

Canadian Jewish Heritage Month



[Source](#)

May is designated as Canadian Jewish Heritage Month, a celebration instituted by Parliament in 2018. Canadian Jewish Heritage Month honours the contributions of Jewish Canadians over the past 250 years, spanning law, politics, culture, and sports. [Source](#)

Did you know....

- **Population:** Canada has the fourth-largest Jewish population in the world. The Jewish community in Canada encompasses those who identify as Jewish culturally, ethnically, and/or religiously. [Source](#)
- **Ancient Origins:** Jewish heritage traces its roots back to the Israelites, a group who lived in the region of the Levant and later formed the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. [Source](#)
- **Cultural Diversity:** Jewish culture is diverse, encompassing various regional traditions, languages, and customs. Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews represent two major ancestral groups, with Sephardic Jews originating from Spain, Portugal, North Africa, and the Middle East, and Ashkenazi Jews from France and Central and Eastern Europe. [Source](#)
- **Judaism as a Core Belief:** Judaism, with its emphasis on monotheism, ethical behavior, and the study of the Torah, is central to Jewish identity and practice. [Source](#)
- **Shared History and Memory:** Jewish heritage places a strong emphasis on remembering historical events, both joyous and tragic, such as the Exodus from Egypt and the Holocaust, to learn from the past and build a better future. [Source](#)

Events

- [Toronto Public Library \(free\)](#): Between May 7 – 29, Jewish arts, culture and history will be highlighted through events, programs and featured collections.
- [Kultura Collectiv](#): A website promoting Jewish arts, culture and heritage throughout Toronto through meaningful artistic experiences.

Resources

- [Canadian Jewish Heritage](#): The National Film Board provides a curated selection of films celebrating Jewish Canadians' contributions to Canada's society.
- [Periphery](#): An evocative mixed media experience that bears witness to ethnic diversity and mixed Jews in the Jewish community.
- [The Ontario Jewish Archives](#): A collection of documentary resources related to Ontario's Jewish community. It is the largest repository of Jewish life in Canada

The Jewish Employee Resource Group

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 [Jewish Employee Resource Group](#) is dedicated to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion for Jewish employees within our organization. Through a variety of initiatives and activities, we aim to create a sense of community, increase cultural awareness, and advocate for the needs of Jewish employees. For more information or to get involved, please contact: Email: JewishERG@hollandbloorview.ca

L'chaim Jewish Heritage!

This resource was co-created with the [Jewish ERG](#) and 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