



Jewish Heritage Month Text for Morning Announcements

Preface all announcements with:

“May is Jewish Heritage Month when we honour the many contributions made to Canada in many ways by Jewish Canadians. Here is today’s fact:”

1. Did you know Leonard Cohen, the famous Canadian poet and musician, was Jewish? His iconic songs, like "Hallelujah," continue to inspire millions worldwide, profoundly influencing music and poetry.
2. Were you aware that Drake, one of the world's most famous rappers and musicians, is a proud Canadian with Jewish heritage. His global success has significantly enhanced Canada's cultural presence internationally.
3. Canada’s first Jewish Member of Parliament was Henry Nathan Jr., elected in 1871 from British Columbia. His election was a landmark achievement, paving the way for broader political representation in Canada.
4. Rosalie Abella, appointed in 2004, was the first Jewish woman to serve on the Supreme Court of Canada. She has significantly impacted Canadian law, particularly in human rights and equality.
5. Irwin Cotler, a Jewish Canadian lawyer, served as Canada’s Minister of Justice and is known internationally for his human rights advocacy. His work has strengthened Canada's reputation for justice globally.
6. The Christie Pits Riot in 1933 was a key moment in Canadian history, where Jewish Canadians stood up against antisemitism. This courageous stance helped pave the way for broader civil rights movements in Canada.
7. Did you know that William Shatner, who starred as the original Captain Kirk in the groundbreaking television series Star Trek, and who has earned several Emmy awards, is a born and bred Montrealer and a proud Jew. Shatner made his Star Trek dreams of soaring into space on the rocket Blue Origin in 2021
8. Aaron Hart, considered the father of Canadian Jewry, significantly contributed to early Canadian commerce in the 1700s. His business acumen helped establish the economic foundations of Jewish communities in Canada.
9. Montreal's Jewish General Hospital, established in 1934, continues to provide world-class medical care to Canadians of all backgrounds. It has become a symbol of community health and inclusivity in Canada.
10. Famous Canadian architect Moshe Safdie, designer of Montreal’s Habitat 67, is Jewish. His innovative designs have dramatically shaped modern architecture globally.
11. Canada’s oldest continuously operating synagogue, Shearith Israel in Montreal, was established in 1768. It represents the enduring presence and cultural continuity of Jewish communities in Canada.



12. The Canadian Jewish Congress, founded in 1919, actively fought for human rights and multiculturalism in Canada. Its advocacy helped shape Canada's inclusive identity and policies against discrimination.
13. Louis Rasminsky, appointed in 1961, became the first Jewish Governor of the Bank of Canada. His leadership significantly impacted Canadian economic policy and stability.
14. The "Tailors Project" helped thousands of Jewish refugees find work and integrate into Canada after World War II. This project greatly assisted refugee assimilation, enhancing Canada's multicultural workforce.
15. Barbara Frum was an influential Canadian journalist and broadcaster who proudly celebrated her Jewish heritage. Her pioneering journalism set standards for media integrity and excellence in Canada.
16. Bora Laskin, appointed in 1973, was Canada's first Jewish Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. His tenure notably advanced civil liberties and judicial independence in Canada.
17. Canada accepted about 40,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors after World War II, significantly contributing to Canadian society. Their resilience and contributions have enriched Canada's social and cultural fabric.
18. Canadian comedians Wayne and Shuster were Jewish and became famous worldwide for their humour. They significantly influenced the evolution of comedy and entertainment in Canada.
19. Jewish Canadian entrepreneur Samuel Bronfman significantly shaped the beverage industry and philanthropy in Canada. His philanthropic efforts continue to support cultural and educational institutions.
20. Miriam Waddington was a prominent Canadian Jewish poet whose work helped shape Canadian literature. Her poetry contributed significantly to Canada's literary identity.
21. Did you know the Canadian clothing and textile industry was largely developed by Jewish entrepreneurs? Their innovations and businesses greatly influenced Canada's economic growth.
22. Canadian filmmaker Ivan Reitman, known for "Ghostbusters," proudly embraced his Jewish heritage. His films have become cultural landmarks, shaping global cinematic history.
23. Jewish Canadian writer Mordecai Richler's novels provided insightful perspectives into Canadian society. His literary contributions significantly enhanced Canada's cultural landscape and social dialogue.
24. Did you know Baron Maurice de Hirsch and his Jewish Colonization Association worked closely with the Canadian Pacific Railway to encourage Jewish immigration, aiding in Canada's development? This helped build diverse, thriving communities across Canada.
25. Jewish Canadians like Irving Abella have been active in advocating for multiculturalism and human rights, contributing to Canada's inclusive identity. Their activism has shaped Canada into a model for global multiculturalism.



26. Canadian Jewish singer-songwriter Geddy Lee, from the band Rush, has influenced rock music worldwide. His distinctive style and innovation have significantly shaped the global music scene.
27. Canada's "Days of Shame" incident in 1934 highlighted the bravery of Dr. Sam Rabinovitch, who faced antisemitism with courage. His stand significantly advanced human rights awareness in Canadian medicine.
28. Jewish Canadian philanthropist Heather Reisman founded Indigo Books, significantly shaping Canadian literature and retail. Her contributions continue to impact Canada's cultural and commercial sectors.
29. Canadian Jewish artist and musician David Buchbinder has played a crucial role in cultural exchanges, enriching Canada's multicultural tapestry through his collaborative performances. His ongoing contributions strengthen Canada's diverse and inclusive society.
30. Melissa Lantsman, elected in 2021, became Canada's first openly LGBTQ+ Jewish Member of Parliament. Her political leadership highlights the growing inclusivity and diversity in Canadian politics, fostering greater representation and advocacy for marginalized communities.