



Diversity Calendar Resources for January 2026

January in Canada includes two month-long observances: Alzheimer's Awareness Month, dedicated to increasing public understanding of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and Tamil Heritage Month, which celebrates the culture, history, and contributions of Tamil communities across the country.

January 1: New Year's Day

This marks the first day of the modern Gregorian calendar year and is widely celebrated around the world.

2026

January 4: World Braille Day

This day raises awareness about the importance of braille in ensuring full communication rights for blind and partially sighted individuals. Braille is essential for education, freedom of expression and opinion, and social inclusion, as reflected in Article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At the University of Regina, we are working towards ensuring that signage is accessible to all members of the campus community.

January 4: National Ribbon Skirt Day

Canada observes National Ribbon Skirt Day, established in 2022 after Isabella Kulak, a young girl from Cote First Nation, was shamed for wearing her ribbon skirt to school. The day honours the cultural strength, resilience and identity represented by ribbon skirts, and encourages Indigenous women and girls across Canada to wear them proudly.



January 17: Raoul Wallenberg Day

This day honours Canada's first honorary citizen, Raoul Wallenberg, who is credited with saving tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust.

January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

This day honors the achievements of Martin Luther King, Jr., a Baptist minister who advocated nonviolent means to end racial segregation.

He was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination in public accommodations, facilities, and employment, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

King was one of the most influential African American civil rights leaders of the 1960s.

“I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream.”

—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.





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January 21: Lincoln Alexander Day

This day recognizes the legacy of The Honourable Lincoln MacCauley Alexander, the first Black Member of Parliament, first Black federal Minister, and first Black Chair of the Worker's Compensation Board of Ontario. He was a national leader in advocating for racial equity and justice.

January 24: International Day of Education

The right to education is enshrined in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which calls for free and compulsory elementary education. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, further stipulates that countries shall make higher education accessible to all. Education is also key to sustainable development. When the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, the international community recognized that education is essential for the success of all 17 goals. Sustainable Development Goal 4 aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030.



January 24: World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture

This day highlights the cultural contributions of African peoples and global African diasporas, and promotes cultural diversity as a foundation for peace and sustainable development.

January 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Established by the United Nations, this day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and honours the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, along with millions of other victims of Nazism.



January 29: National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia

This day commemorates the 2017 Islamophobic attack at the Grand Mosque in Quebec City, which killed six people and injured nineteen. It honours the victims, supports survivors, and calls for collective action against Islamophobia.