

**June 21, 2011**

**Today is National Aboriginal Day**, a day recognizing and celebrating the cultures and contributions of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. Today is part of the annual nationwide Celebrate Canada! festivities held from June 21st to July 1st. They begin with National Aboriginal Day, are followed by Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, Canadian Multiculturalism Day and Canada Day.

June 21st was chosen because of the cultural significance of the summer solstice (first day of summer and longest day of the year) and because many Aboriginal people mark this day as a time to celebrate their heritage. Setting aside a day for Aboriginal peoples is part of the wider recognition of Aboriginal peoples' important place within the fabric of Canada and their ongoing contributions as First Peoples.

Take a minute today to learn a bit more about Aboriginal People in Canada.

**All the best to you on June 21<sup>st</sup>, National Aboriginal Day.**

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