



**Aboriginal Spirituality**  
2009-2010



**Bahá'í**  
166-167



**Buddhism**  
2553-2554



**Christianity**  
2009-2010



**Hinduism**  
2066-2067



**Islam**  
1430-1431



**Jainism**  
2535-2536



**Judaism**  
5770-5771



**Sikhism**  
539-540



**Wicca**  
2009-2010



**Zoroastrianism**  
1379-1380



**Canadian Holidays**  
2009-2010

Month	Aboriginal Spirituality	Bahá'í	Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Jainism	Judaism	Sikhism	Wicca	Zoroastrianism	Canadian Holidays
<b>JULY 2009</b>		9 - Martyrdom of the Bab			6 - Guru Purnima	11 - Imam Day 19 - Isra' and Miraj	7 - Guru Purnima	30 - Tishah B'Av			20 - Navroze (New Year) (GC) 25 - Khordad Sai (GC)	1 - Canada Day
<b>AUGUST 2009</b>			8 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment 10 - Ullambana		5 - Rakshabandhan 14 - Sri Krishna Janamashtami 23 - Ganesh Chaturthi	4 or 6 - Nisfu/Shaban 22 - Ramadan (fasting begins)	17 - Paryushan Parva begins 24 - Samvatsar/ Paryushan Parva ends/ Daslakshan Parva begins			1 or 2 - Lughnassadh/ Lammas	6 or 7 - Farvardigan (GC) 19 - Navroze (New Year) (SC) 24 - Khordad Sai (SC)	3 - Civic Holiday (ON)
<b>SEPTEMBER 2009</b>	19 - Powley Day		3 - Dharma Day/ The Buddhist Joy-Day	11 - Nayrouz (J)	3 - Anant Chaturdashi 19 - Sharad Navaratri begins 26 - Durgashtami 28 - Vijaya Dashmi/ Dussehra	16 - Lailat-ul-Qadr 18 - Jumatul Widha 20 or 21 - Eid ul Fitr	3 - Daslakshan/ Kshamavani 4 - Anant Chaturdashi	19-20 - Rosh Hashanah 28 - Yom Kippur	1 - Installation of Holy Scriptures of Sri Guru Granth Sahib	22 - Harvestide/Fall Equinox	6 - Farvardigan (SC)	7 - Labour Day
<b>OCTOBER 2009</b>		20 - Birth of the Bab	3 - Lantern Festival 4 - Kathina		7 - Karva Chauth 17 - Diwali 18 - New Year		18 - Lord Mahavir Nirvan/ Diwali 19 - New Year/ Enlightenment day of Gautamswami 23 - Gnan Panchami	3-4 - Sukkot 10-11 - Simchat Torah	17 - Bandi Chhor Divas 20 - Installation of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib as Guru		2 - Mehragan (FC)	12 - Thanksgiving
<b>NOVEMBER 2009</b>	16 - Louis Riel Day	12 - Birth of Baha'u'llah 26 - Day of the Covenant 28 - Ascension of 'Abdul-Bahá	5 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Pravravaya	1 - All Saints Day 15 - First Day of Advent 28 - First Day of Advent (J)		26 - Waqfatu'Arafat 27 - Eid ul Adha	2 - Dev Diwali 28 - Maun Agiyaras		2 - Birth of Guru Nanak Dev 24 - Martyrdom of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur	1 - Samhain		
<b>DECEMBER 2009</b>			8 - Bodhi Day	25 - Christmas		13 - Birthday of Imam Aga Khan 18 - New Year (Hijra) 27 - Ashura		12-19 - Chanukah		21 - Yule/Winter Solstice	26 - Zarthost-no-Diso (FC)	25 - Christmas Day 26 - Boxing Day
<b>JANUARY 2010</b>			1 - Amitabha Buddha's Birthday 14 - Vietnamese New Year/Maitreya Bodhisattva's Birthday/ Chinese New Year	1 - New Year's Day 6 - Epiphany 7 - Christmas (J) 14 - New Years (J) 19 - Epiphany (J)	13 - Lohri 14 - Makar Sankranti 20 - Vasant Panchami				5 - Birth of Sri Guru Gobind Singh 13 - Maghi		24 - Jashn-e-Sadeh (FC) 31 - Mehragan (GC)	1 - New Year's Day
<b>FEBRUARY 2010</b>		Feb 26-March 1 - Intercalary Days	11 - Magha Puja 21-25 - National Aboriginal Day	15 - Clean Monday (J) 17 - Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)	11 or 12 - Mahashivaratri 28 - Holi	25 or 26 - Milad-un-Nabi		28 - Purim		1 or 2 - Imbolc		15 - Family Day (ON)
<b>MARCH 2010</b>		2-20 - Bahá'í Fast 21 - Feast of Naw Ruz (New Year)			16 - New Year/Vasant Navaratri Begins 24 - Shri Ramnavami	21 - Eid-e-Navroz	28 - Mahavir Jayanti (Birthday)	Mar 30-Apr 6 - Pesach (Passover)	1 - Hola Mohalla 14 - Sikh New Year	20 - Ladyday/Spring Equinox	2 - Mehragan (SC) 21 - Navroze (New Year) (FC) 26 - Khordad Sai (FC)	
<b>APRIL 2010</b>		21 - First day of Ridvan 29 - Ninth day of Ridvan	4 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana Day 5 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday 13 & 14 - Sinhalese/Theravada New Year	2 - Good Friday (G&J) 4 - Easter (G&J) 5 - Easter Monday (G&J)	13 - Vaisakhi or Baisakhi 13-14 - Tami New Year			Mar 30-Apr 6 - Pesach (Passover)	14 - Vaisakhi		8 - Farvardigan (FC) 26 - Zarthost-no-Diso (GC)	2 - Good Friday 5 - Easter Monday
<b>MAY 2010</b>		2 - Twelfth day of Ridvan 23 - Declaration of the Bab 29 - Ascension of Baha'u'llah	22 or 30 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday 21 or 22 - Wesak day	23 - Pentecost (G&J) 30 - All Saints (J)				19-20 - Shavuot		1 - Beltaine	25 - Jashn-e-Sadeh (GC) 26 - Zarthost-no-Diso (SC)	24 - Victoria Day
<b>JUNE 2010</b>	21 - National Aboriginal Day 21-25 - National Aboriginal Week		10 - Posen			25-27 - Jalsa Salana			16 - Martyrdom of Sri Guru Arjan Dev	21 - Litha/Summer Solstice	24 - Jashn-e-Sadeh (SC)	
<b>JULY 2010</b>		9 - Martyrdom of the Bab	13-15 - Obon 25 - Asalha Puja Day		25 - Guru Purnima	8 or 9 - Isra and Miraj 11 - Imam Day 25 or 26 - Nisfu Sha'ban	25 - Guru Purnima	20 - Tishah B'Av			20 - Navroze (New Year) (GC) 25 - Khordad Sai (GC)	1 - Canada Day
<b>AUGUST 2010</b>			2 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment 8 - Dharma Day/ The Buddhist Joy-Day 22 or 28 - Ullambana		24 - Rakshabandhan	10 or 12 - Ramadan (fasting begins)				1 or 2 - Lughnassadh/ Lammas	7 - Farvardigan (GC) 19 - Navroze (New Year) (SC) 24 - Khordad Sai (SC)	2 - Civic Holiday (ON)
<b>SEPTEMBER 2010</b>	19 - Powley Day		14 or 18 or 28 - Lantern Festival	11 - Nayrouz (J)	1 or 2 - Sri Krishna Janamashtami 10 or 11 - Ganesh Chaturthi 20 - Anant Chaturdashi	3 - Jamatul Widha 5 or 7 - Lailat-ul-Qadr 9 or 10 - Eid-ul Fitr	6 - Paryushan Parva begins 12 - Samvatsari/ Paryushan Parva ends/ Daslakshan Parva begins 22 - Anant Chaturdashi 23 - Kshamavani/ Daslakshan	9-10 - Rosh Hashanah 18 - Yom Kippur 23-25 - Sukkot Sept 30-Oct 1 - Simchat Torah	1 - Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	22 - Harvestide/ Fall Equinox	6 - Farvardigan (SC)	6 - Labour Day
<b>OCTOBER 2010</b>		20 - Birth of the Bab	2 - Lantern Festival 2 or 24 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Pravravaya 10 - Pavarana Day		8 - Sharad Navaratri begins 14 or 16 - Durgashtami 16 or 17 - Vijaya Dashmi/ Dussehra 26 - Karva Chauth			Sept 30-Oct 1 - Simchat Torah	20 - Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru		2 - Mehragan (FC)	11 - Thanksgiving Day
<b>NOVEMBER 2010</b>	16 - Louis Riel Day	12 - Birth of Baha'u'llah 26 - Day of the Covenant 28 - Ascension of 'Abdul-Bahá		1 - All Saints Day 15 - First Day of Advent 28 - First Day of Advent (J)	5 - Diwali 6 - New Year	15 or 16 - Waqfatu'Arafat 16 or 17 - Eid-ul Adha	6 - Lord Mahavir Nirvan/ Diwali 7 - New Year/ Enlightenment day of Gautamswami 10 - Gnan Panchami 21 - Dev Diwali		5 - Bandi Chhor Divas 21 - Birth of Guru Nanak 24 - Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur	1 - Samhain		
<b>DECEMBER 2010</b>			8 - Bodhi Day 19 or 31 - Amitabha Buddha's Birthday	25 - Christmas		7 - New Year (Hijra) 15 or 16 - Ashura	17 - Maun Agiyaras	2-9 - Chanukah		21 - Yule/Winter Solstice	26 - Zarathost-no-diso (FC)	25 - Christmas Day 26 - Boxing Day

Bahá'í, Judaism & Wicca - holy days in these faiths begin at sunset on the evening prior to date shown and end at sunset on the last day shown; Christianity - dates for Christianity are based on the Gregorian (G) calendar unless specified as Julian (J); Islam - dates are tentative as some may vary based on the sighting of the moon; Zoroastrianism - Fasil Calendar (FC), Qadmi Calendar (QC) and Shahenshahi 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. 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.

The expectation is that Peel schools and worksites not schedule events on significant holy days (marked in bold in the calendar) that would exclude observing staff and students from participating.

**Time is measured either according to:**

- the sun - solar calendar (Aboriginal, Bahá'í, Christian, Sikh and Zoroastrian calendars)
- the moon - lunar calendar (Islamic calendar)
- or in combination of both the sun and the moon - lunisolar calendar (Buddhist, Chinese, Hindu, Jain and Jewish calendars)

**Understanding 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 Background* 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

**Aboriginal spirituality**  
Native cultures have practiced and maintained their spirituality over centuries through ceremonies, customs and traditions that are an integral part of their being. The Supreme Being, the creator, is a fundamental figure in their religious pursuits. Spirituality for Aboriginal people is closely linked to Nature and Mother Earth. In their quest for spirituality, they strive for balance and harmony in their lives. Their spiritual and cultural life is interconnected. Followers of Aboriginal spirituality celebrate seasonal festivals.

**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 (northern) tradition is 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 - Veda, 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. Svetambar and Digambar 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
- Apargraha (non-acquisition)
- Karma (cause and effect action)
- Samsar (cycle of transmigration, birth and death)
- Anekantvada (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 Samvat 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 kashrut (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 1939 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**  
Zarathushtra, also called Zoroaster, founded the faith in ancient Persia (Iran). Believers worship Ahura Mazda - the one God. Zoroastrians believe that an individual has a choice between good and evil in life. The path to perfecting oneself is through good thought, good speech and good actions. Fire is sacred for the faith and it is 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 Navjote ceremony. Initiated adherents have to follow dress codes of the faith. Shenshahi, Qadimi and Fajli are three major denominations and the three calendars that 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.

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

**Aboriginal Spirituality** - Bonny Cann, Joseph Paquette  
**Bahá'í** - Ba Lih Le  
**Buddhism** - Ven. Abbot Thich Tam Hoa, Bhante Saranapala, Ven. Man Yee, Ven. Ahangama Rathanasiri  
**Christianity** - Father Peter Mentis, Father Walter Makarenko, Rev. Neil Young, Rev. Ruggiero Dibenedetto, Father Paul Drakos, Father Roman Pankiv  
**Hinduism** - Surendra Sharma Shastri, Pt. Roopnath Sharma  
**Islam** - Imam Omar Subedar, Mr. E. Gad, Shabir Hirani, Dr. Aslam Daud, Asif Khan  
**Jainism** - Prakash Mody  
**Judaism** - Rabbi L.A. Englander, Moira Black  
**Sikhism** - Jasjit Singh Bhullar, Pradeep Nagra  
**Wicca** - Richard James, High Priest  
**Zoroastrian** - Nozer Kotwal, Daraius Bharucha

**For further information, contact -**  
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