

JANUARY 2024

1

New Year's Day

The first day of a new year. This date is commonly known as New Year's Day and is a statutory holiday in all Canadian provinces and territories, and organizations.

1

Mary, Mother of God

A Christian day to recognize and celebrate the History of the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

1

Feast Day of St Basil (Orthodox Christian)

A day where the Greek Orthodox Church commemorates Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.

1

Shogatsu/ Gantan-sai (New Years)

New Year (正月, shōgatsu) is the most important holiday in Japan. Years are traditionally viewed as completely separate, with each new year providing a fresh start.

2

Feast Day of St Basil (Roman Catholic)

A day where the Roman Catholic Church commemorates Saint Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia.

4

National Ribbon Skirt Day

A day celebrating the ribbon skirt traditionally worn by Indigenous women in Canada.

4

World Braille Day

A day to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.

6

Epiphany

A day to remember the three wise men's visit to baby Jesus and His baptism, according to events in the Christian Bible.

7

Orthodox Christmas Day

This date works out to be December 25 in the Julian calendar, and is similarly a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who is believed to be the son of God.

7

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

A celebration in the Catholic Church, which brings the season of Christmas to an end. It takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

Monthly Occasions

Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Tamil Heritage Month



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13

Lohri

An annual thanksgiving day in Hinduism and Sikhism and a popular harvest festival. Farmers celebrate Lohri during a rest period before cutting and gathering crops.

14

Maghi (Makar Sankranti)

Maghi is the Punjabi name of the Hindu festival of Makar Sankranti celebrated by the people of Punjab on the first day of the month of Magh of the Hindu Calendar.

14

Orthodox New Year

Many Orthodox Christian Canadians celebrate the New Year on January 1 in the Julian calendar, which falls on or near January 14 in the Gregorian calendar.

15-18

Thai Pongal

A multi-day Tamil Hindu harvest festival of South India, particularly in the Tamil community.

15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

A federal holiday in the United States marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of the modern American Civil Rights Movement.

17

Raoul Wallenberg Day

Commemorates the brave efforts of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who reassured 400,000 Jewish people and brought them to the Swedish embassy in Hungary in 1944.

18

Bodhi Day

Bodhi Day is a Buddhist celebration that honours the historic Buddha and the enlightenment.

19

Timkat

Timkat is the Orthodox Tewahedo celebration of Epiphany and it celebrates the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan.

21

Lincoln Alexander Day

A day of recognition for Lincoln Alexander, one of the most accomplished Ontarians of our time, for being dedicated to fighting for equal rights for all races in our society.

24

World Day for Africa and Afrodescent Culture

Highlighting the contributions of the many living cultures of the African continent and the African diasporas around the world.



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24-
25

Tu Bishvat (Arbor Day)

A Jewish holiday that marks the beginning of a “new year” for trees.

25

Thaipusam

A Hindu festival celebrated by the Tamil people in India and internationally. It is to celebrate the importance of good over evil, light over darkness and wisdom over ignorance.

25

International Day of Education

A day to remind us that everyone, regardless where they are born, language or economic class, has the fundamental right to access a fair quality education.

25

Burns Night

A Burns supper is a celebration of the life and poetry of the poet Robert Burns, the author of many Scots poems.

26

Bell Let's Talk

An annual event that creates conversation among Canadians regarding mental health through the sharing of stories, strategies, and education.

26

Vasant Panchami

Vasant Panchami is the Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring.

27

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

This is a time to mourn those who disappeared in the Holocaust and reflect on the choices of those who allowed this genocide to occur.

29

National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action

A day to remember victims of the Quebec City mosque attack and to raise awareness of islamophobia in Canada.

