



Guiding Principles for Dates of Significance

The following principles inform decisions made by St. Jerome's University to recognize dates of significance. St. Jerome's will acknowledge significant dates in various ways aligned with its mission and values and within the resource capacity of a fiscally responsible, small university. Forms of acknowledgment include but are not limited to social media posts, a story on the institutional website, and/or a campus event. For purposes of clarity, university dates of significance do not include institutional responses or marking of unplanned and/or significant worldly events which fall under the jurisdiction of the University's senior leadership team.

1. St. Jerome's University is a public Roman Catholic university

- Historically associated with the educational vision of the Congregation of the Resurrection and the School Sisters of Notre Dame and functioning within the context of the Roman Catholic tradition, the University prioritizes recognition of important dates connected to Catholic and Christian faith traditions.
- St. Jerome's is home to many unique and distinctive programs including but not limited to Sexualities, Relationships, & Families; Health Humanities; Italian/Italian Studies; Catholic Studies; Human Sciences; Student Wellness; Campus Ministry; and Service Learning. In addition to institutional recognition for Dates of Significance, these unique programs may, in their own ways, mark important dates and milestones connected and related to their topics, work, and programming. When doing so, offices will be clear that they are representing only their respective area(s) unless they have sought approval from a senior leader to speak on behalf of the institution.

2. Alignment with relevant local, provincial, and federal governments

- Several sources, including calendars of statutory holidays and other days officially marked by governments, are consulted to inform recognition of dates of significance that represent the vast and diverse identities and communities that reside in Waterloo, Ontario, and Canada.

3. Alignment with sectoral partners

- Includes alignment with the University of Waterloo (UW), Catholic education institutions, and Ontario post-secondary institutions broadly.
- As a partner with the University of Waterloo, we collaborate and coordinate with several UW units that provide specialized and focused expertise, along with lived experience, to support marking dates of significance. Those units include but are not limited to Sexual Violence, Prevention, and Response Office (SVPRO); the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism; and the Office of Indigenous Relations.
- This alignment means that often our marking of an event is in the form of allyship and amplification of activity organized by the University of Waterloo.

4. Engagement, education, and awareness

- Provides opportunities for engagement, education, and awareness on dates of significance relevant to different identities and faith traditions with intentions to foster a diverse, understanding, and inclusive campus community. Ideally this engagement, education, and awareness is fostered through action not description.

5. Importance of Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action

- Recognition of the important, on-going, institutional work of indigenization, decolonization, and reconciliation.