

Labour Day: September 1, 2025

A national statutory holiday since 1894, Labour Day celebrates the achievements of workers and the labour movement. It originated from workers' rallies in the Victorian era and today recognizes the importance of fair working conditions, rights, and contributions of all workers to Canadian society.

Learn more: <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/labour-day>

**International Day of Charity: September 5, 2025**

Charitable efforts influence public policy and enhance the social, mental, and physical health of communities. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has the goal of ending poverty at the center of the global mission. Poverty isn't just a lack of income; it also means hunger, exclusion, unsafe living conditions, and limited access to education or healthcare. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ending poverty requires strong partnerships between governments, civil society, businesses, and charitable organizations working together.

Learn more: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/charity-day>

**International Literacy Day: September 8, 2025**

Established by UNESCO in 1966, this day raises awareness of the importance of literacy as a human right and foundation for lifelong learning. It highlights global challenges where millions of people still lack basic reading and writing skills, with women and girls disproportionately affected. Literacy is essential for personal empowerment, reducing poverty, and achieving sustainable development.

This year, International Literacy Day will be celebrated under the theme of "Promoting literacy in the digital era." While digital tools can help expand learning opportunities for 739 million young people who lack basic literacy skills, the digital shift in learning makes them doubly marginalized as they are excluded from the benefits of digitally enhanced learning.

Learn more: <https://www.unesco.org/en/days/literacy>

**World Suicide Prevention Day: September 10, 2025**

Organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), this day promotes global commitment to reducing suicide rates. It encourages open conversations, education, and awareness to reduce stigma and support those struggling with mental health challenges. Communities worldwide hold activities such as walks, vigils, and awareness campaigns to remind us that suicide is preventable and support saves lives.

The Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention (CASP) is marking this day by hosting a free and live virtual event entitled Indigenous Knowledge and Life Promotion: Changing Narratives on Suicide, featuring guest speakers Elder John Rice and Lindsay DuPré. They will share insights into how Indigenous Knowledge can shift perspectives on suicide.

Learn more: <https://suicideprevention.ca/events/world-suicide-prevention-day/>

International Equal Pay Day : September 18, 2025

Declared by the United Nations, this day highlights the global gender pay gap, where women continue to earn less than men for work of equal value. It calls for stronger policies, workplace transparency, and collective action to close the wage gap and promote fairness. The gender pay gap is estimated at around 20 percent globally. Historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty, and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities continue to limit women and girls from expressing their full potential. The Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) led by the ILO, UN Women, and OECD supports governments, employers, workers, and their organizations to make concrete and coordinated progress towards the goal of eliminating the gender pay gap.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/equal-pay-day>



Gender Equality Week: September 21 – 27, 2025

A Canadian observance highlighting the contributions of women and gender-diverse people to the growth and identity of Canada. It also reaffirms the need to continue addressing persistent gaps in gender equality, while celebrating achievements made toward inclusivity and fairness. The gender equality timeline in Canada is presented in the link below.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/commemorations-celebrations/gender-equality-week/gender-equality-timeline.html>

Bi Visibility Day: September 23, 2025

Bi Visibility Day is celebrated to increase awareness and visibility of bisexual and biromantic people, while challenging stereotypes. It was first marked in 1999, and recognition of the observance has increased in recent years. It is a celebration of bi identity but also of other identities under the “bi+ umbrella” like pansexual, polysexual and omnisexual. More than 250 events marking the date will be held around the world and several public buildings around the world fly the pink, purple and blue bisexual flag, and numerous businesses and 2SLGBTQIA+ staff networks host specially themed events.

<https://bivisibilityday.com/>

International Week of Deaf People: September 22 – 28, 2025

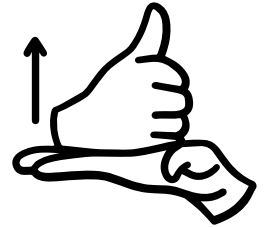
Established in 1958, this week celebrates the achievements of the Deaf community and raises awareness of accessibility, rights, and inclusion. Access to education, vocational training, and ongoing professional training and development, is key to gaining and retaining a job and earning a wage that allows independent living.

<https://wfdeaf.org/>

International Day of Sign Languages: September 23, 2025

This day marks a unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all Deaf people and other sign language users. Deaf people worldwide have historically faced, and continue to face, discrimination regarding the use of their national sign languages. The World Federation of the Deaf considers the lack of meaningful sign language legislation at the national level a grave violation of the fundamental rights of Deaf people. Currently, only 41.5% of countries officially recognize their national sign language. In Canada, the 2019 Accessible Canada Act recognizes LSQ, ASL, and Indigenous sign languages as primary languages for Deaf persons.

<https://wfdeaf.org/the-legal-recognition-of-national-sign-languages/>

**International Day of Peace: September 21, 2025**

The 2025 theme is “Act Now for a Peaceful World.”

Some ways to act now include:

- Sparking conversations about understanding, non-violence, and disarmament
- Volunteering in the community
- Listening and engaging with others who are different from you
- Challenging discriminatory language in the workplace
- Verifying facts before posting on social media

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day: September 30, 2025**

This federal statutory holiday honours the children who never returned from residential schools, Survivors, and their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots initiative raising awareness of the intergenerational impacts of residential schools. It reminds us that “Every Child Matters.” The orange shirt symbolizes the stripping away of culture, freedom, and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children. We are encouraged to wear orange and participate in commemorative activities to show solidarity and support reconciliation.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

