

How to Be a Jewish Heritage Month Ally

Allyship is not passive. It involves intentional choices that create inclusive environments and support Jewish individuals and communities.

Jewish Heritage Month was established in Canada in 2018 to recognize the long-standing presence and contributions of Jewish communities across the country. It provides an opportunity to celebrate Jewish culture, deepen understanding, and strengthen inclusion.

The following practices offer ways to foster inclusion, encourage curiosity, and support Jewish individuals and communities in daily life:

1. Recognize and respect Jewish holidays in scheduling to ensure participation

- Be mindful of major Jewish holidays when planning meetings, events, and deadlines. Where possible, offer flexibility in scheduling to accommodate those who observe these important dates. This demonstrates respect for religious practice and supports full participation.

2. Support inclusive practices

- Incorporate inclusive measures, such as offering kosher food options at events and providing access to prayer spaces or quiet rooms for observance. Thoughtful adjustments like these help ensure that Jewish individuals can participate fully in professional, educational, and community settings.

3. Include antisemitism explicitly in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) policy and training

- Antisemitism should be explicitly addressed in EDI policies and training, with meaningful consultation from Jewish community members during development. Alongside clear recognition of antisemitism, a balanced approach that emphasizes education, cultural awareness, and open dialogue can help foster greater understanding and more inclusive environments.

4. Partner with local organizations

- Many Jewish organizations, like the [Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs](#), are present in major Canadian cities where there are established Jewish communities. These organizations are valuable partners in education, cultural programming, and community engagement. Collaborating with them — including inviting guest speakers, co-hosting events, or developing educational initiatives — can deepen understanding and strengthen inclusive practices.
- Examples of Jewish partners include:
 - Local Jewish Federation – community support and social services
 - Holocaust Museums – promote Holocaust education and remembrance
 - Arts Centres - arts and cultural engagement highlighting Jewish stories



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- Jewish Community Centres – community programming and services
- Canadian Jewish Archives – preservation of Jewish history

Meaningful allyship is an ongoing commitment demonstrated through everyday actions. By continuing to learn about Jewish experiences, cultures, and histories, individuals and organizations can move from awareness to impact, contributing to inclusive environments where Jewish communities across Canada can participate and thrive.