



MULTICULTURAL & DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCES:

- Amerindian Heritage Month (**Guyana**)
- Gospel Music Heritage Month (**USA**)
- Hunger Action Month (**USA**)
- National Hispanic Heritage Month (**USA**)
- Suicide Prevention Month (**USA**)
- World Alzheimer's Month (**Int'l**)



Sept. 1

Labour Day (**Canada, USA**)

Labour Day is celebrated on the first Monday in September. It honours the labour movement and the contributions of workers to society. In Canada, Labour Day marks the unofficial end of summer and the start of the school year in many provinces. Activities include parades, community picnics, speeches by labour leaders and politicians, and a general day of rest.



Sept. 8

International Literacy Day (**UN**)

International Literacy Day is celebrated every year on September 8. It was first proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966 to remind the international community of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights. It highlights the importance of literacy for individuals, communities, and societies. Focus areas include education for all, gender equality in literacy, digital access, and lifelong learning. The day is often marked by reading campaigns, book drives, educational workshops, storytelling events, and awareness programs.



Sept. 11

Patriot Day (**USA**)

This day is observed in the United States to remember and honour the nearly 3,000 people who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. On this day of remembrance, Americans are encouraged to pause, reflect, and honour the victims, survivors, and first responders. The American flag is flown at half-staff at homes, businesses, and government buildings. A moment of silence is held at 8:46 AM (ET) - the moment the first plane struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.





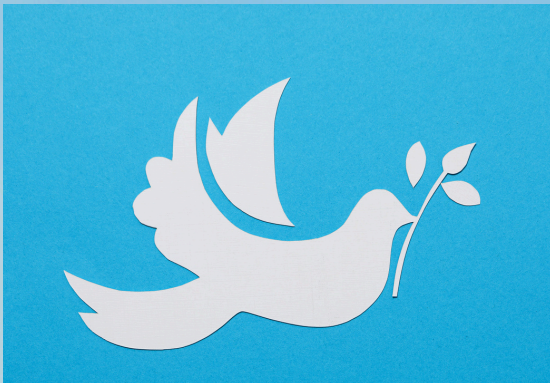
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Sept. 15

Keiro no Hi (Japan)

Keiro no Hi, or **Respect for the Aged Day**, is a national holiday in Japan celebrated on the third Monday of September each year. It honours and shows gratitude to elderly people for their contributions to society and celebrates their long lives. Families gather to celebrate and show respect to grandparents and older relatives, communities organize ceremonies and cultural performances, and local governments often give gifts or commemorative items to senior citizens (especially those who reach milestone ages like 100).



Sept. 21

International Day of Peace (UN)

Established by the United Nations in 1981, the day is dedicated to strengthening the ideals of peace within individuals, communities, and nations. It calls for non-violence, ceasefire, and unity. The **Peace Bell** at the UN (cast from coins donated by children around the world) is rung, and a **Minute of Silence at noon** is observed in all time zones. People observe the day with Interfaith prayers, meditation, peace walks, educational events on conflict resolution and tolerance, cultural activities, and community service.

Sept. 22

Sharad Navratri (Hindu)

Navratri is one of the most important Hindu festivals. It is celebrated for nine nights and ten days in honour of the goddess Durga and her nine forms. Each day is dedicated to one of the nine forms of Durga. Navratri symbolizes the victory of good over evil, especially goddess Durga's triumph over the demon Mahishasura. Spiritually, it represents conquering inner negativity and cultivating virtues. It is a time for spiritual cleansing, fasting, and devotion.



Sept. 23

Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)

Rosh Hashanah, the **Jewish New Year**, is one of the most sacred holidays in Judaism. It begins previous sundown at 6 PM and observed for two days. Meaning "**Head of the Year**", Rosh Hashanah marks the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve as well as the initiation of humanity's role in God's world. It is a time of judgment, reflection, and renewal. According to Jewish tradition, God reviews each person's deeds over the past year and decides their fate for the coming year. Customs include sounding the shofar, eating symbolic foods, and attending synagogue services.



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Sept. 30

Orange Shirt Day/National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Canada)

Orange Shirt Day is observed on September 30 every year to remember and honour Indigenous children who were taken from their families and forced into residential schools. Orange Shirt Day began in 2023, inspired by the story of **Phyllis Webstad**, a residential school Survivor. On her first day at school, her new orange shirt (a gift from her grandmother) was taken away, leaving her feeling worthless and unseen. The orange shirt has become a symbol of how residential schools stripped children of their culture, language, and identity. In 2021, the Canadian government enacted Bill C-5 establishing September 30 as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour survivors, their families, and communities, and to ensure public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools. Orange Shirt Day has since been observed alongside the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Both days encourage reflection, education, and action toward healing and reconciliation.



OTHER OBSERVANCES

- Sept 3 - Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Islam)
- Sept 11 - Meskerem/New Year (Ethiopia)
- Sept 22 - Autumn Equinox (International)
- Sept 22 - Shuki sorei sai (Japan, Shinto)
- Sept 22 - Chichen Itza Festival (Mexico)
- Sep 24 - Our Lady of Las Mercedes (Dominican Republic, Peru)
- Sept 28 - Durga Puja (Hindu)
- Sept 30 - San Geronimo Day (Indigenous, USA)

NATIONAL AND INDEPENDENCE DAYS

- Sept 6 - Defence Day (Pakistan)
- Sept 7 - Independence Day (Brazil)
- Sept 15 - Independence Day (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua)
- Sept 16 - Independence Day (Mexico)
- Sept 17 - Constitution Day (USA)
- Sept 18 - Independence Day (Chile)
- Sept 21 - Independence Day (Armenia, Malta)
- Sept 22 - Independence Day (Bulgaria, Mali)
- Sept 23 - Unification Day (Saudi Arabia)
- Sept 24 - Heritage Day (South Africa)
- Sept 24 - Republic Day (Trinidad & Tobago)

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
Sheena Singh, Creative Cultural Communications,
Toronto, ON.*