



# DIVERSITY CALENDAR

June 2026

## Indigenous Histories, Knowledge, and Resilience

June centres the histories, cultures, contributions, and ongoing work of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada.

### **National Indigenous History Month (Canada)**

National Indigenous History Month is observed throughout June. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the rich histories, heritages, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and to honour their resilience, ways of knowing, and contributions to this land. For the University of Regina community, situated on Treaty 4 territory, it is also a time to reflect on our responsibilities under the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and to engage seriously with Indigenous scholarship, languages, and leadership.

Members of our community are invited to seek out Indigenous-led events, read Indigenous authors, and engage with the resources available.



### **National Indigenous Peoples Day: June 21**

June 21, 2026 marks the 30th anniversary of National Indigenous Peoples Day. First proclaimed in 1996 as National Aboriginal Day and renamed in 2017, the day was selected in conjunction with Indigenous communities because the summer solstice holds deep cultural and spiritual significance for many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Across the country, communities host gatherings, ceremonies, and cultural events on or around June 21.

Look for events in Regina and across Saskatchewan, and consider how your team, classroom, or research practice will acknowledge this day.



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## Pride and 2SLGBTQIA+ Visibility

These observances celebrate Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual, and additional sexually and gender-diverse identities, and recognize the continuing work for safety, dignity, and equity.

### Pride Month and Pride Season

June is internationally recognized as Pride Month and is annually declared Pride Month by the Government of Saskatchewan. The roots of Pride trace back to the Stonewall uprising of June 1969, when 2SLGBTQIA+ people in New York City resisted police violence and ignited a wider movement for rights and recognition. In Canada, Pride Season extends from June through September, with cities and communities marking it in their own ways. Regina's Queen City Pride, organized annually by a community-led volunteer organization, traces its history back to 1989.

Members of our community are invited to support Queen City Pride events in Regina, fly the Pride and Progress flags, and consider what visible allyship looks like in their own teams and classrooms.



### **Autistic Pride Day: June 18**

Autistic Pride Day began in 2005 as a movement led by Autistic people to celebrate Autistic identity, strengths, and community. It is a day that promotes acceptance over awareness, and that calls for the removal of systemic barriers while affirming the variation, creativity, and contributions of the Autistic community. The day is distinct from other autism observances in that it is Autistic-led.





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## Heritage and Belonging

These observances honour the histories and contributions of communities whose stories are part of the broader Canadian story.

### **Filipino Heritage Month (Canada)**

Designated by Parliament in 2018, Filipino Heritage Month recognizes the contributions of more than one million Canadians of Filipino origin to Canadian society. The month is anchored by Araw ng Kasarinlán (Philippines Independence Day) on June 12, which commemorates the declaration of Philippine independence from Spain in 1898. Filipino Canadians have made significant contributions across healthcare, education, the arts, and community life in cities and provinces across the country, including Saskatchewan.

### **Italian Heritage Month (Canada)**

Recognized federally in 2010, Italian Heritage Month celebrates more than a century of Italian Canadian contributions to the cultural, social, and economic life of Canada. From the early waves of migration to the present day, Italian Canadians have shaped this country's industries, languages, food cultures, and public institutions. The month is also an opportunity to acknowledge the experiences of Italian Canadians interned during the Second World War, for which Canada formally apologized in 2021.

### **Portuguese Heritage Month (Canada)**

Recognized federally in 2017, Portuguese Heritage Month honours the contributions of more than 480,000 Canadians of Portuguese descent. The month commemorates the arrival of the *Saturnia* in Halifax in May 1953, which brought the first wave of Portuguese immigrants to Canada. Portuguese Canadians have made lasting contributions to construction, agriculture, business, the arts, and community life in Canada.

### **Canadian Multiculturalism Day: June 27**

Canadian Multiculturalism Day recognizes the contributions of the diverse communities that shape Canadian society and reaffirms the country's commitment to equality, democracy, and mutual respect.

Canada was the first country in the world to adopt multiculturalism as an official policy, in 1971, and the Canadian Multiculturalism Act was passed in 1988.

The day invites us to recognize both the achievements of multicultural policy and the ongoing work of building a society in which all communities can fully participate.





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## Health, Awareness, and Accessibility

These observances draw attention to physical and mental health and to the conditions that support full participation across our communities.

### **Deafblind Awareness Month (Canada)**

Deafblind Awareness Month was established to honour Helen Keller, whose June birthday is recognized internationally. It raises awareness of the experiences of people who are Deafblind, a distinct disability that combines hearing and vision loss. The month encourages communities, employers, and educators to learn about accessible communication methods, intervenor services, and the supports needed for full participation by Deafblind people.

### **Clean Air Day (Canada): June 3**

Held annually on the Wednesday of Canadian Environment Week, Clean Air Day recognizes the importance of clean air to public health and the environment. It encourages Canadians to take everyday actions that improve air quality, and raises awareness of the Government of Canada's clean air initiatives. Air quality is also an environmental justice concern, as poor air quality disproportionately affects Indigenous communities, communities of colour, and lower-income neighbourhoods.



### **International Albinism Awareness Day: June 13**

Established by the United Nations in 2014, International Albinism Awareness Day is a day to stand in solidarity with people living with albinism. People with albinism face stigma, discrimination, and in some parts of the world, violence. The day promotes the rights of persons with albinism to live a life free of fear, discrimination, and violence.

### **Men's Mental Health Awareness Day: June 13**

Held annually in Canada during International Men's Health Week, Men's Mental Health Awareness Day highlights how mental health issues may present differently in men and how stigma can prevent men from seeking support. First proclaimed in Ottawa in 2014, the day aims to reduce stigma and encourage open conversation about men's mental well-being.





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## Families, Refugees, and Peace

These observances broaden our focus to families, displaced people, peace across borders, and our shared commitments to human dignity.

### **Global Day of Parents: June 1**

Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012, the Global Day of Parents honours the commitment of parents in nurturing children and the families that support them. The day recognizes the diverse forms families take and the role parenting plays in shaping healthy communities.

### **Intergenerational Day (Canada): June 1**

Created in Canada in 2010, Intergenerational Day celebrates the mutual benefits of relationships across generations. It encourages connection between young people and older adults, and recognizes the value of intergenerational mentorship, learning, and care.



### **World Refugee Day: June 20**

Established by the United Nations in 2001, World Refugee Day recognizes the rights of forcibly displaced persons, including refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons. The day reminds the public that refugees contribute meaningfully to the societies that welcome them, and that every action counts in the effort to build a more just and inclusive world. As of 2024, more than 120 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced from their homes.

Members of our campus community are invited to learn about the experiences of refugee students and scholars at the University of Regina, and to support the organizations that welcome newcomers in our region.

### **Summer Solstice: June 20 to 21**

In the Northern Hemisphere, the Summer Solstice marks the day with the most daylight hours of the year. It is the astronomical start of summer and carries cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial significance across many traditions, including Indigenous, Pagan, and other Earth-centred practices. The solstice is also why National Indigenous Peoples Day is held on June 21.

### **International Day for Countering Hate Speech: June 18**

Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2021, this day responds to global concern about the spread and proliferation of hate speech, both online and offline. The resolution calls for promoting inter-religious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance, and recognizes the harm that hate speech inflicts on targeted communities, social cohesion, and democratic life.