



Dates of Significance

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate dates that are significant to students, staff and communities. Some examples include the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Black History Month, Asian Heritage Month and National Indigenous History Month.

Dates of Significance are an opening to promote a respectful and inclusive school community where everyone belongs and feels welcome. By recognizing the dates of significance, we embrace the diversity in our schools and communities and commit to fostering welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe environments for all students, families and staff.

Dates of Significance | School Context

CBE recognizes days and months of significance, including those identified by the provincial and federal governments, to raise awareness and action about historical, cultural and equitable practices. Schools may use these dates as a resource for discussions and lessons, as well as for planning exams, school events and other educational activities. This could include the following:

- acknowledgments or anecdotes in morning announcements or school assemblies
- posters or artwork around the school
- student-led activities or initiatives
- culturally competent tool for task-designs, in support of Alberta provincial curriculum

Important to Note

Grounded in our CBE commitment of [AR 6031](#) - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Work Environments.

- the absence of specific dates does not reflect a lack of significance or value
- this is a journey of continuous learning and requires adjustment of significant dates
- using equity as a lens to examine groups/communities that have been under-represented and marginalized in how dates of significance are seen, heard, and understood in the mainstream
- leaders are encouraged to review collective agreements when accommodating requests for religious days
- we have a responsibility to provide students and staff with a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning and work environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging for all members and;
- we affirm the rights of each student and employee provided for in the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Questions about Dates of Significance

Dates of Significance can provide valuable opportunities to learn more about cultural celebrations, religious occasions, and additional awareness days that are recognized by families and staff members within CBE. Asking questions about which Dates of Significance are part of student and staff lives can foster dialogue, connection, and an inclusive community. These could include:

- What cultural observances does your family participate in?
- Are there important (sacred) times of the year that are part of your family traditions?
- How does your school or workplace reflect the significant cultural, religious, or traditional days observed by the community/communities you serve (students, families, staff)?
- Are the dates in your school or workplace calendar fixed or do they change based on the lunar calendar or seasonal cycles?

Resources

Insights and information in learning about the importance of recognizing and learning about the diversity in dates of significance that create inclusive and welcoming spaces.

[CBE Dates of Significance](#)

[University of Alberta- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#)

[Ottawa-Carleton District School Board- Days and Months of Significance](#)

[Government of British Columbia- Inclusive Calendar Guide](#)

[Harvard University- Heritage Months](#)