

# ARAB HERITAGE MONTH

**IN APRIL, CANADIANS RECOGNIZE ARAB HERITAGE MONTH, HONOURING THE RICH CULTURE, HISTORY, LANGUAGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARAB COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

Established federally in 2022, Arab Heritage Month acknowledges the longstanding and diverse presence of Arab Canadians and their contributions to Canada's social, cultural, economic and political life.

Arab Canadians represent a vibrant and diverse community, with roots in more than 20 countries across the Middle East and North Africa. In Nova Scotia and across Canada, Arab communities have contributed meaningfully to public service, medicine, academia, entrepreneurship, the arts and civic leadership. Arab Heritage Month offers an opportunity to celebrate these contributions while also recognizing the challenges many Arab Canadians continue to face, including Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism and the impact of global events that can directly affect community well-being and, ultimately, how physicians show up in their practice day to day.

Recognizing and celebrating Arab Heritage Month affirms the importance of inclusion and reinforces Canada's commitment to the many cultures that shape the multiculturalism our country is known for.

## Connection to Doctors Nova Scotia

Culturally responsive healthcare requires understanding the lived realities of the communities we serve. Arab patients and physicians may encounter barriers in healthcare settings, including language access challenges, stereotyping, racial bias or religious discrimination. At Doctors Nova Scotia, we believe differences should be met with respect and dignity, not bias or exclusion.

We also recognize and celebrate the contributions of Arab-trained physicians to Nova Scotia's healthcare system. In 2025, the provincial government worked with universities in Lebanon to recruit family physicians who are now practising in the province. The work of these physicians strengthens access to primary care and reflects the essential role diverse medical expertise plays in meeting the needs of communities across Nova Scotia.

## Did you know?

- The word algebra comes from the Arabic term al-jabr, introduced by mathematician Al-Khwarizmi, whose name also gave us the word algorithm.
- Early Arab scholars made foundational contributions to medicine, surgery and astronomy that influenced global practice for centuries.
- The Arabic numeral system (0–9) helped revolutionize mathematics and science worldwide.
- Arabic has more than 25 regional dialects spoken across the Middle East and North Africa.

## Resources

- Arab Heritage Month Bill – [tinyurl.com/SC-AHMB](https://tinyurl.com/SC-AHMB)
- AMPCAEO Arab Heritage Month – [tinyurl.com/AMAPCEO-AHM](https://tinyurl.com/AMAPCEO-AHM)
- Arab Heritage Month – [tinyurl.com/CR-DEI-AHM](https://tinyurl.com/CR-DEI-AHM)
- Nova Scotia Partners with Lebanese Universities to Recruit More Family Doctors – [tinyurl.com/NNS-LebaneseDoctors](https://tinyurl.com/NNS-LebaneseDoctors)



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Find more EDIRA resources, videos and tools in the DNS SharePoint EDIRA Hub.