



DIVERSITY CALENDAR

August 2026

August brings together histories of freedom, Indigenous rights, cultural heritage, public service, health, and humanitarian care. As the University prepares for a new academic year, August observances allow us to acknowledge the contributions of many individuals, both past and present, and how these efforts create a better world. They also serve as reminders of the work still ahead, and inspire us to do better.

Freedom, Black History, and Remembrance

These observances examine the history of enslavement, resistance, abolition, and the continuing effects of anti-Black racism.

Emancipation Day: August 1

Emancipation Day marks August 1, 1834, when the Slavery Abolition Act came into effect across the British Empire. The history of enslavement in Canada includes the enslavement of people of African and Indigenous ancestry, a history that is still not widely understood. Black communities have commemorated emancipation for generations, using the day to honour resistance and community leadership. Federal recognition in 2021 created a national opportunity to study this history and address the racism that continues after legal abolition.

Consider learning about the long history of Emancipation Day gatherings in Canada and the Black communities that sustained them.



International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition: August 23

UNESCO established this day to keep the history of the transatlantic slave trade in public memory. The date recalls the uprising that began in Saint-Domingue during the night of August 22 to 23, 1791 and contributed to the Haitian Revolution. The observance centres the people who resisted slavery and encourages study of the trade's causes and consequences. It also asks educational institutions to consider how this history is taught and whose accounts are centred.

Indigenous Rights, Knowledge, and Care

August 9 centres the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the knowledge systems that sustain community health and continuity.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: August 9

The United Nations observes this day to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and recognize their contributions. The 2026 theme, "Honouring Indigenous Midwives: Safeguarding Life and Well-being," recognizes Indigenous midwives as caregivers and knowledge holders while calling for culturally appropriate care led by Indigenous communities. At the University of Regina, the Indigenous Birth Support Worker Certificate connects this theme to place-based birthing knowledge and support for First Nations families in Saskatchewan.



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Health, Care, and Community Support

These observances focus on informed support, public health, grief, and the removal of stigma.

World Breastfeeding Week: August 1 to 7

World Breastfeeding Week is a global campaign supported by the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and partner organizations. The 2026 theme is "Breastfeeding for a sustainable start in life: strengthen what works." It calls for proven support across health services, workplaces, and communities. Support should be practical and respectful of families who feed infants in different ways or face different health circumstances.

Campus units can review whether their spaces, schedules, and practices provide privacy, flexibility, and respectful support for nursing parents.

International Overdose Awareness Day: August 31

International Overdose Awareness Day remembers people who have died or experienced harm from overdose and acknowledges the grief carried by families and communities. In 2026, the campaign marks its twenty-fifth year under the theme "25 Years On. Still Needed."



The day promotes open discussion without stigma and reinforces that overdose deaths can be prevented. In Saskatchewan, free take-home naloxone training and kits are available to people at risk of an opioid overdose and to those who may witness one.

Pride, Youth, and Inclusive Workplaces

These observances consider whose voices are heard and how institutions can create safer conditions for participation.

Public Service Pride Week: August 17 to 21

Public Service Pride Week is held during the third week of August and celebrates 2SLGBTQIA+ public servants across Canada. The movement began in 2018 through a network of federal employees working to improve inclusion in the public service. The week provides space



to discuss workplace barriers and leadership. Its focus on respectful policies and accountable leadership is also relevant to universities and other public institutions.

International Youth Day: August 12

International Youth Day brings youth issues to the attention of the international community and recognizes young people's participation in social change. The United Nations General Assembly established the day, which has been observed annually since 2000. Young people are not a single group, and access to participation is not equal.

Meaningful engagement gives young people a real role in decisions that affect them.



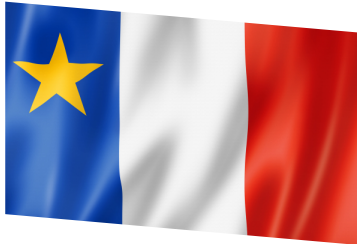


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Humanitarian Solidarity and Cultural Heritage

These observances honour service in times of crisis and the cultural vitality of communities in Canada.



National Acadian Day: August 15

Acadians have celebrated August 15 as their national day since the first National Acadian Convention in 1881. The Government of Canada formally recognized the day through the National Acadian Day Act in 2003. Celebrations often include music, flag raising, and the tintamarre, a lively procession that expresses Acadian pride and cultural vitality.

World Humanitarian Day: August 19

World Humanitarian Day honours people who provide assistance during conflict, disaster, displacement, and other emergencies. August 19 was chosen after the 2003 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad killed twenty-two humanitarian workers. The day also directs attention to civilians affected by crises and the safety of those delivering aid.



If you are aware of additional observances that should be included, or notice any inaccuracies in the information presented, please contact the EDI office at urincluded@uregina.ca. We welcome your input as part of our shared learning journey.