

Memorandum to Council

Community Services Department

Recreation Division



To: Mayor and Members of Council

CC: Sharon Meredith, Sr Manager, Recreation; Kim Evans, Supervisor, 55+ Recreation Services

From: John Romano, Commissioner, Community Services

Date: March 20, 2023

File #: N/A

Subject: 2023 Days of Significance for Proclamations (March – December)

Acknowledged by M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer

Annually, the Whitby Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (WDIAC) recommends to Council days of significance for proclamations to raise awareness of culturally significant days and create community recognition, acceptance and support the development of an inclusive community.

Due to the recent election and process for appointing new members to Advisory Committees WDIAC's first meeting took place February 2, 2023. At this meeting, the Committee reviewed the 2023 days of significance and made a recommendation to Council for March to December days. To ensure dates in January and February were not missed, staff advanced the dates for proclamation by Council on January 20, 2023, in advance of WDIAC first meeting.

2023 Dates of Significance for Proclamation

March 2023

Date	Observance	Overview
March	Greek Heritage Month	An opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture.

March	Irish Heritage Month	Celebrates the contributions of Irish Canadians to the story of Canada and serves as an opportunity to learn more about Irish Canadian history.
March	Bangladeshi Heritage Month	Honours the many significant contributions Bangladeshi Canadians have made and highlights their important role in strengthening Canada's multi-cultural fabric.
March	Persian Heritage Month	In the month of March, millions of people of Persian heritage celebrate Nowruz; the beginning of their new year, the day of the vernal equinox and the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere. This millennia-old celebration is also a reminder of the importance of harmony between nature and life.
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day	A call to action to eradicate discrimination in all forms and promote social inclusion and tolerance.
March 8	International Women's Day	A global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.
March 17	Irish Heritage Day	Celebrates Irish Heritage.
March 20	International Francophonie Day	Celebrates the French language and Francophone culture.
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	A day to re-commit our efforts to combat all forms of racial discrimination, injustice, systemic racism and hate to ensure a world where everyone is respected, safe, and has equitable access to contribute meaningfully to all aspects of society.
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day	Encourages awareness about Down Syndrome and showcases the abilities of people with Down Syndrome.
March 25	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	A time to pay tribute to the millions of Africans who were torn from their homelands and communities through slavery and to stand up in solidarity against racism everywhere.

March 28	Earth Hour	A symbolic event to show collective support for the planet.
March 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility	Dedicated to celebrating trans people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide.

April 2023

April	National Volunteer Month	Celebrates the impact volunteers have on our lives and encourages active volunteerism in generations to come.
April	Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation and Prevention Month	To honour the memory of the victims of genocide and reflect on the root causes of these tragedies, so that they never happen again.
April	Sikh Heritage Month	To recognize the many past and current contributions of the Sikh community in Canada.
April 2	World Autism Awareness Day	To raise awareness about Autism and recognize those on the Autism spectrum, their families, caregivers, and communities.
April 9	Vimy Ridge Day	To remember Canadians who fought in the battle of Vimy Ridge in northern France during the First World War.
April 12	International Day of Pink	A day to stand in solidarity with 2SLGBTQIA + communities in the continued fight for equality and acceptance for all.
April 22	Earth Day	Honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations.
April 30	Journey to Freedom Day	The commemoration of the exodus of Vietnamese refugees and their acceptance in Canada after the fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War

May 2023

May	Asian Heritage Month	An opportunity to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian heritage.
May	Mental Health Awareness Month	An opportunity to learn about mental illnesses, the effect on people's lives and learning more about how to reduce the stigma around mental illnesses.
May 5	Dutch Heritage Day	To honour the sacrifices made by past members of the Canadian armed forces in the liberation of the Netherlands during the Second World War and an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions that generations of Dutch Canadians have made.
May 5	National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls	Also known as Red Dress Day, it is encouraged for people to wear red or display red clothing to honor and commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people.
May 17	International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia	To celebrate sexual and gender diversity and to condemn the discrimination, violence, and stigma that members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities continue to experience in Canada and globally.
May 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	Provides an opportunity to deepen understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to advance the four goals of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Supporting sustainable systems of governance for culture; 2) Achieving a balanced flow of cultural goods and services and increase mobility of artists and cultural professionals; 3) Integrating culture in sustainable development frameworks; and 4) Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.
May 31 – June 6	National AccessAbility Week	An opportunity to celebrate Canadians with disabilities and raise awareness of the critical need for accessibility and inclusion for all in our communities and workplaces.

June 2023

June	Filipino Heritage Month	A time to recognize and highlight the many contributions Canadians of Filipino heritage make to Canada.
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June	Italian Heritage Month	A time to showcase the rich culture and heritage of Italian Canadians.
June	National Indigenous History Month	A time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples across Canada.
June	Portuguese History and Heritage Month	To highlight the many past and ongoing contributions of Portuguese Canadians, and to learn more about their traditions and culture.
June	Pride Month	Refers to the wide range of Pride events that take place over the summer (June to September) when 2SLGBTQI+ communities and allies come together to spotlight the resilience, celebrate the talent, and recognize the contributions of 2SLGBTQI+ communities.
June	Seniors Month	A time to recognize older Ontarians and the contributions they have made in communities across the province.
June	Recreation and Parks Month	A movement that promotes the benefits of recreation and parks for physical, social, and environmental health.
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	A day that acknowledges the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue.
June 20	World Refugee Day	An international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day	A day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.
June 27	Canadian Multiculturalism Day	A day to honour the many cultural communities that help build a strong and vibrant Canadian society.

July 2023

July 18	<u>Nelson Mandela International Day</u>	To honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's former President, and his values, through volunteering and community service.
July 30	<u>World Day Against Trafficking in Persons</u>	A day set aside to raise awareness of the plight of human trafficking victims and to promote and protect their rights.

August 2023

August 1	<u>Emancipation Day</u>	Marks the actual day, in 1834, that the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire. A time to reflect, educate and engage in the ongoing fight against anti-Black racism and discrimination.
August 9	<u>International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples</u>	Marks the day of the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. To raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's Indigenous population.
August 12	<u>International Youth Day</u>	A day for bringing youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrating the potential of youth as partners in today's global society.
August 22	<u>International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief</u>	A day to condemn continuing violence and acts of terrorism targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.
August 23	<u>International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition</u>	A day to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of slavery.

September 2023

September 7	<u>Ukrainian Heritage Day</u>	To celebrate the contributions of Ukrainians to economic, political, social and cultural life across Ontario.
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September 10	<u>World Suicide Prevention Day</u>	Focuses attention on death by suicide to reduce stigma and raise awareness among organizations, government, and the public, giving a singular message that suicide can be prevented.
September 18 – 24	<u>Gender Equality Week</u>	An opportunity to raise awareness of the important contributions women and gender diverse communities have made to the growth, development, character and identity of Canada,
September 21	<u>International Day of Peace</u>	A day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.
September 25	<u>Franco-Ontarian Day</u>	A time to celebrate the Franco-Ontarian community and its history.
September 30	<u>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</u>	Honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.
September 30	<u>Orange Shirt Day</u>	In recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being, and as an affirmation of people's commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.

October 2023

October	<u>German Heritage Month</u>	A celebration of the contributions Canadians of German heritage have made and continue to make in Canada.
October	<u>Hispanic/Latin American Heritage Month</u>	Recognizes the Latin American community's contribution to Canadian society.
October	<u>Islamic Heritage Month</u>	Recognizes the Muslim community's contribution to Canadian society.

October	<u>Somali Heritage Month</u>	Recognizes the contributions of the Somali Canadians have made in Canada.
October	<u>Women's History Month</u>	A celebration of the outstanding achievements of women and girls throughout Canada's history.
October 1	<u>International Day of Older Persons</u>	Celebrates and thanks older adults for the role they play in our communities.
October 4	<u>National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls</u>	To honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people by creating change and committing to ending the violence that disproportionately impacts their communities
October 10	<u>World Mental Health Day</u>	To raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.
October 11	<u>International Day of the Girl Child</u>	A day dedicated to celebrating the voices and power of girls, championing their rights worldwide, and reflecting on the challenges they continue to face because of their gender.

November 2023

November	<u>Albanian Heritage Month</u>	Recognizes Albanian Heritage and the contributions that the Somali Canadians have made in Canada.
November	<u>Hindu Heritage Month</u>	Recognizes Hindu Heritage and the contributions of that the Hindu community has made in Canada.
November 5 – 11	<u>Veterans Week</u>	An opportunity to honour all the brave Canadians who have served the country and defended the values Canadians hold dear.
November 11	<u>Remembrance Day</u>	Marks the end of hostilities during the First World War and an opportunity to recall all those who have served in the nation's defense.

November 20	<u>National Child Day</u>	To celebrate the rights of children.
November 20	<u>National Transgender Day of Remembrance</u>	An annual observance that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.
November 25	<u>Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence</u>	An annual international campaign that begins on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and goes until December 10, the Human Rights Day. This campaign started in 1991 to call out and speak up on gender-based violence, and to renew our commitment to ending violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals.
November 25	<u>Holodomor Memorial Day</u>	In remembrance of the millions of innocent people in Ukraine who suffered and died at the hands of Joseph Stalin's totalitarian Soviet regime during the Holodomor.
November 25	<u>International Day for the Eliminations of Violence Against Women</u>	A time to reflect on, renew, amplify, and strategize to achieve commitments to eliminate violence against women by 2030.

December 2023

December 1	<u>World AIDS Day</u>	An opportunity to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, support those living with HIV, and remember those who have passed away.
December 3	<u>International Day of Persons with Disabilities</u>	To promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities at every level of society and development, and to raise awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of political, social, economic, and cultural life.
December 6	<u>National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women</u>	To remember those who have experienced or loss their lives to gender-based violence and to educate people and communities on gender-based violence and speak up against harmful behaviours.
December 10	<u>Human Rights Day</u>	To recognize the day when, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to guarantees human rights without distinction of nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, religion, language, or any other

		status.
December 18	<u>International Migrants Day</u>	A day set aside to recognize the important contribution of migrants while highlighting the challenges they face.
December 26 – January 1	<u>Kwanzaa</u>	An African American cultural holiday that has been adopted around the world, including in Canada, to celebrate African family, community, and culture.
