



## DIVERSITY CALENDAR – APRIL

This monthly calendar has been created by [Diversity Thunder Bay](#) to mark annual observances. Although not intended to be comprehensive (there are hundreds of worldwide observances each month), it demonstrates the great variety of holidays, celebrations and observances - both religious and secular - that occur worldwide and here in Thunder Bay.

### **APRIL MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCES:**

- **Celebrate Diversity Month:** Started in 2004 to recognize and honour the diversity surrounding us all. By celebrating differences and similarities during this month, organizers hope that people will get a deeper understanding of each other.
- **Arab American Heritage Month:** Launched in 2017 by Arab America and the Arab America Foundation, this month celebrate Arab-American heritage, culture and contributions.
- **Sikh Heritage Month:** Proclaimed in Canada 2019, this month recognizes and highlights the important contributions that Sikh communities have made and continue to make to Canada's social, economic, political, and cultural heritage. Read more at [Canada.ca](#).

### **Spring season, for one month (sunset to sunset): Ramadan**

An Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer and devotion to Islam. The first day of Islam's most sacred month, during which Muslims are not allowed to eat or drink from dawn until dusk. The holiest month of the Muslim year. The date is set according to the Islamic calendar.

### **Late March or April: Holy Thursday, or Maundy Thursday**

The Christian holiday commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion. It is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter.

### **Late March or April: Good Friday**

A day celebrated by Christians to commemorate the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. It is recognized on the Friday before Easter.

### **Late March or April: Easter**

A holiday celebrated by Christians to recognize Jesus' return from death after the Crucifixion.

**March or April: Mahavir Jayant**

A holiday celebrated by the Jains commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavira. It is one of the most important religious festivals for Jainism, a religion that advocates the practice of nonviolence and self-control. The date is set according to the Hindu calendar.

**March or April: Ram Navami**

A Hindu day of worship and celebration of the seventh avatar of Vishnu (Lord Rama). Devotees typically wear red and place extravagant flowers on the shrine of the God. The festival is a focal point for moral reflection and being especially charitable to others. The date is set according to the Hindu calendar.

**March or April: Mahavira-Jayanti**

In Jainism, Sikhism and Hinduism – a holiday commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavir. The date is set according to the Hindu calendar.

**April 2: World Autism Awareness Day**

This day is observed in United Nations member states, and was created to raise awareness of the developmental disorder around the globe. Seeks to improve the lives of people with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives.

**April 6: Tartan Day**

This day is a North American celebration of Scottish heritage that originated in Canada in the mid-1980s. It spread to other communities of the Scottish diaspora in the 1990s. In Australia the similar International Tartan Day is held on July 1, the anniversary of the repeal of the England's 1747 Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of tartan.

**Second Friday in April: National Day of Silence**

On this day, students across the US take a vow of silence to illustrate the silencing effect when LGBTQ students are bullied.

**April 13 (in 2022): Equal Pay Day**

This day marking the pay gap between men and women moves depending on the actual pay gap, moving earlier each year as the wage gap closes. Equal Pay Day began in 1996 by the National Committee on Pay Equity as a public awareness event to illustrate the gender pay gap.

**April 13 or 14: Vaisakhi (also known as Baisakhi)**

The celebration of the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated) and the birth of the Khalsa. The date is set according to the the Nanakshahi calendar.

**April 14: International Day of Pink**

This day is an opportunity to renew our commitment to diversity and inclusion by combatting all forms of discrimination that fuel bullying and violence, which many LGBTQ2 youth continue to face. By wearing a pink shirt on this day, Canadians stand in solidarity with LGBTQ2 communities in Canada and everywhere, as we continue to promote an equitable society where everyone is free to be their true authentic self. Read more at [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca).

**April 20 - May 2: The Festival of Ridván**

A holiday celebrated by those of the Bahá'í faith, commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder, resided in a garden called Ridván (paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God's messenger for this age. The date is set according to the Bahá'í calendar.

**April 22: International Earth Day**

Celebrated internationally in more than 192 countries. Many important environmental events have taken place on Earth Day since 1970, including the recent signing of the Paris Agreement, as Earth Day continues to be a momentous and unifying day each year.

**April 23: St. George's Day**

The feast day of St. George celebrated by various Christian churches.

**April 23: The Day of Silence**

On this day, students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.

**Late March or April: Lazarus Saturday**

A day celebrated by the Eastern Orthodox Church and Oriental Orthodoxy on the day before Palm Sunday to commemorate the raising of Lazarus of Bethany from the dead.

**April 24: Armenian Martyrs' Day**

Recognizes the genocide of approximately 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

**April 30: El Día de los Niños**

This special "Children's Day," originating in Mexico, celebrates the importance of children. The tradition is now recognized in the United States. While Children's Day is not an official holiday in Mexico or the United States, it is generally a day filled with festivities designed to help children feel special.

**April or early May: Orthodox Easter**

Also called Pascha. A later Easter date than observed by many Western churches.

**April or May: Yom HaShoah**

Israel's day of remembrance for the approximately 6 million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. A one-day observance lasting sunset to sunset. The date is set according to the Hebrew calendar.

**April or May: Yom Ha'Atzmaut**

National Independence Day in Israel, celebrated from sundown to sundown. The date is set according to the Hebrew calendar.

**April or May: Buddha's Birth**

Celebrated by Buddhists worldwide.

**Late April or May: Lag BaOmer**

A Jewish holiday celebrated from sundown to sundown, marking the day of hillula of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai. The date is set according to the Hebrew calendar.

**End of April: Gathering of Nations Pow Wow**

In this yearly event that began in 1983, Native American tribes and communities, in addition to international indigenous groups, meet to celebrate their traditions and cultures. The event currently takes place in Albuquerque, New Mexico.