

Celebrating Sikh Heritage Month

[Sikh Heritage Month 2025 Schedule](#), Sikh Heritage Month Foundation



In 2013, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario proclaimed April as Sikh Heritage Month through Bill 52. [Source](#)

In 2019, the government of Canada designated April as Sikh Heritage Month.

- Canada is home to over 770,000 Sikh Canadians, constituting one of the largest Sikh diasporas globally.
- This month serves to recognize the significant contributions that Sikh communities have made and continue to make across all spheres of Canadian society. [Source](#)

Did you know?

The first Sikh settlers in Canada arrived in British Columbia in the early 1900s.

- They established themselves across the lower mainland and Vancouver Island, contributing significantly to the agricultural and forestry industries.
- These early pioneers laid the foundation for the vibrant Sikh community we see today. [Source](#)
- April holds special significance for the Sikh community as it includes Vaisakhi, a major celebration that commemorates the creation of the Khalsa flag and the establishment of the Sikh articles of faith. [Source](#)
- Known as Khalsa Day, Vaisakhi is celebrated with great enthusiasm by Sikh communities across Canada. This festival not only marks a pivotal moment in Sikh history but also serves as a time for Sikhs to reaffirm their faith and commitment to the principles of the Khalsa. [Source](#)
- Sikhism emphasizes values of equality, selflessness, openness, and compassion.

Celebrating Vaisakhi in Canada

This year, Vaisakhi, the most sacred day in the Sikh faith, will be observed on April 14.

[Khalsa Day Celebration](#) April 27, 2025, Exhibition Place



[Source](#)

- Vaisakhi is a spring harvest festival that began in the Punjab region of Northern India. On this day, the Sikh community celebrates the advent of spring and commemorates the establishment of Sikhism as a unified faith by Guru Gobind Singh Ji during the festival in 1699. [Source](#)
- Vaisakhi is celebrated with prayers and festivities in local Gurdwaras.
- In Canada, Sikhs-Canadian gather for vibrant parades, known as Nagar Kirtans. [Source](#)
- Nagar Kirtans are led by the "Punj Pyaaray," the first five members of the Khalsa. [Source](#)
- They are followed by a float carrying the Sikh scripture, Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Sikhs follow along, singing hymns, performing gatka, and distributing free food.
- Orange, a color linked to Vaisakhi, is worn by many participants. [Source](#)

Learn more about Vaisakhi

- [Let's celebrate Vaisakhi](#) , CBC Kids
- [What is Vaisakhi? - An Overview](#), YouTube

Wishing you a very happy and joyous Vaisakhi

Learn more about Sikh-Canadian

- [Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada](#), Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada
- [Ontario government celebrates Sikh Heritage Month at Queen's Park](#) , OMNI News Punjabi| YouTube
- [Canadian Sikh Heritage](#), Canadian Sikh Heritage
- [Vaisakhi fact sheet \(PDF\)](#), Tanenbaum
- [Jagmeet Singh: The Colour of Politics](#), CBC
- [My Turban and Me Documentary](#), YouTube

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