



## Diversity Calendar Resources for February 2026

### This month focuses on 2 themes: Inclusion and Health

#### Inclusion

Inclusion is about creating spaces where people of all identities, backgrounds, and lived experiences feel respected, represented, and valued. The following observances highlight the importance of equity, belonging, and shared responsibility in building inclusive communities, whether through faith, culture, language, gender equity, social justice, or collective action against discrimination.

#### Black History Month



This year marks 30 years of Black History Month in Canada. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month. In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the Motion to Recognize the Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month. The motion received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008.

The 2026 theme for Black History Month is “30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations From Nation Builders to Tomorrow’s Visionaries.”

Last year, the University of Regina Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office and the University of Regina Faculty of Social Work partnered with the Saskatchewan Association of Black Social Workers, the University of Saskatchewan, and Affinity Credit Union on the UBUNTU film. The film features stories from Black members of our university community who share their contributions to promoting wellness in Saskatchewan and beyond. The film has three episodes - click on the links below to view:

[Episode 1](#) - Ubuntu Unleashed: Promoting wellness through sports and the arts.

[Episode 2](#) - Ubuntu in Health: Advancing collective well-being through research and advocacy.

[Episode 3](#) - Ubuntu in Practice: Cultivating wellness through inclusive excellence and leadership.

#### African Heritage Month - Nova Scotia

In Nova Scotia, people of African descent have been shaping the province for over 400 years. This observance helps us remember this legacy and serves as a reminder to move forward toward a more equitable and inclusive society.

In 2005, African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) was established in response to long standing advocacy addressing systemic inequities experienced by members of the African community. ANSA ensures that the voices of African Nova Scotians and people of African descent are involved in shaping government policy and decision making.



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### Indigenous Storytelling Month – Saskatchewan

February 2026 is a time to celebrate Indigenous storytelling, knowledge, history, and art. The Government of Saskatchewan has declared February 2026 Saskatchewan Indigenous Storytelling Month.

Dr. John Archer Library & Archives is helping to celebrate the Saskatchewan Indigenous Storytelling (SIS) program by serving as the host institution for this year's program launch. The Library is collaborating with several campus partners and the Regina Public Library to host events on February 6 and 7 featuring Saskatchewan Poet Laureate Louise Bernice Halfe (Sky Dancer), artist and author Sandra Lamouche, and University of Calgary faculty member and settler Melanie Kloetzel.

### World Interfaith Harmony Week: February 1–7

World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) was first proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010. It was subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly through resolution A/RES/65/5, which declared the first week of February each year as World Interfaith Harmony Week.

This observance was conceived to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence and remains highly relevant in today's global context, where minority religious groups continue to face oppression and harm.

### World Hijab Day: February 1

World Hijab Day aligns with World Interfaith Harmony Week in promoting religious harmony and tolerance. February 1, 2013, marked the first annual World Hijab Day (WHD) in recognition of the millions of Muslim women who choose to wear the hijab.



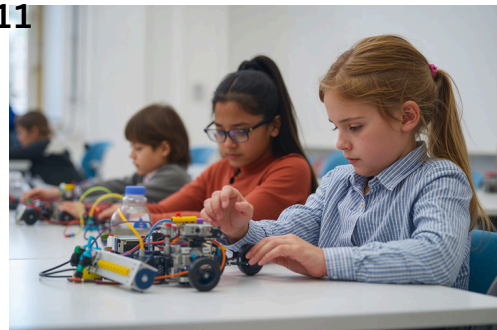
The movement was founded by Bangladeshi-New Yorker Nazma Khan, who created the initiative to foster personal freedom of religious expression and cultural understanding. Women from all walks of life are invited to experience wearing the hijab for one day each year on February 1.

By opening new pathways to understanding, Nazma aims to address and counteract some of the controversies surrounding why Muslim women choose to wear the hijab.

### International Day of Women and Girls in Science: February 11

The theme of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science (IDWGIS) 2026 is “Synergizing AI, Social Science, STEM and Finance: Building Inclusive Futures for Women and Girls.”

AI offers powerful tools for data analytics, health diagnostics, climate modelling, and more. To ensure that STEM and AI innovations reach marginalized groups, we must design equitable policies and strengthen community engagement and behaviour change strategies.





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### **National Flag of Canada Day: February 15**

This observance commemorates the inauguration of the Canadian flag in 1965 and serves as a symbol of national identity, unity, and shared values. The day provides an opportunity to reflect on what the flag represents, including diversity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging within Canada's multicultural society.



### **Louis Riel Day: February 16**

This observance honours Louis Riel, a Métis leader whose advocacy and leadership played a pivotal role in Manitoba's entry into Confederation. It recognizes Métis history, culture, and resilience, while fostering a broader understanding of Indigenous perspectives, rights, and contributions within Canadian history.

### **World Day of Social Justice: February 20**

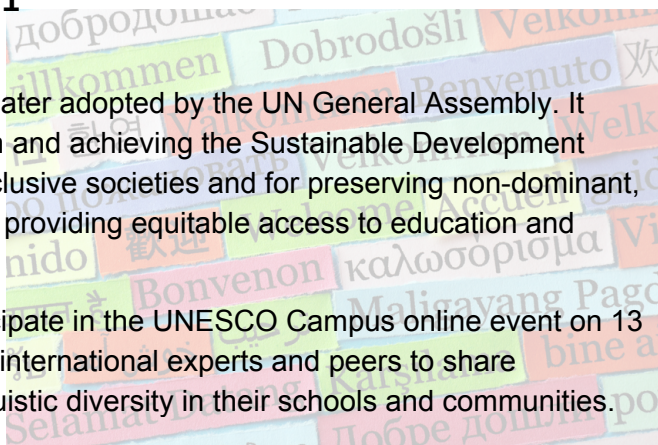
This observance highlights the need to address systemic inequalities and promote fair access to economic, social, and political opportunities. It emphasizes integrating "just transition" principles into both global and national policies. When these principles are embedded in sustainable development agendas, policymakers can create a fairer environment where change does not benefit some while disadvantaging others. For example, the decline of fossil fuel industries should not lead to long-term unemployment or increased social inequality. Measures such as providing green skills training, comprehensive social protection, and community-led economic diversification can address these challenges. These initiatives will redirect investments into emerging green sectors, build a resilient workforce, and foster a more equitable society.

### **International Mother Language Day: February 21**

2026 theme is "Youth voices on multilingual education".

This observance was first proclaimed by UNESCO and later adopted by the UN General Assembly. It emphasizes the role of languages in promoting inclusion and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Multilingual education is essential for creating inclusive societies and for preserving non-dominant, minority, and Indigenous languages. It is also crucial for providing equitable access to education and lifelong learning opportunities for all individuals.

In support of this, schools worldwide are invited to participate in the UNESCO Campus online event on 13 February, where students aged 13–18 can engage with international experts and peers to share experiences and explore concrete ways to promote linguistic diversity in their schools and communities.



### **Pink Shirt Day: February 26**

This is an anti-bullying awareness day that originated in Canada and is now recognized internationally. It encourages individuals and communities to take a stand against bullying by promoting kindness, respect, and inclusive environments in schools, workplaces, and public spaces.

### Health

#### **World Cancer Day: Feb 4**

This is a global campaign led by the Union for International Cancer Control to raise awareness of cancer prevention, early detection, treatment options, and support for those affected. Its aim is to reduce the global burden of cancer through education, advocacy, and improved health strategies.



#### **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation: Feb 6**

This observance raises awareness of and seeks to eradicate the harmful practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) while protecting the rights, health, and dignity of girls and women worldwide. The day highlights the serious physical and psychological health risks associated with FGM and promotes human rights and gender equality.



#### **White Cane Week: Feb 1–7**

This observance raises public awareness about vision loss and the lived experiences of individuals who are blind or partially sighted. Originating with the Canadian Council of the Blind, the week highlights accessibility challenges and emphasizes the importance of inclusive design, supports, and public understanding of mobility aids such as the white cane.

#### **Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week: Feb 15–21**

This intersects with mental health and well-being by highlighting how romantic orientation shapes identity and emotional experience. Awareness efforts can help reduce stigma, increase understanding, and support the psychological well-being of individuals on the aromantic spectrum.