

Diversity Calendar

February 2022

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation
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Feb 1st Chinese/Lunar New Year - Year of the Tiger

The Lunar New Year is one of the most sacred Chinese holidays that celebrates the importance of family, blessings and rich, colourful culture. Also celebrated in Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Mongolia with elaborate decorations, parades and costumes.

Feb 1st American National Freedom Day

In 1865, Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which outlawed slavery. In commemoration of the signing, Richard Wright, a former slave, founded National Freedom Day.

Feb 1st Korea Seollal/New Year

Seollal is the Korean New Year and is celebrated over three days. During this time, traditional clothes are worn, ancestral rites are performed, traditional foods prepared for family gatherings. It is a national holiday.

Feb 2nd Groundhog Day US and Canada

Groundhog day is a folklore derived from people who worshiped animals and nature. They believed that groundhogs or similar burrowing animals could predict the weather. If the groundhog sees its shadow, winter will be prolonged for another six weeks! 🐻

Feb 2nd Christian Candlemas

Celebrating the presentation of Jesus; Jesus' first entry into the temple and Virgin Mary's purification. A candle-lit procession leads the mass in many Churches around the world. Celebratory customs vary, depending on location.

Feb 3rd Japan Setsubun-Sai (Beginning of Spring)

A celebration acknowledging the beginning of spring in Japan. Some customs include dressing up as ogres or devils to scare away evil spirits. There are many different traditions in celebrating this holiday, depending on the region in Japan

Feb 5th Hindu Vasant Panchami

Hindu festival celebrating the coming of spring. On this day Hindus worship Saraswati Devi, the goddess of wisdom. Often, students will place their pens and notebooks by the goddess's feet for blessings. Traditional dresses are worn in bright yellow colours before joining family festivities.

Feb 14th U. S, U.K. and Canada St. Valentine's Day

Holiday honouring the martyrdom the saint Valentine, or Valentinus. Typically associated with romantic love. St. Valentine's day was recognized as a day of romance, in the 14th century.

Feb 15th Chinese Lantern Festival

This is the first significant holiday, marking the last day of the Chinese New Year celebrations. Beautiful and decorative Chinese lanterns illuminate the sky during the night of the event.

February Facts:

February is **Black History Month** in Canada and the U.S. It was established in 1976 by Carter G. Woodson.

What can you do this month: Grow awareness of the injustices Black people still face, by reading books, watching movies ('Harriet' on Netflix is a brilliant and inspiring movie), reaching out to equity-seeking groups and asking how you can help would be an exceptional action to take this month!

Feb 16th Hindu Maghi-Purnima

Magha is the name for February in Hindu culture. It is the month of good deeds and charity. Maghi-Purnima is a Hindu festival in worship of Lord Vishnu, protector of the universe. Millions of devotees take a holy bath on this day and carry out charity work throughout the month.

Feb 27th Christian Meat-fare Sunday (the Last Judgment)

This day is in celebration of the last day for eating meat before Easter Sunday for many Orthodox Christians. It is a time for repentance and forgiveness.

About the Calendar

This calendar shows some of the multicultural celebrations for the month of February 2022. There may be some celebrations that 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@gcmediation.com.

This calendar was produced by, Gibson Chowdhury – Clear Collaborative Mediation, through careful research and references to various sources and materials.

About Afsana

Afsana is a Qualified Mediator and a roster mediator at 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 the co-founder and Senior Vice President of the Diversified Dispute Resolution Institute of Canada and an Adjudicator at the Property Standards Committee for the City of Toronto. 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. See her full bio at www.gcmediation.com.

To book a mediation, contact Afsana at afsana@gcmediation.com or via her online calendar <https://gcmediation.com/calendar-and-fees/>