

A guide to National Indigenous History Month

Learn about the history of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and how Canadians can celebrate their history in June.

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Who are Canada's Indigenous peoples?

Inuit
Inuit tribes live in the far north of Canada, mainly in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, northern Quebec, and Labrador.

First Nations There are over 630 First Nations communities in Canada, representing 50 Nations and 50 Indigenous languages.

Métis
The Métis people are Indigenous individuals with mixed Indigenous and European ancestry.

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National Indigenous History Month

Month of June

The Government of Canada declared June as National Indigenous History Month in 2009.

National Indigenous Peoples Day is recognized on the summer solstice and holds significance for many Indigenous communities.

June 21

National Indigenous Peoples Day

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30

The first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was held in 2021 to honor the lost children and survivors of residential schools.

Truth & Reconciliation



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission conducted six years of work and consulted with more than 6,000 Indigenous residential school survivors for its 2015 report titled *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*. The report found that the residential schooling system was an act of cultural genocide by the Canadian government against its Indigenous peoples.

[Read the report here](#)

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation maintains a National Student Memorial Register to honor the children who died at residential schools and could never return home to their families.

[Access the National Student Memorial Register here](#)

In 2019, the First Nations House of Learning at the University of British Columbia identified the frequent murder and disappearance of Indigenous women as an epidemic across both Canada and the U.S. They emphasized that this epidemic is only “worsened by startlingly little public awareness or concern equal to the problem across non-Indigenous populations in both countries.”

“The legacy [of residential schools] can be seen in the myths, misunderstandings, and lack of empathy many Canadians openly display about Indigenous people, their history, and their place in society.”

Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of Truth and Reconciliation Commission



Notable Indigenous Canadians



Jody Wilson-Raybould (Puglass)
Canada's first Indigenous Justice Minister



Dr. Nadine Caron
First female general surgeon of First Nations descent in Canada



Alanis Obomsawin
Acclaimed director and documentarian



Jesse Cockney
Inuvialuk cross-country skier; represented Canada in 2014 and 2018 Winter Olympic Games

Sources

Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada
The Canadian Encyclopedia
National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
Government of Canada
University of British Columbia

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