



## Diversity Calendar

### September 2021

Date	Religion/Culture	Event
Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>	North America	<b>Labour Day</b> Statutory holiday celebrating and honouring the contributions labourers have made to both the U.S. and Canada.
Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	Judaism	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> The Jewish New Year. A two day celebration, starting at sundown on Friday and ending at sundown on Sunday, welcoming in a new year and commemorating the creation of Adam and Eve. Customs include sounding the Shofar, praying at the Synagogue and festive meals.
Sept 10 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Hinduism	<b>Ganesh Chaturthi</b> A ten day festival celebrated in Gujrat and other parts of India to worship the Hindu God Ganesh, who brings happiness, peace and prosperity. Some of the traditions include preparing the home temple with Ganesh present and offering sweet deserts to him.
Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ethiopia	<b>Enkutatash/New Year</b> New Year in Ethiopia. This is a big celebration for Ethiopians around the world. As well as celebrating a new year, Ethiopians also commemorate the return of Queen Sheba from Jerusalem. Customs include Church services, preparation of a special bread and stew, and donning new clothes.
Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Judaism	<b>Yom Kippur</b> This is one the holiest days in the Jewish calendar, known as the Day of Atonement (the day Moses came down from Mount Sinai). Most Jews observing this day will refrain from work. The day is spent in prayer for forgiveness, fasting, blowing of the Shofar to mark the end of Yom Kippur.
Sept 15 – Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Spanish	<b>Spanish Heritage Month</b> This month recognises the Mexican revolution in 1810, which lead to Mexico's independence from Spanish dictatorship.
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Pagan	<b>Autumnal Equinox</b> Welcoming in the fall season, the Pagans call this festival Mabon after the God of Welsh mythology. Mabon is the Child of Light and the son of the Earth Mother Goddess.
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	Orthodox, Christianity	<b>Elevation of the Life Giving Cross</b> Celebrating the finding and the recovery of the Cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. Customs include a holy day of fasting, followed by an after-fast meal.

Sept 20 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	Judaism	<b>Sukkot</b> This holiday commemorates the long journey Jews began to the Promised Land, under the tough desert conditions. Observers will often refrain from working on the first two days and sleep in a sukkah, exposing themselves to the elements that God once sheltered their ancestors from.
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	Ethiopian Orthodox	<b>Meskel</b> Commemorating the finding of the Cross by St. Helena, Ethiopians celebrate this day as one of the most important feasts of the year. <b>Customs include</b> burning of the Demera, street parties, followed by food and festivities.
Sept 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Judaism	<b>Shemini Atzeret</b> Signifies the end of Sukkot and the welcoming the fall harvest.
Sept 28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Judaism	<b>Shimchat Torah</b> Shimchat Torah, marks the end of the reading cycle of the Torah and immediately beginning a new one to signify a never ending circle.
Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>	Anglican Church	<b>Michaelmas</b> Known as the Feast of Archangels to commemorate Archangel Michael defeating Satan. <b>Customs include</b> outdoor activities such as horseracing, games and sports with families and friends. Goose is one the many traditional foods, as well as baking special breads.

### About Afsana

Afsana is a Qualified Mediator, and a roster mediator for the Ontario Mandatory Mediation Program. She is the founder of '**Gibson Chowdhury**', a Toronto based mediation boutique, specializing in civil and commercial disputes, including contract, neighbour and residential construction/renovation disputes. Afsana is an active member of the **Ontario Bar Association** and is currently serving as the CPD Liaison on the ADR Section Executive board. She has written several CLE programs concerning cultural competency and intercultural communications. To see her full bio, please log on to [www.gcmmediation.com](http://www.gcmmediation.com).

To book a mediation, contact Afsana at [afsana@gcmmediation.com](mailto:afsana@gcmmediation.com) or via her online calendar <https://gcmmediation.com/calendar-and-fees/>

### About the Calendar

This calendar shows the multicultural celebrations for the month of September, 2021. There may be some celebrations which have not been included in this calendar and customs may vary. If you would like Afsana to add a special holiday or vary the customs, please send an email at [afsana@gcmmediation.com](mailto:afsana@gcmmediation.com)

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