

## October 2023

### Canadian Islamic History Month



October 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of Islamic History Month. It is an opportunity to celebrate the rich heritage of Muslim Canadians and to recognize their contributions to society and their many achievements in the arts, sports, academics, sciences, literature, and public life. It is also a time to acknowledge the ongoing challenges and barriers that Muslim Canadians face.

The Parliament of Canada proclaimed October Canadian Islamic History Month in 2007 in recognition of the significant contributions made by Muslim Canadians to Canada and the world. Islamic History Month has since been proclaimed in provinces and municipalities across Canada with community members and organizations hosting numerous events each year to bring communities together to share and learn from one another.

The theme set by [Islamic History Month Canada \(IHMC\)](#) for 2023 is *Celebrating Muslim Women in the Arts & Sciences* to honour the “contributions of Muslim Women through the ages and in Canada their influence on the progress of the Arts, Sciences, and Society.”

[Statement by Minister Khera on Canadian Islamic History Month](#)

#### The more you know:

- [Islamic History Month: Educational Resources](#) (Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI))
- [A History of Muslims in Canada](#) (IHMC)
- [The Al-Rashid Mosque: The story of Canada's first mosque](#) (Historica Canada)

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### Latin American Heritage Month

October was designated as Latin American Heritage Month by the Parliament of Canada in 2018. It is an opportunity for Canadians to recognize the valuable contributions of members of the Latin American community to the Canada's social, economic, political, and cultural fabric.

#### The more you know:

- [Latin American Heritage Month 2023: Events honouring those who served](#)
- [Chile, Obstinate Memory](#) (National Film Board)
- [Cólera](#) (selected in more than 200 festivals worldwide)

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### Hispanic Heritage Month (Ontario)

The Government of Ontario proclaimed October as Hispanic Heritage Month in 2015 “to recognize the rich contributions of Hispanic-Canadians to our social, economic, political and multicultural fabric. Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and educate future generations about the outstanding achievements and contributions of Hispanic people in the province.”

#### The more you know:

- [Hispanic vs. Latino vs. Latinx: A Brief History of How These Words Originated](#)
- [Hispanic and Latin American Heritage Month: Educational Resources](#) (Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI))
- [Movies to Watch for Hispanic Heritage Month](#)

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### Women's History Month

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.



The Government of Canada designated October as Women's History Month in 1992, marking the beginning of an annual celebration of the outstanding achievements of women and girls throughout Canada's history.

The 2023 theme *Through Her Lens: Celebrating the Diversity of Women*, recognizes the importance of the achievements and contributions of women from diverse backgrounds. The theme focuses on the unique perspectives, experiences, and challenges faced by Indigenous women; women from 2SLGBTQI+ communities; and newcomer, racialized, and migrant women.

[Statement by the Prime Minister on Women's History Month](#)

#### The more you know:

- [Women in Canadian History: A Timeline](#)
- [Canadian Women's Foundation: Resources and Tools](#)

## [World Mental Health Day \[WHO\]](#)

October 10, 2023

The overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.

The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide.

The [World Federation for Mental Health](#) (WFMH) theme for 2023 is *Mental Health is a Universal Human Right*.

### The more you know:

- [Our Minds Our Rights: World Mental Health Day 2023](#)

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## [International Day of the Girl Child \(UN\)](#)

October 11, 2023

 | for every child

On December 19, 2011, United Nations General Assembly adopted [Resolution 66/170](#) to declare October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child, to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

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.

The UNICEF focus for 2023 is [Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being](#).

### The more you know:

- [International Day of the Girl Child](#) (Government of Canada)
- [Generation Equality](#) (UN Women)
- [Feminist Action for Climate Justice](#)

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## [Persons Day](#)

October 18, 2023

October 18<sup>th</sup> is Persons Day in Canada, a day to commemorate 1929 decision in the [Persons Case](#) that first recognized select groups of Canadian women as "persons" under the law and granted them the right to be appointed to the Senate. While these rights were not extended to all women, notably Indigenous women and women of Asian heritage and descent, the ruling paved the way for women's increased participation in public and political life and was a crucial moment in advancing gender equality in Canada.



The observance is generally associated with a group of women activists including Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby and Henrietta Muir Edwards, popularly known as the [Famous Five](#).

### The more you know:

- [Person's Day: Recognizing the role of Indigenous Women in Leadership](#) (Government of Manitoba)
- [Statement by the Prime Minister on Persons Day \(2022\)](#)

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## Resources to add to your toolkit



- [CUPE Cast Live! Strong Women Summer](#)
- [10 Reasons to Love the Labour Movement](#)

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).

