

National and International Commemorative Dates - BPW Canada

Resources

International Days and Weeks Observed by the United Nations
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks>

Canadian Important and Commemorative Days
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/important-commemorative-days.html>

Women and Gender Equality Commemorations and Celebrations
<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations.html>

Annual themes are set for some dates, and often hashtags are added to reflect the themes.

Commemoration	Month	Day/Week	Website	Start Date	Hashtag	Comments
International Education Day	January	24	https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/educationday	2018		
Women's March Canada	January	TBA	https://www.facebook.com/womensmarchcanada/	2017	#WomensWave	International: https://womensmarchglobal.org
International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation	February	6	https://www.un.org/en/events/femalegenitalmutilationday		#EndFGM	
International Day of Women and Girls in Science	February	11	https://www.un.org/en/events/women-and-girls-in-science-day/	2015	#WomenInScience	
Annual Women's Memorial March	February	14	https://womensmemorialmarch.wordpress.com/	1992		Their Spirits Live Within Us: The event was initiated by First Nations women in 1992, when the body of Cheryl Anne Joe was found dismembered at the corner of Powell and Salsbury streets. The march became an annual event to protest the high numbers of women missing and murdered in the community. Originated in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and now is across several provinces.
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.	February	22	https://bpwcanada.com/en/advocacy/priority-issues/traf.html#htday	Officially Annually in 2021	#KnowHumanTrafficking	On February 16, 2021, the All Political Party Group to End Slavery of Persons presented a motion, unanimously adopted, to make official February 22nd as the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. February 22 will now be honoured as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, each and every year, across Canada. February 22 coincides with the 2007 declaration by the Canadian House of Commons to condemn all forms of human trafficking and slavery.
Pink Shirt Day	February	Last Wednesday of the month	https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/	2007	#PinkShirtDay	Originated in Canada. Bullying is a major problem in our schools, workplaces, homes, and over the Internet. Each year, on Pink Shirt Day, it is encouraged for all to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying
Zero Discrimination Day	March	1	https://www.unaids.org/en/zero-discrimination-day	2014	#Zero #ZeroDiscrimination	On Zero Discrimination Day, 1 March, we celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life—and live it with dignity. Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change. Zero Discrimination Day is helping to create a global movement of solidarity to end all forms of discrimination.
International Women's Day	March	8	https://www.internationalwomensday.com	1911	#IWD #IWDYear	
Equal Pay Day - Canada	March	18	https://bpwcanada.com/en/advocacy/priority-issues/gender-wage-gap.html	2012	#EPD #EPDYear	
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March	21	https://www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday/	1979	#FightRacism	
International Trans Day of Visibility	March	31	https://ccqsd-ccdqs.org/trans-visibility/	2009	#TDOV	The International Transgender Day of Visibility aims to raise awareness of the transgender people achievements, its community, and abolish transphobia.
International Day of Pink	April	2nd Wednesday of month	https://www.dayofpink.org/en/home	2007	#DayofPink #VirtualDayofPink	International Day of Pink has one purpose, to create a more inclusive and diverse world. Encouraging young people to challenge social norms, ask more of their educators, and stand up against bullying towards their 2SLGBTQIA+ peers.

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National Volunteer Week	April	varies	https://volunteer.ca/		#NVW #NVWYear	
National Day of Awareness to Commemorate the MMIWG	May	5	https://www.niwrc.org/	2002	#MMIWG #MMIW	To increase awareness of disproportionate violence experienced by Indigenous women - both in the US and Canada.
Menstrual Hygiene Day	May	28	https://menstrualhygieneday.org	2013	#menstrualhealth #menstrualhygiene #MHDday	Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day) is a global advocacy platform that brings together the voices and actions of non-profits, government agencies, individuals, the private sector and the media to promote good menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for all women and girls
Sexual Assault Awareness/Prevention Month (SAAPM)	May	Entire Month				In most provinces
Victim and Survivors Crime Week	May	Last Week of May	https://www.victimsworld.gc.ca/home-accueil.html	2017		
World Environment Day	June	5	https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/	1974	#GenerationRestoration #WorldEnvironmentDay	World Environment Day engaging governments, businesses and citizens in an effort to address pressing environmental issues.
World Day Against Child Labour	June	12	https://www.un.org/en/events/childlabourday/	2002		Launched by International Labour Organization (ILO)
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	June	15	https://www.un.org/en/events/elderabuse/	2006	#AgeofInclusion #WEAADYear	
National Indigenous Peoples Day	June	21	https://www.rcaanc-cimac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013248/1534872397533	1982: National Aboriginal Solidarity Day) 2017 renamed National Indigenous Peoples Day	#NIPDCanada	This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous
PTSD Awareness Day - Canada	June	27	https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-425/first-reading	2019	#PTSDAwareness	On the 27th day of June, people are encouraged to wear the colour teal to indicate their support for people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and to promote public awareness of the disorder.
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	July	30	https://www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/	2013	#HumanTrafficking #EndHumanTrafficking	
International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	August	9	https://www.un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day	1994	#WeAreIndigenous #IndigenousDay #IndigenousPeoplesDay	In order to raise awareness of the needs of these population groups, every 9 August commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982.
BPW Day	August	26	https://bpwcanada.com/en/resources-links/commemorative-dates.html#aug26		#BPWDay #BPWDayYear #BPWPride	On BPW Day, wear yellow, post photos on social media. BPW International was founded August 26, 1930.
Women's Equality Day - USA	August	26	https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/resources/commemorations/womens-equality-day/10-ideas-for-womens-equality-day/	1971	#womensequalityday #equalityday	Women's Equality Day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting the right to vote to women. The amendment was first introduced in 1878. In 1971, the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day.

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International Equal Pay Day	September	18	https://www.un.org/en/observances/equal-pay-day	2020	#EqualPayDay	Adopted by the UN in 2019. International Equal Pay Day, celebrated for the first time in 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.
Orange Shirt Day	September	30	https://www.orangeshirtday.org/	2013	#EveryChildMatters	Goal is to create awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of Indian Residential Schools through Orange Shirt Day activities, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters".
Take Back the Night	September	3rd Thursday or Friday	https://takebackthenight.org	1981 (1975 - USA)	#TakeBacktheNight #TBTNYear	Date and often month varies across Canada. September is the most common.
Gender Equality Week	September	4th Week in September	https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/gender-equality-week.html	2018	Updated Annually	Gender Equality Week, 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.
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Day Sisters in Spirit Vigils	October	4	https://www.nwac.ca		#SISVigils #MMIW #MMIWG #SISVigils #SISV	Honour the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Sisters in Spirit (SIS) Vigils.
International Day of the Girl Child	October	11	https://www.un.org/en/observances/girl-child-day	2011	#DayoftheGirl	The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.
International Day of Rural Women	October	15	https://www.un.org/en/events/ruralwomensday/	2008		
Person's Day	October	18	https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/womens-history-month/persons-day.html			Marks the day in 1929 when the historic decision to include women in the legal definition of "persons" was handed down by Canada's highest court of appeal. This gave women the right to be appointed to the Senate of Canada and paved the way for women's increased participation in public and
Women's History Month (Canada)	October	Entire Month	https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/womens-history-month.html		Updated Annually	October is Women's History Month in Canada, a time to celebrate the women and girls from our past, and our present, who are contributing to a better, more inclusive Canada.
National Child Day	November	20	https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/childhood-adolescence/national-child-day.html	1993		United Nations' adoption of two documents centered on children's rights: the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1959, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1989.
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	November	25	http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/end-violence-against-women			
Women Abusive Prevention Month	November	Entire Month				In most Canadian provinces
International 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	November	November 25 - December 10	http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action		#16Days #OrangetheWorld	November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women; December 10 International Human Rights Day
National 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	November	November 25 - December 10	https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/16-days.html		#16Days	Canadian government assigns annual theme.

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National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women	December	6	https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/16-days/national-day-remembrance.html		#December6	Anniversary of the murders in 1989 of 14 young women, engineering students at l'École Polytechnique de Montréal.
Human Rights Day	December	10	https://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/	1948	#StandUp4HumanRights	Day the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Updates to List? Email communications@bpwcanada.com

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