



Indigenous
2018-2019



Bahá'í
175-176



Buddhism
2562-2563



Christianity
2018-2019



Hinduism
2075-2076



Islam
1439-1440



Jainism
2544-2545



Judaism
5779-5780



Sikhism
548-549



Wicca
2018-2019



Zoroastrianism
1388-1389



Canadian Holidays
2018-2019

Month	Indigenous	Bahá'í	Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Jainism	Judaism	Sikhism	Wicca	Zoroastrianism	Canadian Holidays
JULY 2018		10 - Martyrdom of the Báb	27 - Asalha Puja Day 31 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment		27 - Guru Purnima	6-8 - Jalsa Salana 11 - Imam Day			22 - Tishah B'Av		18 - Navroz (New Year) (GC) 23 - Khordad Sai (GC)	1 - Canada Day (Observance on July 2)
AUGUST 2018			25 - Dharma Day/Ullambana		25 or 26 - Raksha Bandhan	20 - Waqfatu'Arafat 21 - Eid-ul-Adha	26 - Guru Purnima		1 or 2 - Lughnassadh/Lammas	5 - Farvardegan (GC) 17 - Navroz (New Year) (SC) 22 - Khordad Sai (SC)	6 - Civic Holiday (ON)	
SEPTEMBER 2018	19 - Powley Day			11 - Nayrouz (J)	2 - Sri Krishna Janmashtami 12 - Ganesh/Vinayak Chauth 23 - Anant Chaturdashi	11 - New Year (Hijra) 20 - Ashura	7 - Paryushan Parva begins 14 - Samvatsari/Paryushan Parva ends/Daslakshan Parva ends	9 - observance of Rosh Hashanah begins evening of Sept. 9 or 10 10 - Rosh Hashanah 18 - observance of Yom Kippur begins evening of Sept. 18 or 19 19 - Yom Kippur 24-30 - Sukkot	1 - Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	22 - Harvestide/Fall Equinox	4 - Farvardegan (SC)	3 - Labour Day
OCTOBER 2018			24 - Kathina Ceremony/Pavarana Day 27 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Pravrajya/Buddhist Joy Day		9 - Sharad Navratri begins 16 - Durgaashtami 18 - Vijaya Dashmi/Dussehra 27 - Karva Chauth	29 - Arbaeen		1 - Simchat Torah	20 - Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru			8 - Thanksgiving Day
NOVEMBER 2018	16 - Louis Riel Day	9 - Birth of the Báb 10 - Birth of Bahá'u'lláh 26 - Day of the Covenant 28 - Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá		1 - All Saints Day 28 - First day of Advent (J)	6 - Diwali 7 - New Year	20 - Milad-un-Nabi	7 - Diwali/Lord Mahavir Niran 8 - New Year/Enlightenment day of Gautamswami 12 - Gnan Panchami 23 - Dev Diwali	7 - Bandi Chhor Divas 23 - Birth of Guru Nanak 24 - Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur	1 - Samhain			
DECEMBER 2018			8 - Bodhi Day 17 - Amitabha Buddha's Birthday	2 - First day of Advent 25 - Christmas		13 - Birthday of Imam Aga Khan	19 - Maun Agyiyaras	3-10 - Chanukah		21 - Yule/Winter Solstice	26 - Zarathost-no-diso (FC)	25 - Christmas Day 26 - Boxing Day
JANUARY 2019			1 - Temple Day 12 or 13 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment	1 - New Year's Day 21 - Easter 7 - Christmas (J) 14 - New Year's Day (J) 19 - Epiphany (J)	13 - Lohri 14 - Makar Sankranti			5 - Birth of Guru Gobind Singh 15 - Maghi				1 - New Year's Day
FEBRUARY 2019		26 - Mar 1 - Intercalary Days	5 - Lunar New Year/Maitreya Bodhisattva's Birthday 19 - Lantern Festival		9 - Vasant Panchami					1 or 2 - Imbolc		18 - Family Day (ON)
MARCH 2019		1 - Intercalary Days 2-20 - Bahá'í Fast 21 - Naw Ruz (New Year)	20 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana Day 21, 24 or 25 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday	6 - Ash Wednesday 11 - Clean Monday (J)	4 - Mahaashivratri 20 or 21 - Holl	21 - Eid-e-Navroz		21 - Purim	14 - Sikh New Year 21 - Hola Mohalla	20 - Ladyday/Spring Equinox	21 - Navroz (New Year) (FC) 26 - Khordad Sai (FC)	
APRIL 2019		21 - First day of Ridvan 29 - Ninth day of Ridvan	14 - Theravada New Year	19 - Good Friday 21 - Easter 22 - Easter Monday 26 - Good Friday (J) 28 - Easter (J) 29 - Easter Monday (J)	5 - New Year/Vasant Navratri begins 13 or 14 - Vaisakhi/Baisakhi 13 or 14 - New Year 13 - Shri Ramnavami	2 or 3 - Isra'a and Mi'raj 18 or 20 - Nisfu Sha'ban	17 - Mahavir Jayanti (Birthday)	19 - observance of Pesach begins evening of April 19 or 20 20-27 - Pesach (Passover)	13 or 14 - Vaisakhi		8 - Farvardegan (FC) 24 - Zarathost-no-diso (GC)	19 - Good Friday 22 - Easter Monday
MAY 2019		2 - Twelfth day of Ridvan 24 - Declaration of the Báb 29 - Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	12 or 19 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday 19 - Wesak/Buddha Day			6 - Ramadan (fasting month) 31 - Lalil-ul-Qadr 31 - Jumatal Widha				1 - Beltane	24 - Zarathost-no-diso (SC)	20 - Victoria Day
JUNE 2019	21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day		17 - Poson/Asalha Puja Day	9 - Pentecost 16 - Pentecost (J) 23 - All Saints Day (J)		4 - Eid-ul-Fitr		8 - observance of Shavuot begins evening of June 8 or 9 9-10 - Shavuot	16 - Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	21 - Litha/Summer Solstice		
JULY 2019		10 - Martyrdom of the Báb	21 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment		16 - Guru Purnima	5-7 - Jalsa Salana 11 - Imam Day	16 - Guru Purnima				18 - Navroz (New Year) (GC) 23 - Khordad Sai (GC)	1 - Canada Day
AUGUST 2019			15 - Dharma Day/Ullambana 15 - Buddhist Joy Day		14 or 15 - Raksha Bandhan	10 - Waqfatu'Arafat 11 - Eid-ul-Adha 31 - New Year (Hijra)	28 - Paryushan Parva begins	11 - Tishah B'Av		1 or 2 - Lughnassadh/Lammas	5 - Farvardegan (GC) 17 - Navroz (New Year) (SC) 22 - Khordad Sai (SC)	5 - Civic Holiday (ON)
SEPTEMBER 2019	19 - Powley Day			11 - Nayrouz (J)	1 or 2 - Ganesh/Vinayak Chauth 12 - Anant Chaturdashi 23 - Sharad Navratri begins	10 or 11 - Ashura	3 - Samvatsari/Paryushan Parva ends/Daslakshan Parva ends	29 - observance of Rosh Hashanah begins evening of Sept. 29 or 30 30-Oct 1 - Rosh Hashanah	1 - Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	23 - Harvestide/Fall Equinox	4 - Farvardegan (SC)	2 - Labour Day
OCTOBER 2019		29 - Birth of the Báb 30 - Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	14 - Kathina Ceremony/Pavarana Day 17 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Pravrajya	5 - Durgaashtami 7 - Vijaya Dashmi/Dussehra 27 - Diwali 28 - New Year	19 - Arbaeen		27 - Diwali/Lord Mahavir 28 - New Year/Enlightenment day of Gautamswami	1 - Rosh Hashanah 8 - observance of Yom Kippur begins evening of Oct. 8 or 9 14-20 - Sukkot 21-22 - Simchat Torah	20 - Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru 27 - Bandi Chhor Divas			14 - Thanksgiving Day
NOVEMBER 2019	16 - Louis Riel Day	26 - Day of the Covenant 28 - Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá		1 - All Saints Day 28 - First day of Advent (J)		9 or 10 - Milad-un-Nabi	1 - Gnan Panchami 12 - Dev Diwali	12 - Birth of Guru Nanak 24 - Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur	1 - Samhain			
DECEMBER 2019			8 - Bodhi Day 12 - Amitabha Buddha's Birthday	1 - First day of Advent 25 - Christmas		13 - Birthday of Imam Aga Khan	8 - Maun Agyiyaras	23-30 - Chanukah		21 - Yule/Winter Solstice	26 - Zarathost-no-diso (FC)	25 - Christmas Day 26 - Boxing Day

Bahá'í, Judaism and Wicca - holy days in these faiths begin at sunset on the evening prior to the date shown and end at sunset on the last day shown; **Christianity** - dates for Christianity are based on the Gregorian calendar unless specified as Julian (J); **Islam** - dates are tentative as some may vary based on the sighting of the moon; **Sikhism** - dates for Sikhism are based on the original calendar unless specified as Revised Nanak Shahi calendar (N); **Zoroastrianism** - dates are based on Fasil Calendar (FC), Qadimi Calendar (QC) and Shenshahi Calendar (SC)

Dates in **bold** lettering are approved holy days according to the Peel District School Board Leaves of Absence policy # 23 and O.P. HRS # 42. See Exceptions to Staff Approved Holy Days on Human Resources' webpage for other holy days. **●** = Do not schedule events at any time on these days. **○** = Do not schedule events on the evenings of these days. **Highlighted Canadian and Ontario holidays are recognized statutory holidays.**

The students and staff of the Peel District School Board represent a rich diversity of faith traditions. This calendar helps identify some of the important days of commemoration, however it isn't designed to be a complete listing of religious days. Students and staff from a particular faith background may or may not be absent from school on these special days. If they do attend, certain accommodations may be required.

Time is measured either according to:
 • the sun - solar calendar - (Aboriginal, Bahá'í, Christian, Sikh, Wicca and Zoroastrian calendars)
 • the moon - lunar calendar (Islamic calendar)
 • or in combination of both the sun and the moon - lunisolar calendar (Buddhist, Hindu, Jain and Jewish calendars)

The expectation is that Peel schools and worksites not schedule events on significant hollydays (as marked with a ● or ○ on the calendar) that would exclude observing staff and students from participating.

Faith Forward
 Celebrating and embracing the wide diversity of faiths and cultures represented by Peel board students and staff is the vision of a new series of programs and resources entitled *Faith Forward*. The program includes the following:

- *Holy Days and Holidays* calendar with important dates in 11 world religions throughout the school year
- monthly *Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder* with brief information about each religious and cultural celebration observed in the Peel community and throughout the world
- *Reflections on World Religions* guide to provide teachers and students with background information about the origins, scriptures and main beliefs of major world religions
- resources for building inclusive schools
- consultation with the faith communities in Peel to create stronger partnerships
- training programs to help create sensitivity and awareness of the varying needs of students and staff from all faith and culture backgrounds

Indigenous
 Seen as being inseparable from traditional Indigenous culture and identity, Indigenous Spirituality is a "way of life" and "way of knowing" (or worldview) that is centered on a relationship with the Creator, the land and all Indigenous relations. Indigenous spiritual beliefs and practices can vary significantly amongst First Nation, Métis and Inuit groups and individuals, and across different regions.

Bahá'í
 Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892) founded the Bahá'í faith on the belief of the oneness of God, religion and humanity. Adherents value universal principals such as love, equality, social justice, honesty, kindness etc. while accepting social and scientific changes in their day-to-day lives. Followers of the faith take personal responsibility for their spiritual growth. The Bahá'í faith is governed by spiritual assemblies made up of nine or more members and does not have clergy to guide worship.

In the Bahá'í calendar, there are 19 months of 19 days each with four intercalary days (five in leap year). Each month represents an attribute of God. The first month starts with the New Year (March 21) and the last ends with 19 days fast. The Bahá'í day starts at sunset.

Buddhism
 Siddhartha Gautam, the first Buddha, founded Buddhism in the 6th century BCE in Northern India. Two major forms of Buddhism evolved as Buddhism spread across Asia. The Theravada (Southern) tradition is found in Burma, Cambodia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and parts of Vietnam. The Mahayana and Vajrayana (northern) traditions are found in China, India, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, Tibet and Vietnam. Buddhist teachings guide followers to attain liberation from rebirth through Dharma (Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Noble Path) and Karma (action with cause and effect). Buddhist calendars vary based on the diverse traditions of the adherents' school of thought. This calendar reflects major dates in all three of the Buddhist calendars.

Christianity
 Christians follow the life and teachings of Jesus, also called Christ. Christianity shares its roots and some religious texts with Judaism. Jesus was born a Jew. His followers spread Christianity after his death. It is the world's largest religion. There are many denominations, traditions and churches within Christianity. Three main branches of the faith are Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant. Both the Old and New Testaments guide followers in their spiritual quest. Christians believe in one God, the Holy Trinity and divinity of Christ. Adherents follow either the Julian or Gregorian calendars.

Hinduism
 Hinduism also called Sanatana Dharma, is the world's oldest organized religion. It evolved over many centuries in the Indian subcontinent and has no single founder or scripture. Adherents believe in one omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient God. Followers refer to a number of holy texts - Vedas, Purana, Gita, Ramayana, Mahabharata - and may worship many male and female manifestations of God either in a temple or at home. Hinduism's core beliefs include:
 • Dharma (righteous practices)
 • Karma (action with cause and effect)
 • Moksha (liberation from cycle of rebirth)
 • Atman (eternal soul)
 • Ahimsa (non-violence)
 • Bhakti (devotion)
 • Jnana (knowledge for spiritual enlightenment)

The Hindu calendar - Vikram Samvat and Panchang - uses both lunar and solar calculations.

Islam
 Islam, meaning "peace" in Arabic, was revealed through the Prophet Muhammad. The message is recorded in the Quran, which is the holiest book for followers of Islam. Muslims believe in submission to one God (Allah), Muhammad as his messenger, angels of God, holy books revealed to mankind, other prophets (Adam to Jesus), the day of judgement and resurrection after death. Followers of the faith have five duties (Pillars of Islam) to perform:
 • Declaration of faith
 • Five prayers daily
 • Fasting in the month of Ramadan
 • Payment of Zakat (annual charity)
 • Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) at least once during their lifetime

Sunni and Shia are the two main schools of Islam. All Muslims follow a code of behaviour that clearly lays out what is Halal (acceptable/permitted) and what is Haram (prohibited/unacceptable) in their daily lives. Islam follows a lunar - Hijri - calendar.

Jainism
 Jainism was founded on the teachings of 24 Tirthankaras (liberated and enlightened persons) of whom Vardhamana Mahavira was the last. The religion has its roots in the Indian sub-continent. Jain philosophy provides a way of life for adherents. Shwetamber and Digamber are the two divisions of Jainism. These two sects differ in some of their religious beliefs, interpretations of scripture and daily and ascetic practices. Jains believe in:
 • Jiva (eternal soul)
 • Ahimsa (non-violence)
 • Veganism
 • Aparigraha (non-acquisition)
 • Karma (cause and effect action)

• Samsar (cycle of transmigration, birth and death)
 • Anekantavada (multiplicity of views)
 • Moksha (liberation from cycle of birth)

Jains fast regularly during the course of a year and also during many festivals and holy days. Jains follow the Vir Nirvan Smavat calendar with its roots in the Hindu calendar.

Judaism
 Judaism is a monotheistic faith. Followers believe that God entered into a covenant with Abraham, and it was later renewed with Moses and the Jewish people to reveal his laws and teachings through the Torah. The Jewish people practice these teachings in their worship and customs. The synagogue is their place of worship. Jews observe the Sabbath weekly, beginning at sunset on Friday and ending at sunset on Saturday. It is the time for spiritual reflection for adherents and they suspend work for the day. Followers of the faith may pray three times - morning, afternoon and night each day. Many Jews observe kosher (or kosher) dietary rules. The Jewish faith is divided into groups depending on adherents' religious beliefs and practices. Some of these include Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist. The Jewish calendar is a combined lunar and solar calendar. The holy days may be celebrated either for a day or over two days based on adherent's religious beliefs.

Sikhism
 Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak (1469-1539). The religion was further developed and defined by nine gurus that came after him and has its roots in the Indian sub-continent. Holy scriptures called *Guru Granth Sahib* have guided adherents spiritually after the ten gurus. Sikhs believe in one Supreme Being. The key beliefs of Sikhism include:
 • Oneness of humanity
 • the release from birth-cycles through enlightenment
 • worship, meditation and service
 • rejection of caste system, rituals and idol-worship

Khalsa (baptized) Sikhs are required to follow Reht Maryada (the Sikh code of conduct) at all times. Reht Maryada includes both the religious and social practices for Sikhs. The Sikh calendar was modified in 1999 and has moved from lunar to tropical solar calculations. Some groups within the faith continue to use the previous calendar and therefore some holy-day celebrations may vary based on adherent's affiliation.

Wicca
 Wicca is a newly revived religion with roots in pre-Christian religious beliefs, traditions and practices of Europe. Wiccans worship the one Supreme Being and its two aspects - male and female equally. The faith also recognizes many other deities venerated from ancient times. Earth-centered practices and harmony with nature are important beliefs of the faith. Followers believe in Karma (actions with cause and effect) and reincarnation. Many Wiccans are members of covens (local Wicca groups). They gather for worship in sacred circles. Most rituals of the faith relating to life cycle and seasonal changes are held in a circle outdoors when possible. Wiccans celebrate eight Sabbats (seasonal celebrations) spaced 45 days apart during a year. Followers of the Wicca faith follow a yearly cycle of the sun in a fixed calendar.

Zoroastrianism
 Zarathustra also called Zoroaster founded the faith in ancient Persia (Iran). Zoroastrians believe in one Creator as a Source of all Creations and Wisdom, who is referred to as "Ahura Mazda". Zoroastrians believe that an individual has a choice between good and evil in life. The path for perfecting oneself is through good thought, good speech and good actions. Fire is sacred to the faith and it is always kept burning in the temple and in followers' homes. Followers also believe in angels, heaven and hell, God and Satan, an immortal soul and the last judgement. Priesthood is hereditary in Zoroastrianism, and all religious ceremonies are led by priests. Both male and female followers are initiated into the faith through the Navroz ceremony. Initiated adherents have to follow dress codes of the faith. Shenshahi, Qadimi and Fasil are three major denominations and the three calendars that are followers of the Zoroastrian faith use.

Canadian Holidays
 Canada, like many other countries of the world, has identified holidays that are of religious and historical significance to the nation. The nine holidays - Canada Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday and Victoria Day - are mandated by federal legislation. These holidays celebrate and/or commemorate special events or individuals. Provincially the number of statutory holidays vary. Ontario has eight recognized holidays. Remembrance Day is not a statutory holiday in Ontario. The Civic Holiday, also known as Simcoe Day and Family Day are regionally designated holidays in Ontario.

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The dates in this calendar have been verified by the following members of each faith community:

- Indigenous** - Joseph Paquette
- Bahá'í** - Ba Limh Le
- Buddhism** - Ven. Abbot Thich Tam Hoa, Ven. Miao Qi, Ven. Bhante Saranapala
- Christianity** - Father The Drakos, Father Camillo Lando, Father Walter Makarenko
- Hinduism** - Acharya Surendra Sharma Shastri, Pt. Roopnath Sharma
- Islam** - Dr. Aslam Daud, Mr. E. Gad, Kausar Ghaswala, Imam Omar Subedar
- Jainism** - Dr. Raj Patil
- Judaism** - Arlene Benetick, Rabbi Yitzchok Slavin
- Sikhism** - Pardeep Singh Nagra
- Wicca** - High Priestess Nicole Cooper
- Zoroastrian** - Hoshang Udawadia

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