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SECTION 4

Religious Holy Days

Please note that, for the purpose of this document, we are utilizing the following definition of religion or creed and interpreting it as “religious creed” or “religion.” (See page 7 for additional information.)

It is defined as a professed system and confession of faith, including both beliefs and observances or worship. A belief in a God or gods, or a single supreme being or deity, is not a requisite condition to believe in a creed.

The following listing of religious holy days has been adapted from and compiled using a variety of resources, including, but not limited to

- York Region District School Board’s Accommodation of Religious Requirements, Practices, and Observances
- Anti-Defamation League’s Calendar of Observances
- Ontario Public Service’s 2015 List of Religious Holy Days
- Toronto District School Board’s 2014–2015 Days of Significance

The purpose of this listing of religious holy days is to provide an overview and general guide to the observances of members of the diverse school communities. It is provided for information only. Dates are not provided, as while the names of the observances will remain the same, the dates for solar, luna, and other calendars will change from year to year.

Note: For additional and future dates for holidays and holy days, please refer to the interfaith calendar at <www.interfaithcalendar.org/index.htm> or BBC’s Interfaith calendar at <www.bbc.co.uk/religion/tools/calendar/faith.shtml?muslim>, or the Anti-Defamation League’s Calendar of Observances at <www.adl.org/education-outreach/anti-bias-education/c/calendar-of-observances.html>.

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) communities are diverse and each band or group may have unique spiritual observances which may not be “religious holidays,” but may require accommodation.

- June 21 is the National Day of Solidarity for Aboriginal Peoples.
- Summer and winter solstices are important times of the year for many FNMI peoples.

Bahá'í

The dates are the same every year.

- Baha'í New Year, Naw Ruz
- First Day of the Festival of Ridvan
- Ninth Day of the Festival of Ridvan
- Twelfth Day of the Festival of Ridvan
- The Declaration of the Báb
- The ascension of the Baha'u'llah
- The martyrdom of the Báb
- The Birth of the Báb
- The Birth of Baha'u'llah

Buddhism

BUDDHIST (TIBETAN)

- Tibetan New Year
- Day of Offering (first full moon day of the Tibetan New Year)
- The Buddha's Enlightenment (Saga Dawa)
- His Holiness Dalai Lama's Birthday
- Chokor Korway Ducchen (1st turning of the wheel of Dharma)

BUDDHIST (TENGYE LING TIBETAN)

- Tibetan New Year (Losar)
- Day of Miracles
- Buddha's Birth (Wesak)
- Buddha's Death (Parinivana)
- Buddha's Enlightenment (Mahayana)

- His Holiness The 14th Dalai Lama's Birthday
- Buddha's Descent From Tushita Heaven

BUDDHIST (HINAYANA)

- Lunar (Chinese) New Year
- Spring Ohigon
- Kwan Yan Day
- Saka New Year
- Buddha's Birth (Wesak)
- Dharma Day (Termination of Rainy Observances)
- Wassana (Full Moon Day) Ullambana (Mayahana)
- Fall Ohigon
- Parinirvana
- Founder's Day
- Kathina (Theravada)
- Mert Shamp Day

BUDDHIST (MAHAYANA)

- Lunar (Chinese) New Year
- Buddha's Enlightenment (Mahayana)
- Buddha's Birthday (Wesak) (Mahayana)
- Buddha's Birthday (Therevadin)

Note: In the Western world, festivals are generally celebrated on the Sunday nearest the actual date.

Christianity

ANGLICAN

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday
- Pentecost
- Christmas

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

ARMENIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

- Christmas
- Good Friday
- Easter

ASSOCIATED GOSPE

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

BAPTIST

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

BELARUSIAN AUTOCEPHALOUS ORTHODOX

- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Annunciation
- Good Friday
- Easter
- Ascension
- Dormition

CATHOLIC

Polish Catholic

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

Roman Catholic

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

Ukrainian Catholic

Note: The Ukrainian Catholic church uses the following two Christmas [nativity] calendars:

- Gregorian (New) Calendar
- Julian Epiphany/Theophany (Old) Calendar

Ukrainian Catholics could follow either calendar; however, the accepted norm is for a person to follow one calendar at one time, not both.

Gregorian (New calendar)

- Epiphany (theophany)
- Annunciation
- Good Friday
- Easter (resurrection)
- Ascension
- Pentecost
- Sts. Peter and Paul
- Dormition
- Christmas (nativity)

Julian (old calendar)

- Good Friday
- Easter (resurrection)
- Ascension
- Pentecost
- Sts. Peter and Paul
- Dormition

CHRISTADELPHIAN

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY OF TAIWAN

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES (INCLUDES DISCIPLES OF CHRIST AND CHRISTIAN CHURCH)

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMON CHURCH)

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

Birthday of Founder, L. Ron Hubbard

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

CHURCH OF UNITED BRETHREN OF CHRIST

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

EGYPTIAN (COPTIC) ORTHODOX

- Christmas
- Baptism of Christ
- Good Friday
- Easter
- St. Mark's Feast (Patron Saint)
- Pentecost
- Coptic New Year

ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX ETHIOPIAN

- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Feast of Cana of Galilee
- Good Friday
- Easter
- Ethiopian New Year
- Founding of the True Cross

EVANGELICAL BAPTIST

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada. Churches do, however, elect members to attend Fellowship Convention Day (first Wednesday in November) and Manitoba Fellowship Day (first Tuesday in May). Members, if elected to attend, may request time off.

EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

GREEK ORTHODOX

Note: The dates provided are based on the Gregorian calendar; some members may choose to follow the Julian calendar.

- Epiphany Day
- Annunciation
- Orthodox Good Friday
- Orthodox Easter
- Ascension Day
- Pentecost
- Dormition
- Holy Cross Day
- Christmas

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Note: Members participate in the annual district international assembly for three or four days as well as two annual circuit assemblies. Dates are scheduled locally. While these are not religious holidays, they require accommodation.

Memorial of Christ's death (follows the Jewish calendar)

LUTHERAN

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

MACEDONIAN ORTHODOX

- Christmas Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday
- Easter Monday
- Pentecost Holy Trinity
- Theophany (Baptism of Our Lord)
- St. Clements of Oris (Patron Day)

MENNONITE

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

METHODIST CHURCHES

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

MISSIONARY CHURCH

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

NEW APOSTOLIC

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

NEW DAWN MORAVIAN CHURCH

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

PENTECOSTAL

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

PRESBYTERIAN

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

QUAKERS

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

REFORM CHURCH OF CANADA

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

REORGANIZED CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF AMERICA

- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Meeting of Our Lord
- Annunciation
- Orthodox Good Friday
- Orthodox Easter
- Orthodox Easter Monday
- Ascension Day
- Pentecost
- Transfiguration
- Dormition
- Nativity of the Mother of God
- Holy Cross Day
- Presentation of the Virgin

SALVATION ARMY

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

SERBIAN ORTHODOX

Slava (Patron Saint Day): one day per year; a religious observance between priest and parishioners; most common are St. Nicholas, December 19; St. John The Baptist, January 20; St. Sava, January 27; St. George, May 6; St. Michael Archangel, November 21

- Christmas Eve
- Christmas
- Serbian New Year
- Epiphany
- St. Sava
- Good Friday

- Easter Sunday (Pascha)
- Easter Monday
- Pentecost

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

SPIRITUALIST CHURCH OF CANADA

Information unavailable at time of publication.

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX

- Christmas
- New Year
- Feast of Epiphany
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday

UNITARIAN AS DEFINED BY THE INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY

Unitarian Universal supports the individual's right to choose their own spiritual truth. These dates should be confirmed in September of each year (reference cuc.ca).

UNITED CHURCH

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

WESLEYAN

There are no religious holidays requiring absence from school/work beyond the existing statutory holidays in Canada.

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD LORD'S SUPPER

- First Day of Unleavened Bread
- Celebration of Jesus Resurrection
- Last Day of Unleavened Bread
- Day of Pentecost
- Feast of Trumpets
- Day of Atonement
- First Day of the Festival of Tabernacles
- Last Day of the Festival
- Celebration of Jesus' Birth

Hindu

Note: Specific dates may vary from year to year, based on the solar or lunar calendars. Dates can also vary, depending on the time differential between Canada and India.

- Putruda Ekadashi
- Lohri (Punjab)
- Makara Sankranti and Thai Pongal
- Vasanta Panchami Or
- Saraswati Puja (North India)
- Mahashivaratri (Appearance of Bagavan Shiva)
- Rama Navarni
- Vaisahki (Tamil New Year)
- Guru Purnima
- Raksha Bandham (North India)
- Sri Krishna Jayanti Janmasthanami
- Vinayaka Chaturthi for Lord Ganesha
- Durga Puja (Mahastmi)
- Vijaya Dasami/Dassehra
- Karva Chouth
- Diwali/Kali Puja

Humanist Church, Canadian Humanist Association

HUMANISM

None

Islam

Note: Muslim holidays are based on the lunar calendar. The observances may vary by a day before or after from the dates given, depending on the community.

ISLAM (AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT)

Every Friday, 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.: congregational prayers

- Jum'at-Ul-Wida (The last Friday of the month of Ramadan 1420 Al-Hijri)
- Eid-Ul-Fitr (one day at the end of the month of fasting: Ramadan)

- Eid-UI-Adha (Festival of Sacrifices)
- Next Day of the Pilgrimage (Hajj)

ISLAM (DAWOODI BOHORA)

- Eid-UI-Fitr (1st after Ramadan)
- Day of Hajj (day at Arafat)
- Eid-UI-Adha
- First of Muharram (New Year)
- Ashura
- Mawlid-Un-Nabi
- Mi'raj Al-Naby
- Nisf Sha'ban
- First of Ramadan
- Lailat-UI-Qadr
- Jum'at-UI-Wida
- Laylat-UI-Qadr

ISLAM (SHIA)

Every Friday, 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.: congregational prayers

- Eid-UI-Fitr (1st after Ramadan)
- Day of Hajj
- Eid-UI-Adha
- Eid-E-Ghadir
- First of Muharram (New Year's Day)
- Ashura
- Mawlid-Un-Nabi
- Mawlid Imam Zaman

ISLAM (SUNNI)

Every Friday, 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.: congregational prayers

- Eid-UI-Adha (one day, as well as accommodations for those taking the pilgrimage to Mecca)
- Eid-UI-Fitr (one day at the end of Ramadan)

ISLAM (ISMAILI)

Every Friday, 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.: congregational prayers

- Eid-e-Navroz
- Eid-UI-Adha
- Eid-Emilad
- Imamah: Birth of Ima (July 11, unless it falls within a month of mourning, in which case it may vary)
- Laylat-UI-Qadr
- Eid-UI-Fitr (1st after Ramadan)

Jainism

- Mahavira Jayanti
- Akshaya Tritiya
- Paryushana Parva (Shvetambara Sect: Eight Days)
- Samvatsari and Daslakshana (Digambara Sect)
- Ananta Chaturdasi
- Ksmavani (Forgiveness Day)
- Mahavira Nirvana (Diwali)
- Gnan Panchmi (Day of Knowledge)
- Lokashah Jayanti
- Maun Ajiyaras

Judaism

JUDAISM (CONSERVATIVE)

Note: Sabbath starts Friday at sundown. All holy days start at sundown the night preceding the holiday.

- Pesach/Passover (1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th days)
- Shavuot/Pentecost (two days)
- Rosh Hashanah/New Year (two days)
- Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement (one day)
- Sukkoth (tabernacles)

JUDAISM (ORTHODOX)

- Pesach/Passover (1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th days)
- Shavuot/Pentecost (two days)
- Rosh Hashanah/New Year (two days)
- Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement (one day)
- Sukkoth (Tabernacles)
- Simchat Torah

JUDAISM (REFORM)

Note: Sabbath starts Friday at sundown. All holy days start at sundown the night preceding the holiday.

- Purim
- Pesach/Passover (1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th days)
- Shavuot/Pentecost (two days)
- Rosh Hashanah/New Year (two days)
- Yom Kippur/Day Of Atonement (one day)
- Sukkoth (Tabernacles)
- Hanukkah

Sikhism

- Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh
- Maghi
- Hola Mohalla
- Baisakhi
- Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev
- Parkash
- Diwali
- Installation of Holy Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib
- Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev
- Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur
- Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh

Wicca

Note: Evening observances commence at sundown. Solstice observances commence at sunrise. Dates are the same every year.

- Imbolc
- Spring (Vernal) Equinox
- Beltain (May Eve and May Day)
- Summer Solstice
- Lamas
- Autumnal Equinox
- Samhain
- Yuel (Winter Solstice)

Zoroastrian

Note: The dates will change because as Zoroastrians follow a 365-day calendar without a leap year day.

- F: Fasli: Seasonal
- S: Shehshahi: Royal
- Jashan-E-Sadeh (F)
- Jamshidi Norooz (New Year) (F and S)
- Birthday of Prophet Asho Zarathustra (F)
- Farvardegan (F)
- Asho Zarathost's Death Anniversary (S)
- Norooz (S)
- Farvardian (S)
- Mehrgan (F)
- Asho Zarathustra's Death Anniversary (F)

Notes