

	Aboriginal Spirituality 2017-2018	Bahá'í 174-175	Buddhism 2561-2562	Christianity 2017-2018	Hinduism 2074-2075	Islam 1438-1439	Jainism 2543-2544	Judaism 5778-5779	Sikhism 547-548	Wicca 2017-2018	Zoroastrianism 1387-1388	Canadian Holidays 2017-2018
JULY 2017		9 - Martyrdom of the Báb	9 - Asalha Puja Day/ Poon Day 12 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment		8 - Guru Purnima	7-9 - Jalsa Salana 11 - Imam Day	9 - Guru Purnima				18 - Navroz (New Year) (GC) 23 - Khordad Sal (GC)	1 - Canada Day
AUGUST 2017			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/ Daslakshan Parva begins	1 - Tishah B'Av		1 - Lughnassadh/Lammas	5 - Farvardegan (GC) 17 - Navroz (New Year) (SC) 22 - Khordad Sal (SC)	7 - Civic Holiday (ON)
SEPTEMBER 2017	19 - Powley Day		5 - Dharma Day/ Ullambana 9 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Pravravaya/ Buddhist Joy Day	11 - Nayrouz (J)	4 - Anant Chaturdashi 20 - Sharad Navratri begins 27 or 28 - Durgaashtami 29 - Vijaya Dashmi/ Dassehra	1 - Eid-ul-Adha 21 - New Year (Hijra) 30 - Ashura	5 - Anant Chaturdashi 6 - Kshamavani/ Daslakshan Parva ends	20 - observance of Rosh Hashanah begins evening of Sept. 20 21-22 - Rosh Hashanah 29 - observance of Yom Kippur begins evening of Sept. 29 30 - Yom Kippur	1 - Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	22 - Harvestide/ Fall Equinox	4 - Farvardegan (SC)	4 - Labour Day
OCTOBER 2017		21 - Birth of the Báb 24 - 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 - Simchat Torah	19 - Bandi Chhor Divas 20 - Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru			9 - Thanksgiving Day
NOVEMBER 2017	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		
DECEMBER 2017			8 - Bodhi Day	3 - First day of Advent 25 - Christmas		13 - Birthday of Imam Aga Khan		13-20 - Chanukah		22 - Yule/Winter Solstice	26 - Zarathost-no-diso (FC)	25 - Christmas Day 26 - Boxing Day
JANUARY 2018			1 - Temple Day 3 - Amitabha Buddha's Birthday 24 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment	1 - New Year's Day 6 - Epiphany 7 - Christmas (J) 14 - New Year's Day (J) 19 - Epiphany	13 - Lohri 18 - New Year 21 - Vasant Panchami				5 - Birth of Guru Gobind Singh 13 - Maghi			1 - New Year's Day
FEBRUARY 2018		25 - Mar 1 - Intercalary Days	16 - Lunar New Year/ Maitreya Bodhisattva's Birthday	14 - Ash Wednesday 19 - Clean Monday (J)	13 - Mahashivratri					1 or 2 - Imbolc		19 - Family Day (ON)
MARCH 2018		1 - Intercalary Days 2-20 - Bahá'í Fast 21 - Naw Ruz (New Year)	2 - Lantern Festival/ Magha Puja 31 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana Day	30 - Good Friday	1 - Holl 18 - New Year/Vasant Navratri begins 25 - Shri Ramnavami	21 - Eid-e-Navroz	29 - Mahavir Jayanti (Birthday)	1 - Purim 30 - observance of Pesach begins evening of March 30 31 - April 6 - Pesach (Passover)	2 - Holo Mohalla 14 - Sikh New Year	22 - Ladyday/ Spring Equinox	21 - Navroz (New Year) (FC) 26 - Khordad Sal (FC)	30 - Good Friday
APRIL 2018		21 - First day of Ridvan 29 - Ninth day of Ridvan	4 or 7 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday 13 - Theravada New Year	1 - Easter 2 - Easter Monday 6 - Good Friday (J) 8 - Easter (J) 9 - Easter Monday (J)	13 - Vaisakhi/Baisakhi 13 - New Year	12 or 13 - Isra'a and Mir'aj 30 or May 1 - Nisfu Sha'ban		1-6 - Pesach (Passover)	13 or 14 - Vaisakhi		8 - Farvardegan (FC) 24 - Zarathost-no-diso (GC)	2 - Easter Monday
MAY 2018		2 - Twelfth day of Ridvan 24 - Declaration of the Báb 29 - Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh	22 or 29 - Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday 29 - Vesak/ Buddha Day	20 - Pentecost 27 - Pentecost (J)		1 - Nisfu Sha'ban 16 or 17 - Ramadan (fasting month)		19 - observance of Shavuot begins evening April 19 20 - Shavuot		1 - Beltane	24 - Zarathost-no-diso (SC)	21 - Victoria Day
JUNE 2018	19-22 - National Aboriginal Week 21 - National Aboriginal Day		29 - Poon	3 - All Saints Day (J)		8 - Jumarul Widha 8 or 10 - Lalail-ul-Qadr 15 - Eid-ul-Fitr			16 - Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	22 - Litha/Summer Solstice		
JULY 2018		10 - Martyrdom of the Báb	27 - Asalha Puja Day 31 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Enlightenment		27 - Guru Purnima	6-8 - Jalsa Salana 11 - Imam Day		22 - Tishah B'Av			18 - Navroz (New Year) (GC) 23 - Khordad Sal (GC)	1 - Canada Day
AUGUST 2018			25 - Dharma Day/ Ullambana		26 - Raksha Bandhan	20 - Waqfatu'Arafat 21 - Eid-ul-Adha	26 - Guru Purnima			1 - Lughnassadh/Lammas	5 - Farvardegan (GC) 17 - Navroz (New Year) (SC) 22 - Khordad Sal (SC)	6 - Civic Holiday (ON)
SEPTEMBER 2018	19 - Powley Day			11 - Nayrouz (J)	2 - Sri Krishna Janmashtami 12 - Ganesh/Vinayak Chauth 23 - Anant Chaturdashi	11 - New Year (Hijra) 20 - Ashura	7 - Paryushan Parva begins 14 - Samvatsari/ Paryushan Parva ends/ Daslakshan Parva ends	9 - observance of Rosh Hashanah begins evening of Nov. 9 10-11 - Rosh Hashanah 18 - observance of Yom Kippur begins evening of Nov. 18 19 - Yom Kippur 24-30 - Sukkot	1 - Installation of Holy Scriptures of Guru Granth Sahib	22 - Harvestide/ Fall Equinox	4 - Farvardegan (SC)	3 - Labour Day
OCTOBER 2018			24 - Kathina Ceremony/ Pavarana Day 27 - Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Pravravaya/ Buddhist Joy Day		9 - Sharad Navratri begins 16 - Durgaashtami 18 - Vijaya Dashmi/ Dassehra 27 - Karva Chauth			1 - Simchat Torah	20 - Installation of the Guru Granth as Guru			8 - Thanksgiving Day
NOVEMBER 2018	16 - Louis Riel Day	9 - Birth of the Báb 10 - Birth of Bahá'u'lláh 26 - Day of the Covenant 28 - Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá		1 - All Saints Day 28 - First day of Advent (J)	6 - Diwali 7 - New Year	20 - Milad-un-Nabi	7 - Diwali/Lord Mahavir Nirvan 8 - New Year/ Enlightenment day of Gautamswami 12 - Gnan Panchami 23 - Dev Diwali		7 - Bandi Chhor Divas 23 - Birth of Guru Nanak 24 - Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur	1 - Samhain		
DECEMBER 2018			8 - Bodhi Day 17 or 23 - Amitabha Buddha's Birthday	2 - First day of Advent 25 - Christmas		13 - Birthday of Imam Agakhan	19 - Maun Agiyaras	3-10 - Chanukah		22 - Yule/Winter Solstice	26 - Zarathost-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).
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 for other holy days.
 • = Do not schedule events at any time on these days. ◊ = Do not schedule events on the evenings of these days. 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 hollydays (as marked with a ● or ◊ on 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, 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)

Time is measured either according to:
 • Holy Days and Holidays calendar with important dates in 11 world religions throughout the school year
 • monthly 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 the 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 principles 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 birth through Dharma (Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Noble Path) and Karma (action with cause and effect). Buddhist traditions 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 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. Shwetamber 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
 • Aparigraha (non-acquisition)
 • Karma (cause and effect action)
 • Samasr (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 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 to 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. Shenshahi, 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 Simco 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 Linh Le
Buddhism - Ven. Abbot Thich Tam Hoa, Ven. Dao Tran Chua Phap Van, Ven. Bhante Saranapala, Ven. Miao Qi, Ven. Ahangama Rathanasiri
Christianity - Father Theo Drakos, Father Camillo Landi, Father Walter Makarenko, Rev. Brenna Nickel, Father Roman Pankiv
Hinduism - Acharya Surendra Sharma Shastri, Pt. Roonnath Sharma
Islam - Imam Omar Subedar, Mr. E. Gad, Dr. Aslam Daud, Karim Keshavjee, Imam Jaffer Jaffer
Jainism - Dr. Raj Patel, Prakash Mody
Judaism - Arlene Botnick
Sikhism - Pardeep Singh Nagra, Avtar Punia, Ranjit Singh Dula
Wicca - High Priestesses Nicole Cooper
Zoroastrian - Nozer Kotwal, Hoshang Udwadia

For further information, contact:
 Communications and Community Relations Support Services at (905) 890 1010 (or 1-800 668 1146) ext. 2809, or by email at communications@peelbs.com

