

OUR NEWSLETTER

CANADIAN HISPANIC CONGRESS EST. 1983

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CANADA DAY

Prior to 1982, Canada's national holiday was known and celebrated as Dominion Day. Then in 1982 this celebration was renamed 'Canada Day.' The history of Canada isn't splattered with a ton of wars and bloodshed, unlike many other countries. Throughout the later part of the 19th century, the unification of the British North American colonies was discussed and on July 1, 1867, the British Parliament brought the British North America Act into effect, thus creating an independent Canada. The Dominion territories which had previously been Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, after the British North American Act was passed became Quebec and Ontario, paving the way for 'neighboring colonies' to join in the future, leading to what we know as present-day Canada. Up until 1982, the British North America Act served as the constitution for Canada.

Although established in 1879, Dominion Day was not widely celebrated. Many Canadians viewed themselves as British citizens. It was not until 50 years later, in 1917 when Dominion Day was fully embraced and recognized by most Canadians. By 1967 on the 100th anniversary of the creation of Canada, with an increased sense of patriotism, that unofficial celebrations of 'Canada Day' had began, with the adoption of the official name-change in 1982.

Canadians commemorate Canada Day every July 1st through a variety of celebratory activities organized by the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, which include community celebrations that provide free picnic food, drink, cupcakes, and elaborate fireworks shows. Neighborhoods, communities, and families get together and celebrate the birth of Canada as an independent country. Canadians living abroad also gather and celebrate Canada's birthday with other Canadians. Overall, this national holiday allows for family and community celebrations.

¡HAPPY BIRTHDAY CANADA!



CANADA HISTORY WEEK

Canada History Week, a Canadian national holiday runs from July 1 - 7. This week serves as an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about the people, places, and events that have shaped the country we now live and thrive in. Every year, a theme is chosen, with a focus on a specific aspect of Canada's rich and interesting history. Canadians appreciate the opportunity to learn more about their history and origins.

History Week provides an opportunity for Canadians to recognize and honour its truly diverse origins and the places and events that have shaped the Canada of today. Since 2014, Canada History Week, changing its focus from year to year, has been focused on different people and events ranging from great Canadian sportsmen and women in 2015, commemorating the women achieving the right to vote in 2016, human rights challenges in 2017, science and innovation in 2018, and working for the future in 2019. All these events celebrate the accomplishments great Canadians of the past, present.



The celebration of Canada History Week has resulted in Canadians feeling more inspired to visit national historic sites and national museums and starting conversations on Canadian history topics, some with local historians. Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Canadian History Week 2022, we hope that you manage to take in some of the activities organized to learn more about the history of Canada. Canadians seek to revitalize Canada's innate welcoming and inclusive character, where diversity, and tolerance and respect for our differences secure and preserve our way of life. We encourage you to immerse yourself in some celebration of gratitude for our way of life. Check your local news for events near you.

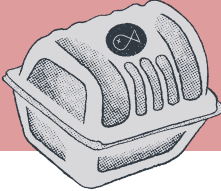


NEWS: The Canadian Government has Set a Date to Ban Some Single-Use Plastics.

Maintaining its focus on its protection of the environment, the Canadian government has banned the imports of single use plastics amongst other environmental threats to the environment. Culprits such as “Styrofoam cups, take-away containers and plastic bags are to be done away by the end of 2022. Banning their sale by the end of next year and their export by the end of 2025”. Although these measures had been anticipated for some time, the government’s actions have been slow in coming, no doubt due to push back from manufacturers and distributors. These delays in banning these harmful products have disappointed many environmentalists.

Canada’s Environmental Protection Act’s list of toxic plastics being released last year has paved the way for the creation of new regulations banning some of the worst offenders. Environment Minister, Steven Guilbeault, has recently announced that the work leading towards a ban of single-use plastics has resumed. Within the timeline of these plans, it was established that by the end of this year, companies will be prohibited from importing or manufacturing plastic bags and Styrofoam takeout containers. Likewise, by the end of next year its sale will be prohibited and by the year 2025, its export would be banned. In addition to bags and takeout boxes, the ban will also affect plastic straws, cutlery, stir sticks and six-pack rings.

Although this is excellent news for our environment, understandably, there is much unhappiness and opposition being expressed by plastic producers and local plastic distributors.



DUAL CITIZENSHIP

Through different parameters and regulations, some countries offer its citizens dual citizenship. Although having two nationalities is relatively common, many people are unaware that this is an option for them. Canada is one of the many countries that allows dual citizenship. Rules and regulations around dual citizenship determine eligibility.

Below is some basic information and a list of Spanish-speaking countries that allow dual nationality. Detailed information can be obtained by the individual consulates and embassies of the specific country.

-  ARGENTINA
-  BOLIVIA
-  CHILE
-  COLOMBIA
-  COSTA RICA
-  CUBA

-  ECUADOR
-  EL SALVADOR
-  ESPAÑA
-  GUATEMALA
-  HONDURAS
-  MÉXICO

-  PANAMÁ
-  PERÚ
-  PUERTO RICO
-  REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA
-  URUGUAY
-  VENEZUELA

Specific information can be obtained by the consulates and embassies of the specific country.

It is recommended that you contact your country’s embassy and/or consulate to inquire about the process of obtaining dual citizenship with Canada. Likewise, we recommend you visit the Government of Canada’s site to obtain other details. .

<https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/helpcentre/answer.asp?qnum=356&top=5>

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

Six months into 2022, things are beginning to acquire a more familiar rhythm. Perhaps you are also feeling the same way.

Attending several school graduations this month has filled me with gratitude for the many things that we are now able to do, and the promise of a future of celebrations with family and friends and the opportunities for travel and a change of scenery.

Despite the success of the various governments' vaccination programs, COVID 19 continues to be a threat for Canadians in all the provinces and territories, perhaps more so for the unvaccinated among us. Still, we have come a long way in the 29 months since the World Health Organization declared the COVID -19 pandemic.

So much has changed in the world since the pandemic was declared and the world went into pandemic mode, particularly in finance and many national economies appear on the verge of collapse. In principle it is good news that in Ontario, we appear to have the lowest unemployment rates in a very long time. Good news tempered with some bad news... Just ask anyone looking to hire people or consumers suffering the effects of supply chain disruptions brought on by a shortage of workers and rising gas prices.

The February 24 Russian invasion of Ukraine did not help the rising fuel prices. The price of gas has reached unparalleled heights causing a domino effect as it affects every industry and service. The cost increases causing everyone but the drivers of electrical of hybrid vehicles, to panic.

Higher interest rates seem inevitable now. This situation can sometimes lead to overcorrections that can bring weak and instable markets to a halt. Higher interest rates may stall surreal rising house prices.

Despite our current challenges, I love Canada as much as if I had taken my first breath here. I am grateful for every Canadian that chooses a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive approach to life in Canada. Regardless of where your journey began, I am glad that you are here now, sharing your unique gifts with the rest of us. HAPPY CANADA DAY!

Warm regards,
Monique Forster
President

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