

THE WORLD-  
**Spectator**

National  
Indigenous Peoples  
Day



# National Indigenous Peoples Day

## About National Indigenous Peoples Day

For generations, many Indigenous groups and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on June 21 or around that time of year because of the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

National Aboriginal Day, now National Indigenous Peoples Day, was announced in 1996 by then Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, through the Proclamation Declaring June 21 of Each Year as National Aboriginal Day. This was the result of consultations and statements of support for such a day made by various Indigenous groups:

- In 1982, the National Indian Brotherhood, now the Assembly of First Nations, called for the creation of National Aboriginal Solidarity Day
- In 1995, the Sacred Assembly, a national



On June 21, for National Indigenous Peoples Day, we recognize and celebrate the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis across Canada.

conference of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people chaired by Elijah Harper, called for a national holiday to celebrate the contributions of Indigenous Peoples

• Also in 1995, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended the designation of a National First Peoples Day

- On June 21, 2017,

the Prime Minister issued a statement announcing the intention to rename this day

National Indigenous Peoples Day.

National Indigenous Peoples Day is part of

the Celebrate Canada program, which also includes Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day on June

24, Canadian Multiculturalism Day on June 27 and Canada Day on July 1.

**Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day!**  
**June 21st**  
 A day to recognize and celebrate the history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.



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**MN-S - LOCAL 135 ROCANVILLE**



*June 21*

An excellent time to celebrate and recognize the culture, heritage, and history of the Mitchifs across our nations. Maarsii.

—Local 135



**Manitoba Metis Federation**  
 Believe in Yourself - Believe in Metis

Best wishes to all **Red River Métis people** and to our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Hope for justice for all of the missing and murdered Indigenous people

**Red River Métis Fort Ellice Local**  
 manitobametis.com

**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**



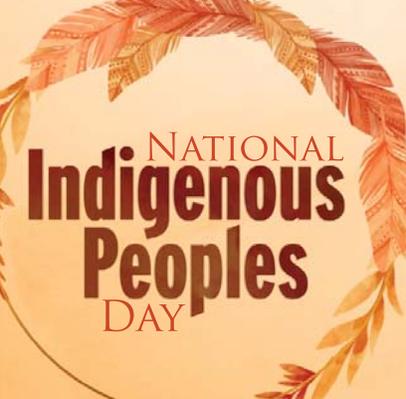
**June 21**

This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.



**Dr. Robert Kitchen MP**  
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**NATIONAL Indigenous Peoples DAY**

On June 21st, we celebrate **the history, diversity, and achievements** of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada.



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# National Indigenous Peoples Day

## Distinct heritage, language, culture, and beliefs

National Indigenous Peoples Day is an annual reminder for people across Canada to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations people, Inuit and Métis. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Indigenous peoples.

Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

June 21, the summer solstice, holds great spiritual significance to First Nations people, Inuit and Métis alike. For generations, many Indigenous peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day because of the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year. In Canada, we dedicate the longest day of the year to showing our appreciation of Indigenous peoples and the ways they enrich our culture.

Indigenous people represent one of the youngest populations in Canada.

On average, Indigenous people were 8.8 years younger than the non-Indigenous population in 2016. In-



igenous youth, those aged 15 to 24 years, made up one-sixth of the entire Indigenous population (16.9%), a larger proportion than among the non-Indigenous population (12%). It is also expected that the Indigenous population will remain younger, but that youth will make up a smaller share of the Indigenous population in the coming decades.

In 2016, 6.7% of all youth aged 15 to 24 in Canada were Indigenous. However, there was significant regional variation:

- 2.8% in Québec
- 3.7% in Ontario
- 23.6% in Saskatchewan
- 24% in Manitoba
- 32.4% in the Yukon
- 67.7% in the Northwest Territories
- 93.8% in Nunavut
- More than 80% of

First Nations (82.4%) and Métis youth (83.8%) lived in either Ontario or the western provinces, compared with 71.1% of the total non-Indigenous youth population in Canada.

From coast to coast, the majority of First Nations (91%), Métis (93%) and Inuit youth (97%) reported that they felt good about their Indigenous identity. Most also reported making an effort to learn more about their history, traditions and culture—71.4% of First Nations youth, 64.6% of Métis youth, and 74.4% of Inuit youth.

Indigenous languages in Canada have been evolving over generations and reflect rich and diverse histories, landscapes, cultures and knowledge. More than 70 Indigenous languages were reported

in the 2016 Census, and 36 had at least 500 speakers.

Indigenous youth highly value Indigenous languages, identity and culture. Half of Indigenous youth reported that speaking an Indigenous language was important or very important to them. In 2016, 13% of Indigenous youth could speak an Indigenous language well enough to conduct a conversation. This figure was 16.5% for First Nations youth, 0.8% for Métis youth, and 64.4% for Inuit youth.

Indigenous youth also contribute significantly to the labour market. In 2016, there

were over 111,000 Indigenous workers aged 15 to 24 years in Canada, representing 5.1% of total youth employment in the country. Among the provinces, the proportion was highest in Manitoba (15.1%) and Saskatchewan (13.6%). In the Northwest Territories, close to half (48.1%) of all young workers were Indigenous, while in Yukon, the proportion was 22.8%. In Nunavut, the vast majority (87.8%) of young workers were Inuit.

The employment rate among Indigenous youth reached 57.4% in the three months ending in August 2021, surpassing its pre-Co-

vid-19 pandemic level and summer 2020 level of 47.4%. Finally, the labour force participation rate among Indigenous youth was 66.8%, the highest since the onset of the pandemic and 3.0 percentage points above that seen in the summer job market in 2020.

Data from the 2021 Census of Population will provide further insight into the experiences of Indigenous youth in Canada. Two new questions were added to the 2021 Census, allowing Métis and Inuit to identify themselves further, which will permit more detailed analysis of these population groups.

On June 21 we celebrate Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and their rich and diverse cultures

### Daryl Harrison

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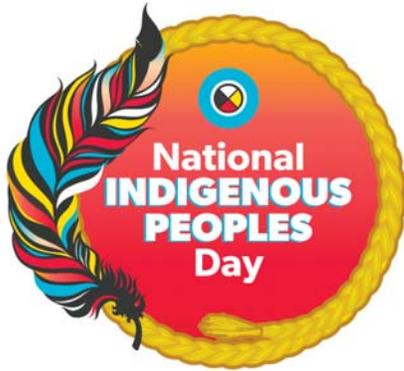
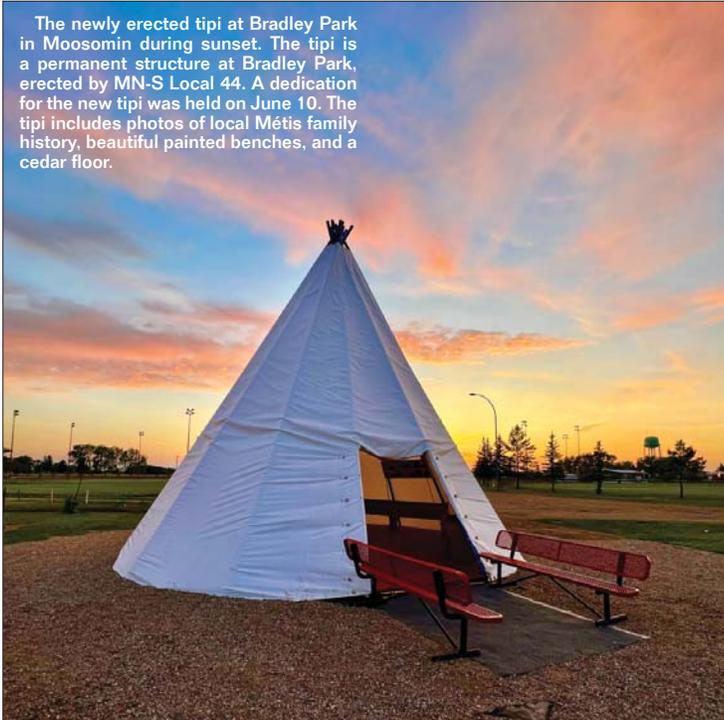
On June 21st, we celebrate **the history, diversity, and achievements** of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada.

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# National Indigenous Peoples Day

The newly erected tipi at Bradley Park in Moosomin during sunset. The tipi is a permanent structure at Bradley Park, erected by MN-S Local 44. A dedication for the new tipi was held on June 10. The tipi includes photos of local Métis family history, beautiful painted benches, and a cedar floor.



June 21, 2023

On National Indigenous Peoples Day, we salute the local Indigenous and Métis communities for their important contributions to our region!

## THE WORLD-Spectator

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Happy National Indigenous Peoples Day