Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

1ST SESSION, 44TH LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
5 CHARLES III, 2026

Bill 151

An Act to proclaim various heritage months

MPP M. Firin

Private Member's Bill

1st Reading	November 17, 2026
2nd Reading	
3rd Reading	
Royal Assent	

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill proclaims the following:

1. The month of June in each year as Congolese Heritage Month (DRC).
2. The month of September in each year as Eritrean Heritage Month.
3. The month of August in each year as Gambian Heritage Month.
4. The month of September in each year as Ghanaian Heritage Month.
5. The month of June in each year as Kenyan Heritage Month.
6. The month of November in each year as Moroccan Heritage Month.
7. The month of October in each year as Nigerian Heritage Month.

Bill 151 **2026**

An Act to proclaim various heritage months

Preamble

Ontario is a welcoming and multicultural province, home to people from diverse cultural, ethnic and national backgrounds. Among them are people of Eritrean, Gambian, Ghanaian, Kenyan, Moroccan and Nigerian heritage, as well as people of Congolese heritage from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, whose communities have made and continue to make significant contributions to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.

The Eritrean, Gambian, Ghanaian, Kenyan, Nigerian and Moroccan communities, along with the Congolese community from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, each have distinct histories, languages, traditions and cultural identities. Through their contributions to healthcare, education, business, public service, the arts, sports and community life, members of these communities have contributed to Ontario's growth and prosperity.

September holds particular historical and cultural significance for the Eritrean community. On September 1, 1961, Eritrea's armed struggle for independence began, marking an important milestone in the country's history and its journey toward independence in 1993. September also marks the transition from the rainy season toward the traditional harvest period in parts of Eritrea, reflecting the importance of agriculture and seasonal traditions in Eritrean cultural heritage.

June holds historical significance for the Congolese community from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and their descendants across Ontario. On June 30, 1960, the Democratic Republic of the Congo gained independence from Belgian colonial rule. Recognizing June as Congolese Heritage Month would provide an opportunity to celebrate the community's cultural heritage, traditions and contributions to Ontario's social, economic and cultural fabric, while educating future generations about their history and achievements.

August holds cultural significance for the Gambian community in Ontario. Gambian Canadian community organizations have marked the first Saturday of August with cultural gatherings, including activities associated with Gambian Cultural Week, to celebrate Gambian traditions and heritage. These gatherings provide opportunities for community members to come together, share their history and cultural traditions, and preserve their heritage for future generations.

September is a historically significant month for the Ghanaian community. September 21 is observed in Ghana as Founder's Day, commemorating the legacy of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first President and a leading figure in the country's independence movement.

June holds particular historical significance for the Kenyan community. On June 1, 1963, Kenya attained internal self-government from British colonial rule, marking an important milestone in its journey toward independence. This occasion is commemorated annually as Madaraka Day, with the Swahili word *madaraka* meaning "authority" or "self-governance."

November holds particular historical and cultural significance for the Moroccan community. November 18 is celebrated annually in Morocco as Independence Day, commemorating the country's achievement of independence in 1956. The City of Toronto has proclaimed November as Moroccan Heritage Month, recognizing the community's cultural heritage, traditions and contributions to the city's social, economic and cultural fabric.

October is a historically significant month for the Nigerian community. On October 1, 1960, Nigeria gained independence from British colonial rule. This historic milestone is commemorated annually as Nigeria's Independence Day and represents an important part of the country's history and national identity.

By proclaiming heritage months celebrating the Eritrean, Gambian, Ghanaian, Kenyan, Moroccan and Nigerian communities, along with the Congolese community from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Province of Ontario recognizes their distinct histories, cultural identities and valuable contributions to Ontario's social, economic, political and cultural fabric. These heritage months provide an opportunity for all Ontarians to learn about and celebrate the heritage, traditions and achievements of these communities while preserving their histories for future generations.

Therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

Congolese Heritage Month

1 The month of June in each year is proclaimed as Congolese Heritage Month (DRC).

Eritrean Heritage Month

2 The month of September in each year is proclaimed as Eritrean Heritage Month.

Gambian Heritage Month

3 The month of August in each year is proclaimed as Gambian Heritage Month.

Ghanaian Heritage Month

4 The month of September in each year is proclaimed as Ghanaian Heritage Month.

Kenyan Heritage Month

5 The month of June in each year is proclaimed as Kenyan Heritage Month.

Moroccan Heritage Month

6 The month of November in each year is proclaimed as Moroccan Heritage Month.

Nigerian Heritage Month

7 The month of October in each year is proclaimed as Nigerian Heritage Month.

Commencement

8 This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

Short title

9 The short title of this Act is the *Celebrating Various African Communities Act, 2026*.