

## August 2023

### Emancipation Day

**August 1, 2023**

On March 24, 2021, the House of Commons voted unanimously to officially designate August 1 as Emancipation Day to mark the actual day, in 1834, that the [Slavery Abolition Act of 1833](#) came into effect across the British Empire. Emancipation Day is an opportunity for Canadians to reflect, educate, and engage in the ongoing fight against both anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination.

#### The more you know:

- [The story of Black slavery in Canadian history](#)
- [Significant events in Black history in Canada](#)
- [Enslavement of Indigenous Peoples in Canada](#)
- [Emancipation Day \(CUPE\)](#)

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### International Day of Indigenous Peoples

**August 9, 2023**

On 23 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly, in its adoption of [A/RES/49/214](#), declared that the August 9 shall be observed annually as the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. This date marks the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

This year's theme is "[Indigenous youth as agents of change for self-determination](#)".

#### The more you know:

- [United Nations Declaration On The Rights Of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [TRC Summary Report](#)

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### Capital Pride

**August 19-27, 2023**



The 2023 Capital Pride Festival kicks off with The Capital Pride Pageant on Saturday, August 19th. Festival Weekend takes place Friday, August 25th to Sunday, August 27th and closes with the Pride Parade on Sunday, August 27th.

CUPE 2424 joins CUPE 4600 for the Capital Pride Parade this year! [RSVP HERE!](#)

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### International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

**August 23, 2023**

The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in the western part of the island of *Saint Domingue* (now Haiti) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. UNESCO designated August 23 as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. This date "is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples ... [and to] offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to which it has given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean" ([UNESCO](#)).

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### Public Service Pride Week

**August 21-25, 2023**



The Public Service Pride Network (PSPN) is a movement that began in 2018 and has brought together members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities from across the public service – creating a safe space for them to be their authentic and true selves at work, in support of broader diversity and inclusion objectives in the Government of Canada (GC). This year's theme is "Taking Action to Create a More Inclusive Public Service".

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### International Day for People of African Descent

**August 31, 2023**

The International Day for People of African Descent was celebrated for the first time on August 31, 2021. Through this observance, the United Nations "aims to promote the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people of African descent".

The United Nations designated 2015-2024 as the [International Decade for People of African Descent](#).

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#### Resources to add to your toolkit

- [Webinar: The Impact of COVID-19 on Black Women](#)
- [Webinar: The History of Carnival](#)
- [The CUPE Cast: Jump UP! Emancipation and Carnival](#)



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#### Update regarding July RJC Newsletter

**RE: International Day for Non-Binary Persons**

Thank you to the member who shared a more [comprehensive definition of 'Non-Binary'](#) than the one included in the July 2023 RJC Newsletter. The RJC Committee welcomes member feedback and comments and sincerely regrets any harm caused.

The RJC is committed to being a transparent and responsive committee and we welcome feedback on the content of our newsletters and other relevant communications. Your voices are vital to our commitment to continuous learning in order to be stronger community members and allies.

If you are interested in joining the RJC or have comments, please contact us at [cupe2424@carleton.ca](mailto:cupe2424@carleton.ca).

