

# 2025

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION CALENDAR

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**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](mailto:communications@aurora.ca). This calendar is updated on a yearly basis.**

2025

# JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1  New Year's Day	2  Last day of Hanukkah 	3	4
5	6	7   Christmas (Eastern)	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22   Bell Let's Talk Day	23	24	25
26	27  International Holocaust Day of Remembrance	28	29   Lunar New Year  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)
- 2 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. (Judaism)
- 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)
- 22 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. (Canada)
- 29 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)

2025

# FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 National Girls and Women in Sports Day	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 Family Day	18	19	20	21 International Mother Tongue Language Day	22
23	24	25	26 Pink Shirt Day 	27	28 Ramadan begins 	



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

  

5

**National Girls and Women in Sports Day**  
honours the achievements of girls and women in sports and continues to Lead Her Forward by acknowledging the power of sports to unlock her limitless potential.

  

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)

  

17

**Family Day**  
A statutory holiday in Ontario.

  

21

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

  

26

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

  

28

**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)

2025

# MARCH

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

 **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.
- 14 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)
- 20 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.
- 22 Earth Hour**  
A global movement where individuals and businesses are encouraged to turn off non-essential electric lights.
- 26 Purple Day**  
An international grassroots epilepsy awareness initiative where people are encouraged to wear purple to promote awareness.
- 30 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)

2025

# APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 World Autism Awareness Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Passover begins 
13	14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday 	19
20 Easter  Passover ends	21	22 	23	24	25	26
27 National Volunteer Week begins 	28 National Day of Mourning	29	30			

 **Sikh Heritage Month**  
A celebration of Sikh arts, culture and heritage.

 **Arab Heritage Month**  
A time to showcase Arab culture, talent and heritage.

**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.

**12 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)

**18 Good Friday**  
Commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus. (Christianity)

**20 Easter**  
Commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus from death. (Christianity)

**22 Earth Day**  
Earth Day aims to raise awareness and demonstrate support of environmental protection, with many events held around the world. (International)

**27 National Volunteer Week**  
National Volunteer Week is a time to celebrate and thank Canada's 24 million + volunteers.

**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.

# 2025 MAY

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

 **Asian Heritage Month**  
An opportunity to acknowledge the long and rich history of Asian and South Asian Canadians.

 **Jewish Heritage Month**  
A celebration of the contributions of Jewish Canadians.

**1 National Youth Week**  
Recognizing and celebrating the meaningful impact that youth have on their communities. (May 1 to 7).

**5 Red Dress Day**  
The National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and two-spirit People.

**11 Mother's Day**  
Honoring mothers and grandmothers for their contributions to our families, communities and society.

**13 Mental Health Week**  
A week focusing on the importance of mental health supports in the community.

**16 Moose Hide Campaign Day**  
Recognizing that all forms of violence are unacceptable, regardless of gender.

**17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**  
Awareness for the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people.

**18 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.

**25 National Accessibility Week**  
Celebrating the contributions of Canadians with disabilities and recognizing the need to promote a culture of inclusion.

**28 Red Shirt Day**  
A visible show their support for persons and families of those who are living with disabilities.

2025

# JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5  World Environment Day	6  Eid al-Adha begins	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15  Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21  National Indigenous Peoples Day
22	23	24	25	26	27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day	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.
- 6 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, June 6 to 10. (Islam)
- 15 Father's Day**  
A day to celebrate and honour fathers and recognize their contributions to their families and the community.
- 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day**  
A day to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.
- 27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day**  
A day to celebrate the diversity of our country, our society and our communities.

2025

# JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1  Canada Day	2	3	4	5  Ashura
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.

**5 Ashura**  
Ashura is a day of commemoration in Islam and holds great significance for Muslims across the world. It falls on the 10th of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic calendar, carrying spiritual and historical importance for both Sunni and Shia Muslims. (Islam)

2025

# AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1  Emancipation Day	2
3	4 Civic Holiday	5	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
  
- 4 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.

2025

# 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  Rosh Hashanah	23	24	25  Rowan's Law Day	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.
- 22 Rosh HaShanah**  
A two-day celebration honouring the creation of the universe. Begins at sundown. (Judaism)
- 25 Rowan's Law Day**  
A day to help raise awareness about concussion safety.
- 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.

2025

# OCTOBER

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

 **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.

- 1 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)
- 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.
- 13 Thanksgiving**  
A day of giving thanks to the harvest and blessings of the previous year. (Canada)
- 19 Invisible Disabilities Week**  
This week brings awareness, education, and support to individuals and communities about unseen disabilities.
- 20 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)
- 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.

2025

# NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Treaties Recognition Week begins						Indigenous Veterans Day
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						

 **Hindu History Month**  
November is an opportunity to celebrate the Hindu way of life, examine its impact and contributions to the world culture.

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

**8 Indigenous Veterans Day**  
Commemorates the First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples who have served Canada in times of war and peace for more than 200 years, from the War of 1812 to both World Wars to Afghanistan, and who continue to serve.

**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.

2025

# 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  Chanukah begins	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22  Chanukah ends	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas 	26  Kwanzaa begins Boxing Day	27
28	29	30	31			

**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)

**14 Chanukah**

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 December 22. (Judaism)

**24 Christmas Eve**

This is the evening before Christmas and is often observed with a long meal and or mass, usually with family. (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 Kwanzaa**

A week-long celebration of African-Canadian culture.

**26 Boxing Day**

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