- [Feb 14th Annual Womens Memorial March | Their Spirits Live Within Us \(wordpress.com\)](http://wordpress.com)

Louis Riel Day – February 19th

Louis Riel Day is held every year on November 16 across the Métis homelands. November 16 is the anniversary of Riel’s execution in 1885. During that year, Riel led Métis people in the Northwest Resistance, which was a stand against the Government of Canada because it was encroaching on Metis rights and their way-of-life. The Métis were defeated at the siege of Batoche and the Canadian government captured Riel. He was eventually put on trial where he was convicted of treason and executed. As a result, Métis people across Canada were labeled as traitors and for generations many felt the need to hide their Métis culture and heritage. Despite this oppression, many Métis people found a way to preserve their way-of-life and passed it on to current generations. (from: www.metisnation.org)

- [Louis Riel Day Resource \(trentu.ca\)](http://trentu.ca)

International Mother Language Day – February 21st:

This annual global event was founded to promote and celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity around the world. (from: focc.ca)

- [AFN 2023 International Mother Language Day \(youtube.com\)](http://youtube.com)
- [International Mother Language Day! - First Peoples Cultural Council \(fpcc.ca\)](http://fpcc.ca)

Afro Indigenous Month:

Learn about the origins, challenges, and achievements of people who have both African and Indigenous ancestry.

- <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/navigating-the-complexities-of-black-indigenous-identity-1.5998191>
- [Writing Myself into Existence: An Essay on the Erasure of Black Indigenous Identity in Canadian Education - Yellowhead Institute](http://yellowheadinstitute.ca)
- [Essay Black Native Identity and Futurity \(si.edu\)](http://si.edu)

- [Black History Month: Black/Afro-Indigenous Reading and Media List - ROOM Magazine](#)

International Day of Women and Girls in Science – February 12th:

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a UN observance that aims to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.

- [7 Indigenous People in STEM You Should Know - Westcoast Women in Engineering, Science and Technology - Simon Fraser University \(sfu.ca\)](#)
- [11 Indigenous Women Scientists to Follow | Cultural Survival](#)
- [Remarkable Indigenous Scientists and Researchers in Canada | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

March

International Women’s Day March 8th:

- [International Women's Day 2025 \(internationalwomensday.com\)](#)
- https://www.onedrop.org/en/news/what-is-international-womens-day-and-why-it-is-important/?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI47eRuvGs_wIV5A2tBh1_UgL0EAAYASAAEgJM4vD_BwE

Two-Spirit Celebration & Awareness Day - March 19th:

March 19th has been proclaimed as Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day by the Government of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver as advocated by the Two-Spirit Program team at CBRC.

- [Today is Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day - Community-Based Research Centre \(cbrc.net\)](#)

Elder Beary Day – March 20th: Celebrating our Elders past and present:

- <https://fnCARINGSOCIETY.COM/elderbeary-day>

World Water Day - March 22nd:

World Water Day is an annual United Nations Observance focusing on the importance of fresh water.

- <https://www.ohneganos.com/>
- <https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day/background>
- <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/06/07/make-it-safe/canadas-obligation-end-first-nations-water-crisis>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTtSgv95R4Y>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/global/2018/oct/04/ontario-six-nations-nestle-running-water>

National Indigenous Languages Day – March 31st:

- [Joint Statement by Ministers Guilbeault, Bennett, Miller and Vandal on National Indigenous Languages Day - Canada.ca](#)
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2021/03/joint-statement-by->

[ministers-guilbeault-bennett-miller-and-vandal-on-national-indigenous-languages-day.html](#)

April

Earth Day – April 22nd:

- [Legacy Schools Resources - The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund \(downiewenjack.ca\)](#)

May

National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ Peoples (MMIWG2SLGBTQIA+) - May 5th:

- [Final Report | MMIWG \(mmiwg-ffada.ca\)](#)
- [National Action Plan \(mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca\)](#)
- [The REDress Project – Jaime Black \(jaimeblackartist.com\)](#)

Bear Witness Day May 10th:

Bear Witness Day Keeps Spotlight on Jordan’s Principle and First Nations Children.

- [Bear Witness Day Keeps Spotlight on Jordan’s Principle and First Nations Children \(fnha.ca\)](#)

Moose Hide Campaign Day - May 16th:

- [Campaign Day | Moose Hide Campaign](#)

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Lesbophobia, and Transphobia – May 17th:

This day was created to mark the World Health Organization’s (WHO) important step to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder, on May 17th, 1990. Every year, advocates around the world call on local authorities, decision-makers, and the public to recognize and support the issues those with diverse sexual identities, gender expressions, and sex characteristics currently face.

- [Home ~ may17.org](#)
- [International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia \(IDAHOBIT\) - It Gets Better Canada](#)
- [International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, and Transphobia \(womentransformingcities.org\)](#)

June

National Indigenous History Month:

- [About National Indigenous History Month \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](#)
- [Reconciliation: A Starting Point - CSPS \(csps-efpc.gc.ca\)](#)

Summer Solstice - June 20

National Indigenous People's Day - June 21st:

- [National Indigenous Peoples Day \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](http://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

Pride Month

- [History of Canadian Pride | QueerEvents.ca](http://QueerEvents.ca)
- [What Does Two Spirit Mean?](#)
- [Two-Spirit Teachings Presented by Harlan Pruden \(Nēhiyo/First Nations Cree\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

July

Back to Batoche (Festival) - July 18th-21st

- [Back to Batoche | Metis Gathering](#)

Métis Nation Day – July 24th:

- [Métis National Council \(metisnation.ca\)](http://metisnation.ca)

August

Emancipation Day – August 1st:

- [Emancipation Day — August 1 - Canada.ca](http://Canada.ca)
- [Emancipation Day in Canada: Past, Present and Future – BC Black History Awareness Society](#)

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – August 9th:

- [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples | United Nations](#)

September

Powley Day – September 19th:

- [September 19 is Powley Day - Métis Nation of Ontario \(metisnation.org\)](http://metisnation.org)

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30th:

- [Understanding the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation \(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca\)](http://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

Orange Shirt Day (National) - September 30th:

- [Homepage - Orange Shirt Society \(orangeshirtday.org\)](http://orangeshirtday.org)

October

National Day of Action for MMIWG2S - October 4th:

- [Calls For Justice](#) • [National Family and Survivors Circle \(familysurvivorscircle.ca\)](#)

November

Treaties Recognition Week (Ontario) – First Week of November:

- [Treaties Recognition Week | ontario.ca](#)
- [Videos: Indigenous voices on treaties | ontario.ca](#)

Indigenous Veterans Day – November 8th:

- [Indigenous Veterans - Veterans Affairs Canada](#)
- [Indigenous veterans: They fought for freedom, democracy and an equality 'they could never share' | CBC Radio](#)

National Indigenous Disabilities Awareness Month:

- [Indigenous Disability Awareness Month \(IDAM\) | \(bcands.bc.ca\)](#)
- [Jordan's Principle](#)

#RockYourMocs – November 12th-18th:

- [Rock Your Mocs – Worldwide Social Media Event | 2024 November 10 – 16](#)

December

Winter Solstice - December 21^s