

CELEBRATING

National Indigenous History Month



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

In June, Canadians celebrate National Indigenous History Month to honour the history, heritage and diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada. It is also an opportunity to recognize the strength of present-day Indigenous communities.

National Indigenous History Month is a time for learning about, appreciating and acknowledging the contributions First Nations, Inuit and Métis people have made in shaping Canada.

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance and sacred nature of cultural ceremonies and celebrations that usually occur during this time. While celebrations and events for National Indigenous History Month may be different this year than those in the past, we can still share and learn from stories, traditions and culture in new ways that keep us together and connected.

Do you know any Indigenous people? What Indigenous events/organizations exist in your community?

It's Indigenous History month and it's more important than ever that you educate yourself if you haven't already. The link below is for a FREE course - offered through the University of Alberta.

You can take it at your own pace and it is a really wonderful opportunity. If Indigenous people are willing to do the emotional labour to educate us for FREE, what excuse do we possibly have not to take them up on such a generous offer?

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada>

The orange shirts, orange profile pictures, placing teddy bears on your stairs, and Every Child Matters frames are great to see, don't get me wrong. Sharing articles is great too. But it's not enough, not even close.

Indigenous peoples in Canada have survived despite the best efforts of our Governments and Churches. They have deep spiritual and cultural lives. There is much we can learn from them. But we also have much to learn about them and the genocide which has been perpetrated against them. Use your horror, shame and guilt as an impetus for change. Yes, please display a teddy bear. I am. But don't stop there.