



DIVERSITY CALENDAR

September 2026

September marks the beginning of a new academic year. As we welcome new and returning students and celebrate the energy and vibrancy they bring to our campuses, it is also an opportunity to reflect on what it means to create a community in which everyone experiences inclusion, respect, and a sense of belonging. 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.

Truth Remembrance, and Reconciliation

September 30 calls us to centre the truths shared by Survivors and to understand reconciliation as an ongoing responsibility.

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

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation honours residential school Survivors, the children who never returned home, and their families and communities. It was established in 2021 in direct response to Call to Action 80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which called for a statutory day of public commemoration. September 30 is also Orange Shirt Day, an Indigenous-led observance centred on the message Every Child Matters. The orange shirt represents the culture, freedom, and self-esteem taken from Indigenous children through the residential school system. At the University of Regina, the day should be approached through Survivor-centred and Indigenous-led learning.



Members of our community are encouraged to wear orange and spend time with Survivor-centred and Indigenous-led resources before and after September 30.

Deaf Culture, Language, and Rights

These observances centre Deaf identity and the right to participate through sign languages.

International Week of Deaf People: September 21 to 27

First celebrated in 1958, International Week of Deaf People has become a global period of Deaf-led advocacy and celebration. The 2026 theme, "Declaring Deaf People's Human Rights," connects recognition of national sign languages with equal access to education and public services. The year also marks the 75th anniversary of the World Federation of the Deaf and 20 years since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The week asks institutions to include Deaf people in decisions that affect their rights and access.

Consider whether teaching materials and event plans provide timely sign-language access for the people taking part.

International Day of Sign Languages: September 23

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed September 23 as the International Day of Sign Languages in 2017. Sign languages are full natural languages and are central to the identity and cultural life of Deaf communities. The day is observed during International Week of Deaf People and supports the preservation and recognition of national sign languages. Access depends on advance planning with Deaf participants and adequate resources for interpretation or other sign-language services.





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Equity, Identity, and Fair Work

These observances address unequal outcomes and the importance of recognition in workplaces and communities.

Gender Equality Week: September 21 to 27

Canada observes Gender Equality Week during the fourth week of September. Created through the Gender Equality Week Act in 2018, it recognizes progress while drawing attention to barriers that continue to affect women and people of minority gender identities and expressions. The week asks institutions to examine whether policies and everyday workplace practices produce unequal outcomes. It also encourages people to remain engaged in advancing gender equality beyond the observance itself.



International Equal Pay Day: September 18

International Equal Pay Day represents continuing efforts to achieve equal pay for work of equal value. Pay inequality is connected to discrimination in labour markets and to unequal care responsibilities. The day also draws attention to fair job classification and salary transparency as part of effective pay-equity work. In a university setting, compensation and advancement practices deserve regular review for unequal effects.

Bi Visibility Day: September 23

First observed in 1999, Bi Visibility Day celebrates bisexual and biromantic people and draws attention to bi erasure. Erasure can occur when a person's identity is dismissed or assumed based on their current or past relationships. Bi people may also encounter stereotypes in heterosexual spaces and within 2SLGBTQI+ communities. Inclusive language should recognize bisexuality as a complete identity rather than a temporary or uncertain position.





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Health, Learning, and Support

These observances encourage accurate information and better access to care and learning.

Acne Awareness Month (Canada)

Acne Awareness Month promotes accurate information about acne, a common medical condition that can affect people beyond adolescence. Its effects may include pain and scarring, alongside emotional distress, and dismissing it as a cosmetic concern can discourage people from seeking care. The month encourages evidence-based treatment and challenges the idea that acne is caused by poor hygiene. Respectful conversation matters because visible skin conditions can also become targets of teasing or stigma.



International Literacy Day: September 8

UNESCO has observed International Literacy Day since 1967, making 2026 its 60th anniversary. Its theme, “Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity,” links literacy with participation and shared challenges. Barriers can reflect unequal access to education, accessible formats, and technology. On campus, plain language and well-designed materials help more people use information independently.

World Suicide Prevention Day: September 10

World Suicide Prevention Day continues the 2024 to 2026 theme “Changing the Narrative on Suicide” and the call “Start the Conversation.” It encourages open discussion that reduces silence and stigma. Conversations should be empathetic and connect people with appropriate support. The day also draws attention to policies and services that make mental health care easier to access.

Use careful, nonjudgmental language and avoid presenting suicide as a simple response to one event.





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Heritage, Service, and Peace

These observances recognize community history and consider how service and peace are practised.

Mennonite Heritage Week: September 7 to 11

Canada observes Mennonite Heritage Week during the second week of September. It recognizes Mennonite history, culture, and contributions to Canadian society. The week has particular relevance in Saskatchewan, where Mennonite communities are part of the province's cultural history. It also encourages learning about Mennonite traditions of peace and service.



International Day of Charity: September 5

The United Nations designated September 5 as the International Day of Charity in 2012, choosing the anniversary of Mother Teresa's death. The day recognizes charitable action that can alleviate suffering and support the public good. It also asks whether charitable work follows the priorities of the communities it intends to serve.

International Day of Peace: September 21

The International Day of Peace is observed globally on September 21. The United Nations established it in 1981 to strengthen the ideals of peace and later designated it as a period of nonviolence and ceasefire. The 2026 theme asks people to invest in peace for everyone, everywhere, every day, recognizing that peacebuilding also depends on prevention and fair institutions.



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.