

RJC Newsletter

January 2023

CUPE 2424 Racial Justice Committee

Tamil Heritage Month

The [Tamil Heritage Month Act \(Bill 111\)](#) was passed by the Ontario Government in [2014](#) to proclaim January as Tamil Heritage Month.

The Canadian House of Commons unanimously declared January as Tamil Heritage Month on [October 5, 2016](#).

The more you know:

- [Tamil Heritage Month in the news](#)
- [Statement by Minister Hussen on Tamil Heritage Month](#)

Raoul Wallenberg Day

January 17 was designated as Raoul Wallenberg Day by the Government of Canada in 2001 to honour Wallenberg, Canada's first honorary citizen, for saving the lives of tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews during the Second World War.

The more you know:

- [Raoul Wallenberg - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)
- [Statement by the Prime Minister on Raoul Wallenberg Day](#)

Lincoln Alexander Day

January 21 was designated as Lincoln Alexander Day, in 2014. Lincoln MacCauley Alexander had a long and distinguished record of public service, including as an airman in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. In 1968 he became the first Black member of Parliament, and in 1979, the first Black federal cabinet minister. After leaving federal politics, he became the first Black Chair of the Worker's Compensation Board in 1980. In 1985, Alexander was appointed as the 24th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

The more you know:

- [Lincoln Alexander Day Act](#)
- [Statement by Minister Hussen on Lincoln Alexander Day](#)

World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture

UNESCO adopted 24 January as the World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture at the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2019.

The more you know:

- [World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture - UNESCO](#)
- [Statement by Minister Hussen on World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture](#)
- [Statement by the Prime Minister on World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture](#)

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of Holocaust

January 27 was officially proclaimed as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust by the United Nations General Assembly, in November, 2005. On this date in 1945, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The more you know:

- [Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 November 2005](#)
- [Statement by Prime Minister on International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)

National Day of Remembrance of the Québec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia

On January 29, 2017 six people lost their lives and others were seriously injured during the terrorist attack at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec in Sainte-Foy. This date was declared as the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia in 2021.

The more you know:

- [Statement by Minister Hussen on the first National Day of Remembrance of the Québec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia](#)
- [Statement by the Prime Minister on the first National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia](#)

What you can do:

- [Wear a green square to show solidarity against Islamophobia - CUPE](#)
- [Green Square Campaign](#)