



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion CALENDAR

2024



This Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) calendar encompasses and represents the diversity of the Town of Aurora. This is not an exhaustive list of observances.

Faith Date Selection

Faith date selection was based on the most common religious affiliations in our community. Based on the 2021 Statistics Canada Census, 67% of Aurorans have a religious affiliation, with the below being the top five religions observed in our community:

50.7% of residents identify as Christian

5.8% of residents identify as Muslim

2.4% identify as Jewish

1.3% identify as Buddhist

1.3% identify as Hindu

Awareness Date Selection

Awareness date selection was based on the below criteria:

- **Dimensions of Diversity (Race, class, ethnicity, gender, immigration/refugee status, sexual orientation, Indigeneity, ability -including Mental Health-, age, culture)**
- **Awareness dates that help to educate and celebrate diversity and inclusion.**
- **Strategic Plan Pillars and Council approved Strategies- awareness dates that support these efforts.**
- **Traditional Events: historically recognized and programmed by the Town.**

If you notice something that should be added or updated in this calendar, please reach out to us at communications@aurora.ca. This calendar will be updated on a yearly basis.

2024 JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1  New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7  Christmas (Eastern)	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24  Bell Let's Talk Day	25	26	27 International Holocaust Day of Remembrance
28	29 National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia	30	31			

- 1 New Year's Day**
The first day of the year of the modern Gregorian calendar. (International)

- 7 Christmas (Eastern)**
The equivalent of December 25 on the Julian calendar. Many Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas day on or near this date. (Orthodox Christianity)


- 24 Bell Let's Talk Day**
Helping to raise awareness to address the stigma and challenges around mental health.

- 27 International Holocaust Day of Remembrance**
Designated by the United Nations (UN), this day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and commemorates the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism. (International)

- 29 National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia**
A day commemorating the Islamophobic attack that took place at the Grand Mosque in Quebec City, which took the lives of six people and seriously injured 19 others. The Government of Canada established this commemorative day in 2021 to honour the victims and express solidarity with the survivors of this tragedy. (Canada)

2024

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Lunar New Year 
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 International Mother Tongue Language Day	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Pink Shirt Day 	29		

 **Black History Month**
A time to honour and celebrate the diversity, history and culture of Black people in Canada.

10 Lunar New Year
This is the first day after the new moon. A religious and cultural festival for Chinese, Vietnamese and Koreans of Buddhist and other backgrounds. (Buddhism)








14 Valentine's Day
A day of romance when people celebrate their love for one another. The origin of this holiday dates back to the 5th century and is named after a Christian martyr, St. Valentine. (International)

21 International Mother Tongue Language Day
A worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. (International)

28 Pink Shirt Day
An international awareness day to promote anti-bullying. (International)

2024

MARCH





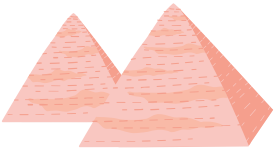
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day 	9
10  Ramadan	11 Ramadan	12 Ramadan	13 Ramadan	14 Ramadan	15 Ramadan	16 Ramadan
17 Ramadan	18 Ramadan	19 Nowruz  Ramadan	20 Ramadan	21 World Down Syndrome Day Ramadan	22 World Water Day Ramadan	23  Earth Hour Ramadan
24 Ramadan ----- 31  Easter Ramadan	25 Holi  Ramadan	26 Purple Day Ramadan	27 Ramadan	28 Ramadan	29  Good Friday Ramadan	30 Ramadan

 **Persian Heritage Month**
A time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Ontarians of Persian descent.

- 8 International Women's Day**
A global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day is also a call to action for accelerating women's equality.
- 10 Ramadan**
A holy month in which Muslims fast during daylight hours. It is a period that aims to cleanse the body and soul from impurities and re-focus oneself to the worship of God. (Islam)
- 19 Nowruz/ Persian New Year**
This marks the first day of spring and is celebrated as the beginning of the new year by more than 300 million people all around the world.
- 21 World Down Syndrome Day**
A day to raise public awareness of Down syndrome and the effective and meaningful inclusion and participation of all people with Down Syndrome.
- 22 World Water Day**
Celebrates water and raises awareness of those living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis.
- 23 Earth Hour**
A global movement where individuals and businesses are encouraged to turn off non-essential electric lights.
- 25 Holi**
The Festival of Colours that welcomes spring. Usually celebrated over two days with people throwing colourful powder and coloured water on each other. (Hinduism)
- 26 Purple Day**
An international grassroots epilepsy awareness initiative where people are encouraged to wear purple to promote awareness.
- 29 Good Friday**
Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus. (Christianity)
- 31 Easter**
Commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus from death. (Christianity)

2024




APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Ramadan	2 World Autism Awareness Day Ramadan	3 Ramadan	4 Ramadan	5 Ramadan	6 Ramadan
7 Ramadan	8 Ramadan	9 Ramadan	10  Eid al Fitr	11 National Pet Day 	12	13
14	15	16  National Volunteer Week	17 National Volunteer Week	18 National Volunteer Week	19 National Volunteer Week	20 National Volunteer Week
21 National Volunteer Week	22  National Volunteer Week Pesach/Passover	23 Pesach/Passover	24 Pesach/Passover	25 Pesach/Passover	26 Pesach/Passover	27  Pesach/Passover
28 National Day of Mourning Pesach/Passover	29 Pesach/Passover	30 Pesach/Passover				

 **Islamic History Month**
A time to reflect, celebrate, learn, and appreciate the diversity within Canada's Muslim communities.

- 2 World Autism Awareness Day**
The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.
- 10 Eid al Fitr**
This is "the breaking of the fast" that celebrates the end of Ramadan. (Observance begins at the sunset of the previous day, but special worship and prayers begin on this day). (Islam)
- 11 National Pet Day**
A day dedicated to giving pets a little extra love and attention.
- 16 National Volunteer Week**
National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 24 million + volunteers.
- 22 Pesach/Passover**
Commemorates the departure of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Celebrated over 7/8 days; the first two days and last two are holidays. (Judaism)
- 22 Earth Day**
Earth Day aims to raise awareness and demonstrate support of environmental protection, with many events held around the world. (International)
- 28 National Day of Mourning**
held annually in Canada on April 28, is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives, suffered injury or illness on the job or a work-related tragedy.

2024 MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						
			1	2	3	4
			National Youth Week	National Youth Week	National Youth Week	National Youth Week
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Red Dress Day						
National Youth Week	National Youth Week	National Youth Week				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
 Mother's Day					International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
National Public Works Week	National Public Works Week	National Public Works Week	National Public Works Week	National Public Works Week	National Public Works Week	National Public Works Week
26	27	28	29	30	31	
National AccessAbility Week	National AccessAbility Week					
		National AccessAbility Week	National AccessAbility Week	National AccessAbility Week	National AccessAbility Week	National AccessAbility Week

 **Asian Heritage Month**
An opportunity to acknowledge the long and rich history of Asian and South Asian Canadians and the positive impacts they have within our communities.

 **Jewish Heritage Month**
From law, to politics, to culture, to sports, this important initiative celebrates the contributions Jewish Canadians have been making to this country for 250 years!

- 1 National Youth Week**
Recognizing and celebrating the meaningful impact that youth have on their communities.
- 5 Red Dress Day**
The National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and two-spirit People (MMIWG2S)
- 12 Mother's Day**
Honoring mothers and grandmothers for their contributions to our families, communities and society.
- 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**
Created to draw the attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people.
- 19 National Public Works Week**
A week to educate, engage and inform the community about the essential role Public Works plays in our quality of life.
- 26 National AccessAbility Week**
Celebrating the valuable contributions of Canadians with disabilities and to recognize the need to promote a culture of inclusion to combat the ongoing discrimination against persons with disabilities.

2024

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	 World Environment Day	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	 National Indigenous Peoples Day	22
Eid al-Adha	Eid al-Adha	Eid al-Adha	Eid al-Adha			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
----- 30						

 **Pride Month**
A celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) pride.

 **Seniors' Month**
Recognizes and celebrates the work seniors have done and are doing in our communities.

 **National Indigenous History Month**
a time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

 **Italian Heritage Month**
An opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and impact of Italian Canadians in our country.

5 World Environment Day
United Nations day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action to protect our environment.

16 Father's Day
A day to celebrate and honour fathers and recognize their contributions to their families and the community.

17 Eid al-Adha
Also known as the Feast of Sacrifice, is symbolic of the lessons of sacrifice, devotion, and willingness as told by the story of Prophet Ibrahim. As one of the most important holidays in Islam, every year, Muslims celebrate by gathering with family and loved ones to pray, showing gratitude for life's blessings, sharing festive meals, and providing food to those in need. (Islam)

21 National Indigenous Peoples Day
This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs.



2024 JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1  Canada Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

 **Plastic Free July**
A month-long challenge that aims to encourage everyone to refuse single-use plastics and incorporate more sustainable alternatives into their lives.

1 Canada Day
Formerly known as Dominion Day, Canada Day is the national day of Canada. A federal statutory holiday, it celebrates the anniversary of Canadian Confederation which occurred on July 1, 1867.

2024 AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1  Emancipation Day	2	3
4	5 Civic Holiday	6	7	8	9	10
11	12  International Youth Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



- 1 Emancipation Day**
August 1 is now recognized across Canada as Emancipation Day, marking the end of slavery in the British Empire in 1834. Emancipation Day celebrates the strength and perseverance of Black communities in Canada

- 5 Civic Holiday**
The August Civic Holiday is known by a variety of names across Canada and is celebrated according to local municipal traditions and history.

- 12 International Youth Day**
This is a day to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions, and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal, and equitable engagement.

2024

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 Labour Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16  World Ozone Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 British Home Child Day
29	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 					

2 Labour Day
The first Monday in September, this date has been a statutory holiday in Canada since 1894. It originated in the first workers' rallies of the Victorian era. (Canada)









16 World Ozone Day
This day is observed to spread awareness among people about the depletion of Ozone Layer and search possible solutions to preserve it.

28 British Home Child Day
Between 1869 and the late 1940s, during the child emigration movement, over 100,000 British children were sent to Canada from Great Britain. This date recognizes and honour the contributions they have made to Ontario.

30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
A day to reflect on the tragic legacy of the residential school system and the ways it continues to affect Indigenous Peoples in Canada

2024

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2  Rosh HaShanah	3  Rosh HaShanah	4  Rosh HaShanah	5
6	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day	11  Yom Kippur	12  Yom Kippur
13	14  Thanksgiving	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30  Halloween	31 Diwali 		





 **Islamic History Month**
A time to reflect, celebrate, learn, and appreciate the diversity within Canada's Muslim communities.

 **Hispanic Heritage Month**
Recognizes the rich contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to our social, economic, political and multicultural fabric.

- 2 Rosh HaShanah**
A two-day celebration honouring the creation of the universe. Begins at sundown. (Judaism)
- 10 World Mental Health Day**
An annual event to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.
- 11 Yom Kippur**
The Jewish Day of Atonement comprises a 25-hour fast whereby people refrain from working, eating, and drinking. Synagogue services are also attended in worship of this sacred day. Begins at sundown. (Judaism)
- 14 Thanksgiving**
A day of giving thanks to the harvest and blessings of the previous year. (Canada)
- 31 Halloween**
Halloween is thought to have originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, though it shares important ties with various other celebrations from several faiths and cultures, including Día de los Muertos (or the Day of the Dead), All Saints Day, and All Souls Day.
- 31 Diwali**
Diwali is a popular festival known as the Festival of Lights. It's celebrated continuously for five days and is associated with a story about the destruction of evil by Lord Vishnu in one of his many manifestations. (Hinduism)

2024

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Diwali 	2 Diwali 
Treaties Recognition Week 3 Diwali 	Treaties Recognition Week 4 Diwali 	Treaties Recognition Week 5	Treaties Recognition Week 6	Treaties Recognition Week 7	Treaties Recognition Week 8	Treaties Recognition Week 9
10	11 Remembrance Day 	12	13  World Kindness Day	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- 1 Diwali**
Diwali is a popular festival known as the Festival of Lights. It's celebrated continuously for five days and is associated with a story about the destruction of evil by Lord Vishnu in one of his many manifestations. (Hinduism)










- 3 Treaties Recognition Week**
An annual event that honours the importance of treaties and helps students and residents of Ontario learn more about treaty rights and relationships.

- 11 Remembrance Day**
Commemorates the members of the armed forces who have sacrificed their lives during the World Wars and other military efforts in history and currently.

- 13 World Kindness Day**
Promoting kindness throughout the world.

2024

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3  International Day of Persons with Disabilities	4	5	6  National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas 	26 Boxing Day  Chanukah/Hanukkah	27  Chanukah/Hanukkah	28  Chanukah/Hanukkah
29  Chanukah/Hanukkah	30  Chanukah/Hanukkah	31  Chanukah/Hanukkah				

3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Promoted by the UN, this day is to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities. (International)

6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

This is a day to remember those who have been victims of gender-based violence and those we have lost. It is also a time to take action to prevent and respond to gender-based violence by remembering and learning from our past, listening to survivors and speaking out against harmful behavior. (Canada)

24 Christmas Eve

This is the evening before Christmas and is often observed with a long meal, usually with family, sometimes accompanied by other celebrations such as midnight mass. (Christianity)

25 Christmas (Western)

A holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is recognized as a public holiday in many nations around the world and is also celebrated secularly by many non-Christians. (Christianity)

26 Chanukah/Hanukkah

Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday in celebrating the success of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire, and the liberating and rededication of Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Begins at previous sundown and ends January 2, 2025. (Judaism)

26 Boxing Day

The day after Christmas Day was traditionally celebrated as the day tradesmen and servants would receive gifts from their employers. (International)