

Hello! JUNE



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

June 21st is the day where all Canadians celebrate and recognize the distinctive heritage, various cultures and spectacular contributions of the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people.

The Canadian Constitution acknowledges these three groups as Aboriginal people's, which are also known as Indigenous Peoples. Although, they do share a lot of similarities, they each have their own language, cultural practices, spiritual beliefs, and distinct heritage.

The Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, as National Aboriginal People's Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day, in collaboration with Indigenous organizations. Due to the summer solstice's significance as the longest day of the year, many Indigenous peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or around this day for generations.

EID AL-ADHA

Muslim Students' Association

Eid-al-Adha is one of the biggest celebrations that Muslims celebrate every year. Its origin comes from the story of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and his unwavering faith in God as he complied with the unthinkable task of sacrificing his son as commanded by God. However, God rewarded his faith by saving his son and providing a ram as a substitute at the last second. Muslims observe Eid-al-Adha on the 10th day of the Islamic month of Dhul Hijjah, following the completion of the Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca. The occasion lasts three days and is marked by various religious rituals and practices. The main tradition Muslims follow on Eid-al-Adha is the sacrifice of an animal, typically a sheep, goat, cow, or camel. The sacrifice symbolizes Prophet Ibrahim's devotion and signifies Muslims' willingness to submit to God's commands. The meat from the sacrificed animal is divided into three parts: one for the family, one for friends, and one for the less fortunate and needy, emphasizing the importance of charity and sharing. Eid-al-Adha is a time of unity, gratitude, and remembrance. Muslims gather for congregational prayers at mosques, wear their best attire, exchange greetings, and visit relatives and friends. The occasion promotes generosity, compassion, and the spirit of community.



INDIGENOUS CONVOCATION DAY!

SAIT'S Indigenous Convocation is the celebration of Indigenous students' academic achievements. It will be held on June 16, 2023. It is hosted on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy, (including Kainai, Piikani, and Siksika Nations) The Tsuut'ina Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda Nation includes the Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Goodstoney First Nations.

This convocation is notable because it acknowledges the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization and residential schools on Indigenous peoples, specifically, the Indigenous youth. The ability of Indigenous students to overcome systemic obstacles and pursue post-secondary education is also highlighted.

Important Dates & Events

June 16:

SAIT'S Indigenous Convocation

June 18 - 24:

Aboriginal Awareness Week Calgary

June 21:

National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 22 :

Official "Dragon Boat Festival Day"

June 24 :

National Indigenous Family Day &

POWWOW

June 25 - 30:

Hajj

June 29:

Eid al-Adha

HAJJ



The annual Hajj pilgrimage, tentatively scheduled to take place from June 25th to June 30th, 2023, is a significant religious journey for Muslims. The rituals of Hajj take place between the eighth and 12th of Dhul-Hijjah, the last month of the Islamic calendar. The precise date of the Hajj is determined based on the sighting of the moon of Dhul Hijjah. It is mandatory only for Muslims who can afford it financially and physically to undertake this pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.

The pilgrimage occurs in and around the holy city of Mecca and is the largest annual gathering of people on Earth, with around three million participants. The pilgrimage has been observed since 630 CE when Prophet Muhammad led his followers from Medina to Mecca.

The Hajj holds several key aspects: it brings together millions of Muslims from diverse backgrounds, it was initiated by Prophet Muhammad, and one of the significant stops is the Plains of Arafat, where Muhammad delivered his farewell sermon.

The Dragon Boat Festival



The Dragon Boat Festival, also known as Tuen Ng Festival (端午節), is an annual celebration that takes place on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month in China. The official date this year is June 22, 2023. This festival has been observed for over 2,000 years and is steeped in rich cultural traditions. Due to its significant historical importance in Chinese culture, the festival has been included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The festival is primarily celebrated by racing dragon boats, which are long and narrow boats with dragon heads and tails. The dragon boat race is said to have originated from the legend of Qu Yuan, a famous Chinese poet and politician who drowned himself in a river as a form of protest against corrupt officials.

In a desperate attempt to rescue him, the villagers brought their sticky rice dumplings (Zongzi) and boats to the river's center. To safeguard Qu's body from fish and evil beings, they tossed Zongzi into the river, drummed loudly and vigorously splashed the water with their paddles. This episode is widely believed to be the origin of Zongzi and the dragon boat race.

The Festival is also a time for people to enjoy traditional food and customs. A sticky rice dumpling wrapped in bamboo leaves and filled with various fillings such as pork, beans, or egg yolks, is a popular dish during the festival.

These celebrations represent the importance of people coming together and living in harmony and unity, both in their personal lives and within their community.

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