



**COBOURG**

## 2022 Dates of Significance Calendar

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee (EDIAC) is requesting that Council endorse the 2022 Dates of Significance as selected by the EDIAC. The EDIAC is made up of citizen appointments, Council member appointees and a staff designate as well as community partners. EDIAC’s role is to provide input to Council on the elimination of barriers relating to diversity and inclusion and to foster a greater understanding of ethno-cultural and diversity matters within the community.

EDIAC has reviewed and endorses the 2022 Dates of Significance. By compiling an annual list, this will help to ensure recognition of culturally significant are available to be referenced and viewed by the Community. The Committee selected dates based on the Government of Canada’s identified commemorative days and group consensus.

The EDIAC acknowledges that this list doesn’t include everything. This is a working document and edits and further suggestions are encouraged. Please contact the Town at [diversity@cobourg.ca](mailto:diversity@cobourg.ca) if you have a holiday or celebration that you wish to have included in the calendar for 2022 or beyond.

The holidays that are marked an asterisk (\*) next to them are the most important ones in a specific religion/culture.

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## January 2022

January is **Alzheimer's Awareness Month**. World Alzheimer's Month is the international campaign by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) every January to raise awareness and challenge the stigma that surrounds dementia.

### January 4<sup>th</sup>

- **World Braille Day (Observance/Awareness Day)**: Observed in order 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. Celebrated on Louis Braille's birthday, the inventor of Braille.

### January 27<sup>th</sup>

- **International Day of Commemoration to Remember the Victims of the Holocaust (Observance/Awareness Day)**: The anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945 and UN Holocaust Memorial Day.

### January 29<sup>th</sup>

- **Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia Act (Canadian Observance/Awareness Day)**: January 29 in each year is proclaimed as a Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia after a shooter walked into the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City shortly after the conclusion of evening prayers at about 8 p.m. and murdered six worshippers and injured 19 others.

## February 2022

February is **Black History Month** in the United States and Canada. Since 1976, the month has been designated to remember the contributions of people of the African diaspora.

### African Heritage Month

### Chinese Heritage Month

### February 12<sup>th</sup>

- **Lunar New Year (Chinese Holiday)\***: Lunar New Year, one of the most sacred of all traditional Chinese holidays, a time of family reunion and celebration. The Lunar New Year is also celebrated at this time in Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Mongolia.

### February 20<sup>th</sup>

- World Day of Social Justice

### February 21<sup>st</sup>

- **International Mother Language Day**: Promotes linguistic diversity and tolerance and respect for others. Generates social inclusion, innovation and imagination and acts as an instrument of peace.

## February 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Human Trafficking Awareness Day

## February 23<sup>rd</sup>

- (Last Wednesday of February) – Pink Shirt Day – Anti-Bullying

## March 2022

March is **Women’s History Month**. Started in 1987, Women’s History Month recognizes all women for their valuable contributions to history and society.

March is **National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**, which was established to increase awareness and understanding of issues affecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

March is **National Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month**. It was established to raise public awareness of the autoimmune disease that affects the brain and spinal cord and assist those with multiple sclerosis in making informed decisions about their health care.

## March 2<sup>nd</sup>

- **Ash Wednesday**, a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting. It is preceded by Shrove Tuesday and falls on the first day of Lent. Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed by Western Christian.

## March 8<sup>th</sup>

- **International Women’s Day (Observance/Awareness Day)**: First observed in 1911 in Germany, it has now become a major global celebration honouring women’s economic, political, and social achievements.

## March 13<sup>th</sup>

- **Deaf History Month (Until April 15<sup>th</sup>) (Observance/Awareness)**: This begins Deaf History Month which celebrates key events in Deaf/deaf history, including the founding of Gallaudet University and the American School for the Deaf.

## March 20<sup>th</sup>

- International Francophonie Day (Third Week – National Francophonie Week)

## March 21<sup>st</sup>

- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Observance/Awareness Day)**: Observed annually in the wake of the 1960 killing of 69 people at a demonstration against apartheid pass laws in South Africa. The United Nations proclaimed the day in 1966 and called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

## March 25<sup>th</sup>

- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery (Observance/Awareness Day)**: A United Nations international observation that offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system.

First observed in 2008, the international day also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.

## March 31<sup>st</sup>

- **International Transgender Day of Visibility (Observance/Awareness Day):** Celebrated to bring awareness to transgender people and their identities as well as recognize those who helped fight for rights for transgender people.

## April 2022

April is **Celebrate Diversity Month**, started in 2004 to recognize and honor the diversity surrounding us all. By celebrating differences and similarities during this month, organizers hope that people will get a deeper understanding of each other.

April is **Autism Awareness Month**, established to raise awareness about the developmental disorder that affects an individual's normal development of social and communication skills.

## April 2<sup>nd</sup>

- **World Autism Awareness Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** Created to raise awareness of the developmental disorder around the globe.

## April 12<sup>th</sup>

- **Ramadan (Islam)\*:** Ramadan is an Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer, and devotion to Islam.
- **Equal Pay Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** An attempt to raise awareness about the raw wage gap, the figure that shows that women, on average, earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn. The date moves earlier each year as the wage gap closes. Equal Pay Day began in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity as a public awareness event to illustrate the gender pay gap.

## April 17<sup>th</sup>

- **Easter** - is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD.

## April 22<sup>nd</sup>

- **Earth Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** Earth Day promotes world peace and sustainability of the planet. Events are held globally to show support of environmental protection of the Earth.

## April 22<sup>nd</sup>

- Journey to Freedom Day (recognizing the exodus of Vietnamese refugees to Canada at the end of the Viet Nam War)

## May 2022

**Asian Pacific Heritage Month**

**Jewish Heritage Month,**

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month (or Mental Health Month)**, which aims to raise awareness and educate the public about mental illnesses and reduce the stigma that surrounds mental illnesses.

May 5<sup>th</sup>

- **National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and girls (MMIWG).**

May 17<sup>th</sup>

- **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (Observance/Awareness Day):** A global celebration of sexual-orientation and gender diversities.

May 21<sup>st</sup>

- **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development (Observance/Awareness Day):** A day set aside by the United Nations as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together in harmony.

June 2022

June is **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month**, established to recognize the impact that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on the world. LGBT groups celebrate this special time with pride parades, picnics, parties, memorials for those lost to hate crimes and HIV/AIDS, and other group gatherings. The last Sunday in June is Gay Pride Day.

June is **Immigrant Heritage Month**, established in June 2014, gives people across the United States an opportunity to annually explore their own heritage and celebrate the shared diversity that forms the unique story of America. It celebrates immigrants across the United States and their contributions to their local communities and economy.

In June, Canadians celebrate **National Indigenous History Month** to honour the history, heritage and diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada. It is also an opportunity to recognize the strength of present-day Indigenous communities.

June 15<sup>th</sup>

- **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

June 20<sup>th</sup>

- **World Refugee Day**

June 21<sup>st</sup>

- **National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canadian Holiday):** A day that gives recognition to the Indigenous populations affected by colonization in Canada.
- **Litha (Pagan):** The summer solstice celebrated by the Wiccans and Pagans. It is the longest day of the year, representing the sun's "annual retreat."

June 21<sup>st</sup>

- **Canadian Multiculturalism Day**

June 28<sup>th</sup>

- **Pride Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** LGBTQ2SIAAQ+ Pride Day in the United States and some regions in Canada. It celebrates the Stonewall Riots on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1969.

July 2022

**Sarcoma Awareness Month** runs for the whole of July. Sarcomas are rare cancers that develop in the muscle, bone, nerves, cartilage, tendons, blood vessels and the fatty and fibrous tissues. They can affect almost any part of the body, on the inside or the outside.

July 1<sup>st</sup>

- **Canada Day (Canadian Holiday):** A Canadian federal holiday that celebrates the 1867 enactment of the Constitution Act, which established the three former British colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as a united nation called Canada.

July 4<sup>th</sup>

- **Independence Day (American Holiday):** A United States federal holiday that celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The original 13 American colonies declared independence from Britain and established themselves as a new nation known as the United States of America.

July 11<sup>th</sup>

- **World Population Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** An observance established in 1989 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme. The annual event is designed to raise awareness of global population issues.

July 14<sup>th</sup>

- **International Non-Binary People's Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** Aimed at raising awareness and organizing around the issues face by non-binary people around the world while celebrating their contributions.

July 18<sup>th</sup>

- **Nelson Mandela International Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** Launched on July 18, 2009, in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday via unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly. It was inspired by a call Nelson Mandela made a year earlier for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices: "It is in your hands now." It is more than a celebration of Mandela's life and legacy; it is a global movement to honour his life's work and to change the world for the better.

July 26<sup>th</sup>

- **Disability Independence Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** Celebrating the anniversary of the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

July 30<sup>th</sup>

- **International Day of Friendship (Observance/Awareness Day):** Proclaimed in 2011 by the UN General Assembly with the idea that friendship between peoples, countries, cultures, and individuals can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities.
- **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**

August 2022

August is **National Breastfeeding Month**. Celebrated since 2011, when the USBC officially proclaimed August as National Breastfeeding Month (NBM).

August 1<sup>st</sup>

- **Emancipation Day – Canada**

August 9<sup>th</sup>

- **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**

August 12<sup>th</sup>

- **International Youth Day** – Celebrates our youth engagement and our youth leaders and peace builders

August 13<sup>th</sup>

- **Black Women's Equal Pay Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** The aim is to raise awareness about the wider-than-average pay gap between Black women and White men. Black women are paid 62 cents for every dollar paid to White men.

August 22<sup>nd</sup>

- **International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion of Belief**

August 23<sup>rd</sup>

- **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (Observance/Awareness Day):** The anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean.

September 2022

**Hispanic Heritage Month** is observed from September 15 to October 15. This month corresponds with Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated on September 16, and recognizes the revolution in 1810 that ended Spanish dictatorship.

September 7<sup>th</sup>

- **International Day of Peace** – Celebrates the power of global solidarity in efforts toward peace and sustainability.

## September 18<sup>th</sup>

- **International Equal Pay Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** Celebrated for the first time in September 2020, represents the longstanding efforts towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value. It further builds on the United Nations' commitment to human rights and against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls.

## September 25<sup>th</sup>

- **Franco-Ontarian Day**

## September 30<sup>th</sup>

- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day** – Awareness of the impact of Canada's Indian Residential Schools.

## October 2022

### Hispanic/Latin American Heritage Month

### Islamic Heritage Month

October is **National Disability Employment Awareness Month**. This observance was launched in 1945 when Congress declared the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1998, the week was extended to a month and renamed. The annual event draws attention to employment barriers that still need to be addressed.

October is **LGBT History Month**, a U.S. observance started in 1994 to recognize lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history and the history of the gay-rights movement.

October is **Global Diversity Awareness Month**, a month to celebrate and increase awareness about the diversity of cultures and ethnicities and the positive impact diversity can have on society.

## October 1<sup>st</sup>

- **National Seniors Day/International Day of the Older Person**

## October 4<sup>th</sup>

- **National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (and those who are 2SLGBTQQIA+)**

## October 10<sup>th</sup>

- **World Mental Health Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** First celebrated in 1993, this day is meant to increase public awareness about the importance of mental health, mental health services, and mental health workers worldwide.

## October 11<sup>th</sup>

- **National Coming Out Day (North American Observance/Awareness Day):** For those who identify on the LGBT2SIAAQ+ spectrum, this day celebrates coming out and the recognition of the 1987 march on Washington for equality.

October 11<sup>th</sup>

- **International Day of the Girl Child.**

November 2022

**Albanian Heritage Month**

**Hindu Heritage Month**

November is **National Family Caregivers Month**, proclaimed in 2012 by Former President Barack Obama. It honors the more than 40 million caregivers across the country who support aging parents, ill spouses or other loved ones with disabilities who remain at home.

November 4<sup>th</sup>

- **Diwali (Hindu, Jain, and Sikh):** A five-day festival of lights celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and lightness over darkness.

November 16<sup>th</sup>

- **Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence**
- **International Day for Tolerance**

November 19<sup>th</sup>

- **International Men's Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** Emphasizes the important issues affecting males, including health issues that affect males, improving the relations between genders, highlighting the importance of male role models, and promoting gender equality. This holiday is celebrated in over 70 countries.

November 20<sup>th</sup>

- **Transgender Day of Remembrance (Observance/Awareness Day):** Established in 1998 to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and to raise awareness of the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

November 25<sup>th</sup>

- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

December 2022

**Universal Human Rights Month** is an annual designation observed in December. This month and every month to follow, people all across the globe are encouraged to come together and stand up for equality, justice, and the dignity of all humans. December is a time to honor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an international document stating the basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. These rights include freedom from discrimination, the right to equality, and the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty.

## December 1<sup>st</sup>

- **World's AIDS Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** Commemorating those who have died of AIDS, and to acknowledge the need for a continued commitment to all those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

## December 3<sup>rd</sup>

- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (Observance/Awareness Day):** Designed to raise awareness in regards to persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.

## December 6<sup>th</sup>

- **National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women**

## December 10<sup>th</sup>

- **International Human Rights Day (Observance/Awareness Day):** Established by the United Nations in 1948 to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## December 18<sup>th</sup> to December 26<sup>th</sup>

- **Hanukkah:** also known as the Festival of Lights, is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE

## December 25<sup>th</sup>

- **Christmas Day:** the holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, is celebrated across the globe.

## December 26<sup>th</sup>

- **Kwanzaa (African-American Holiday):** An African-American holiday started by Maulana Karenga in 1966 to celebrate universal African-American heritage.