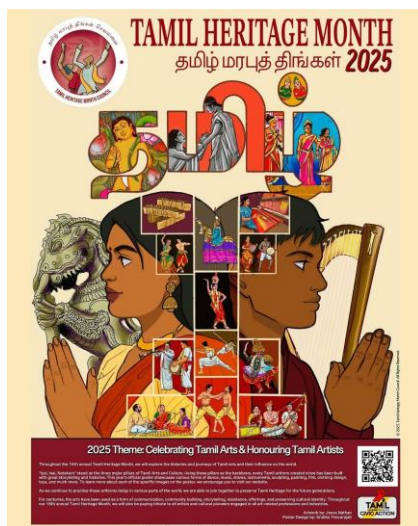


## Celebrating Tamil Heritage Month (January)



[Source](#)

- Tamil Heritage Month was launched in 2010. [Source](#)
- In 2014, the provincial government proclaimed January as Tamil Heritage Month. [Source](#)
- Canada's Tamil community is one of the largest outside Asia, thanks in part to the Canadian government's initiatives and policies, starting in 1983, that helped people fleeing violence find safety here in Canada. [Source](#)
- Today, Canada is home to one of the largest Tamil diasporas in the world, with a population of nearly 240,000 in 2021, nearly half of which resides in the Greater Toronto Area. [Source](#)

### January and Tamil Heritage Month

For Tamil Canadians, January carries deep cultural significance.

- The Pongal festival, which is the most cherished festival in Tamil culture, is celebrated in mid-January with joy and reverence worldwide. It's a time when Tamils express gratitude for the year's blessings while eagerly embracing the promise of new beginnings. The timing is especially meaningful as it aligns with 'Thai,' the first month of the traditional Tamil calendar, which begins in the middle of January. [Source](#)

### The objectives of the Tamil Heritage Month include:

1. To celebrate the richness of the Tamil language and literature.
2. To celebrate the traditions, arts, and culture of Tamils around the world.

3. To educate Canadians of all backgrounds about the language, traditions and history of the Tamil people.
4. To highlight the achievements of Tamils in various fields both in the past and the present. [Source](#)

## Community Events

- [Tamil Heritage Month 2025 Opening Ceremony](#) (January 9, Scarborough Civic Centre)
- [Celebrate Tamil Heritage Month](#) (January 12, Vaughan Public Library)
- [Tamil Heritage Month and Thai Pongal Celebration](#) (January 26, Audley Recreation Centre, Ajax)
- [Tamil Heritage Month](#) (ongoing, U of T Scarborough)

## 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)