



June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada. On this day and throughout the month of June, we celebrate the contributions, culture, and heritage of the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples. Although these groups share some similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. This particular date, June 21st, significantly coincides with summer solstice, the longest day of the year. For many generations, Indigenous communities have celebrated their culture and heritage at the time of summer solstice.

The Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival takes place annually in Ottawa. This event was established in 1996; it is a multi-disciplinary arts festival, incorporating different mediums of artist expression, that brings the Indigenous community together to share knowledge and celebrate Canada's diverse Indigenous cultures.¹

National Indigenous Day came to be through consultation and statements of support from several Indigenous groups. Beginning in 1982, the [National Indian Brotherhood \(now the Assembly of the First Nations\)](#) advocated for the celebration of Indigenous culture and heritage with the creation of National Aboriginal Solidarity Day. In 1995, at a national conference of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people known as the Sacred Assembly, the prospect of a day devoted to recognizing Indigenous heritage was again raised. That same year, [the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples](#) recommended the designation of a National First Peoples Day. In 1996, former Governor General of Canada, Romeo LeBlanc, announced National Aboriginal Day (now National Indigenous Peoples Day), through the [Proclamation Declaring June 21 of Each Year as National Aboriginal Day](#). On June 21, 2017, Prime Minister Trudeau issued a [statement](#) announcing the intention to rename this day National Indigenous Peoples Day.

¹ For more information on this Summer Solstice please visit: <https://summersolsticefestivals.ca/ssif/>

Please join the EDI committee in celebrating Indigenous culture! We encourage you to learn more! We have suggested some resources below. Please look out for some spotlights of some amazing Indigenous people throughout the month

To learn more about Indigenous History, and the history of Canada, please take a look at the resources below:

[The Canadian Encyclopedia: Indigenous Peoples](#)

Explore topics from treaties, suffrage and residential schools to First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation involvement in the War of 1812.

[Heritage Minutes](#)

Historica Canada's collection of "Indigenous History" 60-second short films, each depicting a significant person, event or story.

[Indigenous veterans](#)

Video catalogue from Veterans Affairs Canada showcasing First Nations, Inuit and Métis involvement in major Canadian conflicts.

[Indigenous relations at Parks Canada](#)

First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples working with Parks Canada to conserve traditional land, history, culture and traditions. Learn more about the place names and stories associated with the land.

[Residential Schools: Photographic collections](#)

Library and Archives Canada presents photographs from its collection on residential schools, taken between 1885 and 1996.

[Residential Schools Podcast Series](#)

Residential Schools is a three-part podcast series created by Historica Canada that aims to commemorate the history and legacy of residential schools.

Content warning:

Some materials on this page contain information regarding residential schools, which some may find distressing. If you require support, please note that there are resources available. For support, consult [Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program](#).

To learn more about the art, culture, stories and languages of Indigenous peoples, please use these resources here;

Telling Our Twisted Histories – the podcast

Listen to First Nations, Inuit and Métis people tell their histories.

#IndigenousReads

The #IndigenousReads initiative showcases Indigenous authors, stories, illustrations and artists by promoting books by, for, and about, Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Traditional Stories and Creation Stories

Listen to stories told by First Nations, Inuit and Métis storytellers from communities across Canada collected by the Canadian Museum of History.

Seven Sacred Laws

A Turtle Lodge web series where Indigenous Peoples get to tell their own stories, for Indigenous and non-Indigenous People.

Indigenous cinema at the National Film Board of Canada

The National Film Board of Canada has a vast collection of First Nations, Inuit and Métis-created films from different periods of history and on a variety of subjects for Canadians to watch online.

Indigenous languages

The Government of Canada's Translation Bureau's catalogue of resources on First Nations, Inuit and Métis languages from all across Canada.

Parks Canada Indigenous Connections

This YouTube playlist of Indigenous Peoples sharing their homelands and traditions in collaboration with Parks Canada.

To Learn more about Reconciliation and current initiative, please take a look at these resources;

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Learn more about the commission and read the final report.

Delivering on Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

How the Government of Canada is responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Government of Canada launched an independent National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

This 2 volume report calls for legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous communities across the country.

Creating the MMIWG and 2SLGBTQIA+ national action plan

Working with provinces, territories, Indigenous organizations and communities across the country to create a national action plan.

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For more resources please check out this website: <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1559222623218/1559222644174>

Resources: <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013718/1534874583157>