

	<b>Aboriginal Spirituality</b> 2016-2017	<b>Bahá'í</b> 173-174	<b>Buddhism</b> 2560-2561	<b>Christianity</b> 2016-2017	<b>Hinduism</b> 2073-2074	<b>Islam</b> 1437-1438	<b>Jainism</b> 2542-2543	<b>Judaism</b> 5777-5778	<b>Sikhism</b> 546-547	<b>Wicca</b> 2016-2017	<b>Zoroastrianism</b> 1386-1387	<b>Canadian Holidays</b> 2016-2017
<b>JULY 2016</b>		<b>9 - Martyrdom of the Báb</b>	19 - Poon/Aasalha Pujā Day 22 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment		19 - Guru Purnima	1 - Lailat-ul-Qadr 1 - Jum'at al-Widha 6 - Eid-ul-Fitr 11 - Imam'at Day	19 - Guru Purnima				18 - Navroze (New Year) (GC) 23 - Khordad Sal (GC)	1 - Canada Day
<b>AUGUST 2016</b>			17 - Dharma Day/Ullambana		17 - Raksha Bandhan 24 - Sri Krishna Janmashtami		30 - Paryushan Parva begins	14 - Tishah B'Av		1 or 2 - Lughnassadh/Lammas	5 - Farvardegan (GC) 17 - Navroze (New Year) (SC) 22 - Khordad Sal (SC)	1 - Civic Holiday (ON)
<b>SEPTEMBER 2016</b>	19 - Powley Day			11 - Nayrouz (J)	4 - Ganesh/Vinayak Chauth 15 - Anant Chaturdashi	9 or 10 - Waqfatu'Arafat 11 or 12 - Eid-ul-Adha	6 - Samvatsari/Paryushan Parva ends/Dastakhan Parva begins 15 - Anant Chaturdashi 16 - Kshamavani/Dastakhan Parva ends	1 - Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	22 - Harvestide/Fall Equinox	4 - Farvardegan (GC)	5 - Labour Day	
<b>OCTOBER 2016</b>			16 - Kathina Ceremony/Pavarana Day		1 - Sharad Navratri begins 9 - Durgaashtami 10 - Vijaya Dashmi/Dussehra 18 - Karva Chauth 28 - Lunar New Year/Maitreya Bodhisattva's Birthday	2 - New Year (Hijra) 7-9 - Jalsa Salana 11 - Ashura	30 - Diwali/Lord Mahavir Nirvan 31 - New Year/Enlightenment day of Gautamswami	3-4 - Rosh Hashanah 12 - Yom Kippur 17-23 - Sukkot 24-25 - Simchat Torah	20 - Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru 30 - Bandi Chhor Divas		10 - Thanksgiving Day	
<b>NOVEMBER 2016</b>	16 - Louis Riel Day	1 - Birth of the Báb 2 - Birth of Bahá'u'lláh 25 - Day of the Covenant 27 - Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá		1 - All Saints Day 27 - First day of Advent 28 - First day of Advent (J)			5 - Gnan Panchami 14 - Dev Diwali		14 - Birth of Guru Nanak 24 - Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur	1 - Samhain		
<b>DECEMBER 2016</b>			8 - Bodhi Day 15 - Amitabha Buddha's Birthday	25 - Christmas		11 or 12 - Milad-un-Nabi 13 - Birthday of Imam Agakhan	10 - Maun Agiyaras	25-Jan-1 - Chanukah		21 - Yule/Winter Solstice	26 - Zarathosht-no-diso (FC)	25 - Christmas Day 26 - Boxing Day
<b>JANUARY 2017</b>			1 - Temple Day 5 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment 28 - Lunar New Year/Maitreya Bodhisattva's Birthday	1 - New Year's Day 6 - Epiphany 7 - Christmas (J) 14 - New Year's Day (J) 19 - Epiphany (J)	13 - Lohri 14 - Makar Sankranti			1 - Chanukah	5 - Birth of Guru Gobind Singh 13 - Maghi			1 - New Year's Day
<b>FEBRUARY 2017</b>		25-28 - Intercalary Days	11 - Lantern Festival/Magha Puja	27 - Clean Monday (J)	1 - Vasant Panchami 24 - Mahashivratri					1 or 2 - Imbolc		20 - Family Day (ON)
<b>MARCH 2017</b>		1-19 - Bahá'í Fast 20 - Naw Ruz (New Year)	12 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana Day/Magha Puja 15 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday	1 - Ash Wednesday	12 - Holi 28 - New Year/Vasant Navratri begins			12 - Purim	13 - Hala Mohalla 14 - Sikh New Year	20 - Ladyday/Spring Equinox	21 - Navroze (New Year) (FC) 26 - Khordad Sal (FC)	
<b>APRIL 2017</b>		20 - First day of Ridvan 28 - Ninth day of Ridvan	13 or 14 - Theravada New Year	14 - Good Friday 16 - Easter 17 - Easter Monday	4 - Shri Ramnavami 13 - Vaisakhi/Baisakhi 13 - New Year	23 or 24 - Isra'a and Mi'raj	9 - Mahavir Jayanti (Birthday)	11-18 - Pesach (Passover)	13 or 14 - Vaisakhi		8 - Farvardegan (FC) 24 - Zarathosht-no-diso (GC)	14 - Good Friday 17 - Easter Monday
<b>MAY 2017</b>		1 - Twelfth day of Ridvan 23 - Declaration of the Báb 28 - Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	10 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday 10 - Wesak/Buddha Day			10 or 11 - Nisfu She'ban 27 - Ramadan (fasting month)	31 - Jun 1 - Shavuot			1 - Beltane	24 - Zarathosht-no-diso (SC)	22 - Victoria Day
<b>JUNE 2017</b>	12-16 - National Aboriginal Week 21 - National Aboriginal Day		9 - Poon	4 - Pentecost 11 - All Saints Day (J)		21 - Lailat-ul-Qadr 23 - Jum'at al-Widha 25 - Eid-ul-Fitr	1 - Shavuot	16 - Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	21 - Litha/Summer Solstice			
<b>JULY 2017</b>		9 - Martyrdom of the Báb	9 - Aasalha Pujā Day		8 - Guru Purnima	7-9 - Jalsa Salana 11 - Imam'at Day	9 - Guru Purnima				18 - Navroze (New Year) (GC) 23 - Khordad Sal (GC)	1 - Canada Day
<b>AUGUST 2017</b>			10 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment		7 - Raksha Bandhan 14 - Sri Krishna Janmashtami 24 - Ganesh/Vinayak Chauth	31 - Waqfatu'Arafat	19 - Paryushan Parva begins 26 - Samvatsari/Paryushan Parva ends/Dastakhan Parva begins	1 - Tishah B'Av		1 or 2 - Lughnassadh/Lammas	5 - Farvardegan (GC) 17 - Navroze (New Year) (SC) 22 - Khordad Sal (SC)	7 - Civic Holiday (ON)
<b>SEPTEMBER 2017</b>	19 - Powley Day		5 - Dharma Day/Ullambana 9 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Pravaraja/Buddhist Joy Day	11 - Nayrouz (J)	4 - Anant Chaturdashi 20 - Sharad Navratri begins 27 - Durgaashtami 29 - Vijaya Dashmi/Dussehra	1 - Eid-ul-Adha 21 - New Year (Hijra) 30 - Ashura	5 - Anant Chaturdashi 6 - Kshamavani/Dastakhan Parva ends	21-22 - Rosh Hashanah 30 - Yom Kippur	1 - Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	22 - Harvestide/Fall Equinox	4 - Farvardegan (GC)	4 - Labour Day
<b>OCTOBER 2017</b>		21 - Birth of the Báb 22 - Birth of Bahá'u'lláh	5 - Kathina Ceremony/Pavarana Day		8 - Karva Chauth 18 - Diwali 20 - New Year		19 - Lord Mahavir Nirvan/Diwali 20 - New Year/Enlightenment day of Gautamswami 25 - Gnan Panchami	5-11 - Sukkot 12-13 - Simchat Torah	19 - Bandi Chhor Divas 20 - Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru			9 - Thanksgiving Day
<b>NOVEMBER 2017</b>	16 - Louis Riel Day	25 - Day of the Covenant 27 - Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá		1 - All Saints Day 28 - First day of Advent (J)		30 - Milad-un-Nabi	4 - Dev Diwali 30 - Maun Agiyaras		4 - Birth of Guru Nanak 24 - Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur	1 - Samhain		
<b>DECEMBER 2017</b>			8 - Bodhi Day	3 - First day of Advent 25 - Christmas		13 - Birthday of Imam Agakhan		13-20 - Chanukah		21 - Yule/Winter Solstice	26 - Zarathosht-no-diso (FC)	25 - Christmas Day 26 - Boxing Day

**Bahá'í, Judaism and Wicca** - holy days in these faiths begin at sunset on the evening prior to the date shown and end at sunset on the last day shown; **Christianity** - dates for Christianity are based on the Gregorian calendar unless specified as Julian (J); **Islam** - dates are tentative as some may vary based on the sighting of the moon; **Sikhism** - dates for Sikhism are based on the original calendar unless specified as Revised Nanak Shahi calendar (N); **Zoroastrianism** - dates are based on Fasi Calendar (FC).  
**Highlighted Canadian and Ontario holidays are recognized statutory holidays.**

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. See Exceptions to Staff Approved Holy Days on Human Resources' webpage.  
 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.

**Time is measured either according to:**  
 • the sun - solar calendar - (Aboriginal, Bahá'í, Christian, Sikh, Wicca and Zoroastrian calendars)  
 • the moon - lunar calendar (Islamic calendar)  
 • or in combination of both the sun and the moon - lunisolar calendar (Buddhist, Hindu, Jain and Jewish calendars)

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

**Faith Forward**  
 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
- *Months Celebrating Faith and Culture Backgrounder* 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 and Vajrayana (northern) traditions are 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 - Vedas, 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 judgment and resurrection after death. Followers of the faith have five duties (Pillars of Islam) to perform.  
 • Declaration of faith  
 • Five prayers daily  
 • 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.

**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

**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. Shwetamber and Digamber 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)  
 • Acharngraha (non-acquisition)  
 • Karma (cause and effect action)  
 • Samhar (cycle of transmigration, birth and death)  
 • Anekantavada (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 Smavat 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 rituals  
 • 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. Sikh calendar was modified in 1999 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 for perfecting oneself is through good thought, good speech and good actions. Fire is sacred to the faith and it is always 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. Shenshah, Qadimi and Fasi 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** - Joseph Paquette  
**Bahá'í** - Ba Lint Le  
**Buddhism** - Ven. Abbot Thich Tam Hoa, Ven. Jue Qian, Ven. Ahangama Rathanasiri, Bhante Saranapala  
**Christianity** - Father Theo Drakos, Rev. Neil Young, Father Roman Pankiw, Father Camillo Lando, Father Walter Makarenko  
**Hinduism** - Acharya Surendra Sharma Shastri, Pt. Roonpathy Sharma  
**Islam** - Imam Omar Subedari, Mr. E. Gad, Dr. Aslam Daudi, Gulshan Shihvi, Karam Keshavjee  
**Jainism** - Dr. Raj Patil, Prakash Mody  
**Judaism** - Ariene Botnick, Rabbi Yitzchok Slavin  
**Sikhism** - Pardesep Singh Nagra, Ranjit Singh Duley  
**Wicca** - High Priest, Richard James, High Priestess Nicole Cooper  
**Zoroastrian** - Nozer Kotwal, Fred Mirza, Hoshang Udawadia

**For further information, contact:**  
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