

## Celebrating Bangladeshi Heritage Month



[Source](#)

Starting in 2016, every March, Ontario lights up with the vibrant colours and sounds of Bangladeshi Heritage Month. At this time, Bengali Canadians open their doors and hearts to share their story with the province. From the aromatic spices of home-cooked meals to the rich tapestry of cultural traditions, the month-long celebration showcases how Bangladeshi immigrants have woven themselves into Ontario's cultural fabric, enriching the province with their achievements and contributions.

### Why March?

March holds special significance for the Bangladeshi community, particularly on March 26th, when Bangladeshis around the world celebrate Independence Day. This day commemorates their nation's independence gained in 1971 and is celebrated with music, parades, fairs, and various gatherings to honour Bangladesh's history and traditions. [Source](#)

- By designating March as Bangladeshi Heritage Month, Ontario recognizes the significant contributions of Bangladeshi Canadians and highlights their vital role in enriching the multicultural fabric of Ontario's communities. [Source](#)

### Learn more about Bengali Canadians

- [The Bangladesh-Canada Friendship Society](#)
- [Check out some of our books with main characters who are Bangladeshi](#) (East Gwillimbury Public Library)
- [How I Learned to Balance My Bangladeshi Roots as a Canadian Teen](#) (CBC Kids News)
- [Reviving Interest in Bengali Culture among Younger Generation](#) (New Canadian Media)

## Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)

At Holland Bloorview, we recognize that empowering and elevating diversity is critical to fostering a healthy team. Creating a sense of well-being and belonging for all employees, volunteers, and students is an important part of this work. We're doing this by supporting the formation of employee resource groups (ERGs) or interest groups.

The IDEAA office has a [toolkit](#) with instructions for staff members who want to form a resource group. The IDEAA office can assist ERG leads with administrative support, such as creating internal communications, setting up meetings, and sharing information with managers to encourage employee participation in these groups with enough notice. Discretionary funds are available if any ERGs would like to organize an official learning event for their members and the organization.

This resource was developed by the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Anti-Racism Office (IDEAA). If you have any comments or would like to suggest additional resources, please e-mail [ideaa@hollandbloorview.ca](mailto:ideaa@hollandbloorview.ca)