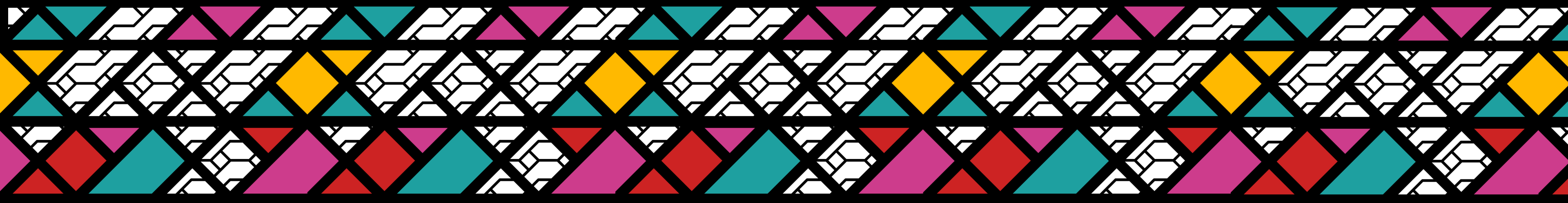


DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION CALENDAR

2026



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 is updated on a yearly basis.

2026

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
				1  New Year's Day	2	3	<div>1 New Year's Day The first day of the year of the modern Gregorian calendar. (International)</div> <div>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)</div>
4	5	6	7  Christmas (Eastern)	8	9	10	<div>21 Bell Let's Talk Day Helping to raise awareness to address the stigma and challenges around mental health.</div> <div>27 International Holocaust Day of Remembrance Designated by the United Nations (UN), this day marks the anniversary of the liberation of AuschwitzBirkenau and commemorates the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism. (International)</div>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	<div>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)</div>
18	19	20	21  Bell Let's Talk Day	22	23	24	
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	

2026

FEBRUARY

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

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

4 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)

16 Family Day
A statutory holiday in Ontario.

17 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)


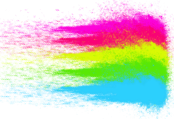




17 Ramadan
A holy month in which Muslims fast during daylight hours. It is a period that aims to cleanse the body and soul from impurities and re-focus oneself to the worship of God. (Islam)

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

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

2026

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	<div><div></div><div>Persian Heritage Month A time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Ontarians of Persian descent.</div></div>
1	2	3	4 <div><div>Holi</div></div>	5	6	7	
8 <div><div>International Women's Day</div></div>	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19 <div><div>Eid al Fitr</div></div>	20 <div><div>Nowruz</div></div>	21	<div><div>World Down Syndrome Day</div></div>
22 <div><div>World Water Day</div></div>	23	24	25	26 <div><div>Purple Day</div></div>	27	28 <div><div></div><div>Earth Hour</div></div>	
29	30	31					<div><div>4 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)</div><div><div>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.</div><div><div>19 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)</div><div><div>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.</div><div><div>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.</div><div><div>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.</div><div><div>26 Purple Day An international grassroots epilepsy awareness initiative where people are encouraged to wear purple to promote awareness.</div><div><div>28 Earth Hour A global movement where individuals and businesses are encouraged to turn off non-essential electric lights.</div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>

2026

APRIL

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

1

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)

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.

3

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

5

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

19

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

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.

2026

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	<div><div>Asian Heritage Month An opportunity to acknowledge the long and rich history of Asian and South Asian Canadians.</div><div>Jewish Heritage Month A celebration of the contributions of Jewish Canadians.</div><div><div>1</div>National Youth Week Recognizing and celebrating the meaningful impact that youth have on their communities. (May 1 to 7).</div><div><div>5</div>Red Dress Day The National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and two-spirit People.</div><div><div>10</div>Mother's Day Honoring mothers and grandmothers for their contributions to our families, communities and society.</div><div><div>14</div>Moose Hide Campaign Day Recognizing that all forms of violence are unacceptable, regardless of gender.</div><div><div>17</div>International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia Awareness for the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people.</div><div><div>17</div>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.</div><div><div>24</div>National AccessAbility Week Celebrating the contributions of Canadians with disabilities and recognizing the need to promote a culture of inclusion.</div><div><div>26</div>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. (Islam)</div><div><div>27</div>Red Shirt Day A visible show their support for persons and families of those who are living with disabilities.</div></div>
					1 National Youth Week begins	2	
3	4	5 Red Dress Day	6	7	8	9	
 10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 Moose Hide Campaign Day	15	16	
National Public Works Week begins17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia	18	19	20	21	22	23	
National Accessability Week begins24 <hr/> 31	25	26  Eid al-Adha begins	27  Red Shirt Day	28 	29	30	

2026

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	<div> World Environment Day</div> 5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<div> National Indigenous Peoples Day</div> <div> Father's Day</div> 21	22	23	24	<div> Ashura</div> 25	<div>Canadian Multiculturalism Day</div> 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.

21

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.

25



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)

27

Canadian Multiculturalism Day
A day to celebrate the diversity of our country, our society and our communities.

2026

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	<div><div>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.</div><div><div>1</div>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.</div></div>
			1 <div> Canada Day</div>	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		



2026

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	<div>1</div> <div>Emancipation Day</div> <p>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</p> <div>3</div> <div>Civic Holiday</div> <p>The August Civic Holiday is known by a variety of names across Canada and is celebrated according to local municipal traditions and history.</p> <div>12</div> <div>International Youth Day</div> <p>This is a day to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions, and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal, and equitable engagement.</p>
						<div>1</div> <div>Emancipation Day</div>	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	Civic Holiday						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
			<div>International Youth Day</div>				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						




2026

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		1	2	3	4	5	<div>7</div> <div>Labour Day</div> <div>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)</div>
6	7 Labour Day	8	9	10	11 <div>  <div>Rosh Hashanah</div> </div>	12	<div>11</div> <div>Rosh HaShanah</div> <div>A two-day celebration honouring the creation of the universe. Begins at sundown. (Judaism)</div>
13	14	15	16 <div>  <div>World Ozone Day</div> </div>	17	18	19	<div>16</div> <div>World Ozone Day</div> <div>This day is observed to spread awareness among people about the depletion of Ozone Layer and search possible solutions to preserve it.</div>
20 <div>  <div>Yom Kippur</div> </div>	21	22	23 <div>  <div>Rowan’s Law Day</div> </div>	24	25	26	<div>20</div> <div>Yom Kippur</div> <div>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)</div>
27	28	29	30 <div> <div>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</div>  </div>				<div>23</div> <div>Rowan’s Law Day</div> <div>A day to help raise awareness about concussion safety.</div>
							<div>30</div> <div>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</div> <div>A day to reflect on the tragic legacy of the residential school system and the ways it continues to affect Indigenous Peoples in Canada.</div>




2026


OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
				1	2	3	<div><div></div><div>Islamic History Month</div><div>A time to reflect, celebrate, learn, and appreciate the diversity within Canada's Muslim communities.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Hispanic Heritage Month</div><div>Recognizes the rich contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to our social, economic, political and multicultural fabric.</div></div>
4	5	6	7	8	9	<div><div></div><div>World Mental Health Day</div></div> 10	<div><div>10</div><div>World Mental Health Day</div><div>An annual event to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.</div></div>
11	<div><div></div><div>Thanksgiving</div></div> 12	13	14	15	16	17	<div><div>12</div><div>Thanksgiving</div><div>A day of giving thanks to the harvest and blessings of the previous year. (Canada)</div></div> <div><div>18</div><div>Invisible Disabilities Week</div><div>This week brings awareness, education, and support to individuals and communities about unseen disabilities.</div></div> <div><div>31</div><div>Halloween</div><div>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.</div></div>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	<div><div></div><div>Halloween</div></div> 31	

2026

NOVEMBER

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

1

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.

8

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)

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.

2026

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
		1	2	<div>3</div> <div></div> <div>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</div>	<div>4</div> <div></div> <div>Chanukah begins</div>	5	<div>3</div> <div>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</div> <div>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)</div>
<div>6</div> <div></div> <div>National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women</div>	7	8	9	10	11	<div>12</div> <div></div> <div>Chanukah ends</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Chanukah</div> <div>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 sundown. (Judaism)</div>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	<div>6</div> <div>National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women</div> <div>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)</div>
20	21	22	23	24	25	<div>26</div> <div></div> <div>Kwanzaa begins</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Christmas Eve</div> <div>This is the evening before Christmas and is often observed with a long meal and or mass, usually with family. (Christianity)</div>
				<div>Christmas Eve</div>	<div>Christmas</div> <div></div>	<div>Kwanzaa begins</div> <div>Boxing Day</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Christmas(Western)</div> <div>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)</div>
27	28	29	30	31			<div>26</div> <div>Kwanzaa</div> <div>A week-long celebration of African-Canadian culture.</div>
							<div>26</div> <div>Boxing Day</div> <div>The day after Christmas Day was traditionally celebrated as the day tradesmen and servants would receive gifts from their employers. (International)</div>