

Celebrating International Women's Day (IWD)



[Source](#)

Celebrated every year on March 8th, International Women's Day (IWD) is an occasion to:

- Celebrate women's achievements
- Educate and raise awareness about women's equality
- Advocate for positive changes to advance women
- Lobby for accelerated gender parity
- Fundraise for women-focused charities

The focus of the International Women's Day (IWD) 2025 campaign is focused on the importance of how to **Accelerate Action**.

- According to the World Economic Forum, at the current pace of progress, achieving full gender parity will take until 2158, which is approximately five generations from now.
- The campaign underscores the critical need for swift and decisive measures to attain gender equality. It calls for heightened momentum and urgency in tackling the systemic barriers and biases that women encounter in both personal and professional domains.
- Together, let's **Accelerate Action** and put urgency on the need to achieve global gender equality. [Source](#)

Did you know?

The celebration of International Women's Day on March 8th is deeply connected to the women's movements during the Russian Revolution in 1917.

- On this day, women in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg) initiated a strike demanding "bread and peace," which sparked a larger movement leading to significant political changes in Russia. This event is one of the key reasons why March 8th was chosen to commemorate women's achievements and advocate for gender equality worldwide.

[Source](#)

New Zealand was the first self-governing nation to allow women to vote.

- This historic milestone was achieved on September 19, 1893, when Governor Lord Glasgow signed the Electoral Act into law¹². This landmark legislation marked a significant step forward in the global movement for women's suffrage. [Source](#), [Source](#)(2)

The colours of International Women's Day—purple, green, and white.

- Purple represents justice, dignity, and loyalty to the cause. Green symbolizes hope, while white stands for purity, though this concept is somewhat controversial. These colours were first adopted by the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in the United Kingdom in 1908. [Source](#)

Learn more about International Women's Day

- [What Is International Women's Day?](#) | YouTube)
- [History of International Women's Day](#) | International Women's Day (IWD)
- [International Women's Day 2025 Canada](#) | Amnesty International Canada
- [5 young women in Canada to celebrate on International Women's Day](#) | CBC Kids

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.

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