

# Diversity Calendar

## May 2022

Gibson Chowdhury Mediation  
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### May 1st Wicca Beltane/May Day

A Pagan holiday to signify the coming of summer. Often celebrated with a maypole, which has ribbon attached to it. Women and girls will hold the ribbon to dance around the maypole.

### May 2nd Islam Eid-Ul-Fitr

This is one of the holiest celebrations in the Islamic calendar that marks the end of Ramadan. Eid is spent with family and friends who begin the day by attending Eid prayer at the Mosque. It is a day to offer charity in the form of food to those in need. One of the many traditions of Eid is to wear new clothes and visit friends and family join in the special feasts.

### May 5th Mexican Cinco De Mayo

Remembrance of the Mexican Army's victory during Battle of Pueblo. The popularity of this celebration has grown over the years to mark a day of proud heritage. It is celebrated with military parades and music festivals.

### May 8th Buddhist Buddha Day /Visakha Puja

This is predominantly Buddhist holiday also celebrated by some Hindu followers in parts of South Asia. The day commemorates birth and enlightenment. It is also a celebration of the **death** of Gautama Buddha. The is spent in deep meditation and paying homage to the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.

### May 16th Buddhist Wesak Day

Considered one of the holiest days in the Buddhist calendar, Wesak is a day of enlightenment and celebration for the Lord Gautama Buddha's **birthday**. Lord Gautama is one of the most significant Buddhist teachers of the religion. The day is spent decorating temples with lights, meditation and prayer.

### May 17th International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

A day to raise awareness of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and the long endured violence and discrimination. Established in 2005, in an effort to keep the conversation moving,

### May 21st World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

If you are reading and attempting to understand this calendar, you are already making great efforts to deepen your understanding of the values of culture, tradition and diversity around the world! This was the objective of the UN when they established this day.

### May 23rd Canada Victoria Day

A celebration of the birthday of Queen Victoria. May 24th was declared a federal holiday in 1901. It is also a declaration of the arrival in Spring in Canada.

### May 23-24th Baha'i Declaration of the Bab

This was the day in 1844, when Baha'u'llah announced that he was the messenger of God. The Baha'i faith has grown steadily across the world since its invocation in 1853

# *May Facts:*

## **Asian Heritage Month**

In May 2021, the Canadian government officially designated May as the Asian Heritage Month to recognize the incredible contributions of the Asian population living in Canada.

## **Mother's Day - May 8th!**

Happy Mother's Day to all mom's across North America. Enjoy your special day!

**May 26th**

**Christian**

**Ascension of Jesus**

A day to remember Jesus Christ, when he left the earth and ascended to heaven 40 days after Easter.

**May 29**

**Baha'i**

**Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh**

Remembrance of the ascension on Baha'u'llah. He was the founder of the Baha'i faith in 1853.

### **About the Calendar**

This calendar shows some of the multicultural celebrations for the month of May 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](mailto: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 on cultural competency and intercultural communications and dispute resolution. She has presented her courses and webinars globally, including at the International Academy of Mediators. See her full bio at [www.gcmediation.com](http://www.gcmediation.com).

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