

MULTICULTURAL & DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCES

- National Indigenous History Month (**Canada**)
- National Caribbean American Heritage Month (**USA**)
- Pride Month (**Canada, USA**)
- National Safety Month (**USA**)
- Men's Health Month (**USA**)
- Migraine And Headache Awareness Month (**International**)



Jun 1

Int'l Children's Day (**International**)

This day is dedicated to promoting the welfare and rights of children around the world, celebrating children and their contributions to society, and raising awareness about issues like child labour, abuse, lack of access to education, and poverty. Ideas for celebrating the day in schools include talent shows, "dream wall" activities, wearing traditional clothes from different cultures, special assemblies, and art and essay contests.

Jun 1

Global Day of Parents (**UN**)

The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 to honour parents and their critical role in nurturing and protecting children. It recognizes the lifelong commitment parents make to their children, appreciates parental roles in building strong, healthy families and communities, and promotes responsible parenting and support for families worldwide. Themes often highlighted include positive parenting, parental education and support, work-live balance, family well-being, and intergenerational support.



Jun 2

Shavuot (**Jewish**)

Also known as the **Feast of Weeks**, Shavuot is a major Jewish holiday that celebrates the giving of the **Torah** (including the Ten Commandments) to the Israelites at **Mount Sinai** and the wheat harvest in ancient Israel. Traditions and customs include all-night Torah study, reading the Ten Commandments in synagogues, and decorating homes and synagogues with plants and flowers to symbolize Mount Sinai in bloom.

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Jun 4

Int'l Day of Innocent Victims of Aggression (UN)

The day was established by the United Nations in 1982 in response to the impact of the 1982 Lebanon War on children, but it now recognizes the pain suffered by all children who are victims of physical, mental, and emotional abuse and conflict worldwide. It reaffirms the UN's commitment to protecting the rights of children and ensuring their safety, dignity, and development, and raises awareness about violence against children in war zones, domestic settings, and institutions.

Jun 6

Eid al-Adha (Islam)

Also known as the **Festival of Sacrifice**, Eid al-Adha commemorates the willingness of the Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son in obedience to God's command. The test of faith ended with God providing a ram to sacrifice instead of his son. Muslims around the world slaughter an animal (goat, sheep, cow, or camel) as a symbol of Ibrahim's devotion. The meat is divided into three parts: one-third for the family, one-third for relatives and friends, and one-third for the poor and needy. Families gather for festive meals, wear new clothes, and give to charity. It's a time of spiritual reflection, community, and generosity.



Jun 8

Pentecost (Christian)

Pentecost is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday (seventh Sunday after Easter) and marks the end of the Easter season. The observance commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ as described in Acts chapter 2 of the New Testament, enabling them to speak in different languages. Pentecost is often considered the "birthday of the Church" as it marks the beginning of the apostles' public ministry and the spread of Christianity. It is a time to celebrate the active presence of the holy Spirit in the Church and in the lives of believers. Many Christian denominations hold special church services to commemorate the event.



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Jun 12

World Day Against Child Labour (UN)

Established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002, this day is observed annually to raise awareness and encourage action to eliminate child labour in all its forms. Child labour deprives children of their childhood, education, and potential. It exposes them to hazardous conditions, exploitation, and abuse, thus violating their fundamental rights. Individuals and organizations participate by hosting awareness campaigns and educational events, supporting policies and programs that aim to eliminate child labour, and collaborating with local and international groups dedicated to child welfare.

Jun 15

Father's Day (Canada, USA, UK)

Father's Day honours fathers and celebrates fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. **Sonora Smart Dodd** of Spokane, USA (1882-1978) is celebrated as the founder of Father's Day. She was inspired after hearing a Mother's Day sermon and wanted to honour her father, a single parent who raised six children. She proposed June 5 (her father's birthday), but the celebration was moved to the third Sunday in June to allow time for preparations. The first official Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane on June 19, 1910. In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a permanent national holiday in the U.S.A., celebrated on the third Sunday in June.



Jun 19

Juneteenth (USA)

Short for **June Nineteenth**, it is a holiday in the United States commemorating the end of slavery. It marks the day (June 19, 1865) when Union soldiers, led by **Major General Gordon Granger**, arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced to enslaved African Americans that the Civil War was over, and they were free. This was two-and-half years after **President Abraham Lincoln** issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Juneteenth is also known as Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, and Black Independence Day. It became an official U.S. federal holiday on June 17, 2021, signed into law by President Joe Biden.



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Jun 21

National indigenous Peoples Day (Canada)

The date aligns with the summer solstice, a day of spiritual significance for many Indigenous communities. Officially recognized in 1996 by the Government of Canada, this annual event honours and celebrates the heritage, rich cultures, histories, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples across Canada. Communities often host various events to mark the occasion. These include cultural performances, educational workshops, art exhibitions, and community gatherings.

Jun 24

Saint Jean-Baptiste Day (Quebec)

This is a significant cultural and patriotic holiday in Quebec. Known as *La Fête nationale du Québec*, it honours Saint John the Baptist, the patron saint of French Canadians and serves as a vibrant expression of Francophone identity, heritage, and pride. The origins of the festival date back to 1606, but it became the official national holiday of Quebec in 1977, declared by the provincial government. Holiday traditions include parades, bonfires, musical concerts, fireworks, and public addresses by political leaders.



Jun 27

Multiculturalism Day (Canada)

Established by Royal Proclamation in 2002, this day honours the diverse cultural communities that contribute to Canada's rich and vibrant society. The Canadian Multiculturalism Act of 1988 was the first legislation of its kind globally, promoting the full and equitable participation of individuals and communities of all origins in Canadian society. On Canadian Multiculturalism Day, communities across the country host various events including cultural festivals, performances, and educational programs to showcase Canada's diverse traditions and histories. The day offers the opportunity to learn about different cultures and reaffirms commitments to equity, inclusion, and mutual respect.



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Jun 27

Islamic New Year (**Islam**)

This day marks the beginning of the Islamic lunar calendar year 1447 AH (Anno Hegirae). It falls on the 1st day of **Muharram**, the first month of the Islamic calendar. It commemorates the **Hijrah** (migration) of the Prophet Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE, an event that signifies the start of the Islamic calendar. The Islamic New Year is generally observed as a quiet and spiritual time. Muslims may reflect on the Hijrah and sacrifices made for the preservation and spread of Islam.

OTHER OBSERVANCES

- Jun 1 - Gawai Dayak (**Malaysia**)
- Jun 5 - Day of Hajj (**Islam**)
- Jun 5 - World Environment Day (**UN**)
- Jun 20 - World Refugee Day (**UN**)
- Jun 21 - Litha (**Wicca**)
- Jun 24 - Inti Raymi (**Peru**)
- Jun 24 - Dia de San Juan (**Puerto Rico**)
- Jun 28 - Stonewall Rebellion Day (**LGBTQ**)

NATIONAL & INDEPENDENCE DAYS

- Jun 1 - Independence Day (**Samoa**)
- Jun 2 - Republic Day (**Italy**)
- Jun 5 - Constitution Day (**Denmark**)
- Jun 6 - National Day (**Sweden**)
- Jun 10 - Portugal Day (**Portugal**)
- Jun 12 - Independence Day (**Philippines**)
- Jun 12 - Russia Day (**Russia**)
- Jun 14 - Trooping The Colour (**England**)
- Jun 14 - Flag Day (**USA**)
- Jun 17 - Independence Day (**Iceland**)
- Jun 21 - National Day (**Greenland**)
- Jun 23 - National Day (**Luxembourg**)
- Jun 26 - Independence Day (**Madagascar**)

Disclaimer:

In creating this newsletter, we aim to honour and celebrate the diversity of our community. While we strive to acknowledge a wide range of cultural and religious holidays and observances, we recognize that we may not be able to include every holiday or tradition. This is not a reflection of the value or importance of any holiday or tradition. We deeply respect all cultural, religious, and personal celebrations and appreciate your understanding.

Reference:

Multicultural Calendar 2025

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