



INTERNATIONAL PEACE FESTIVAL • FESTIVAL INTERNATIONALE DE LA PAIX

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2026 INTERNATIONAL PEACE FESTIVAL OPENING CEREMONY & FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Monday, September 21, 2026 | Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto City Hall

United Nations International Day of Peace

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The 2026 International Peace Festival Opening Celebrations bring together diplomatic, Indigenous and community representatives, cultural organizations, artists, civil society and the public in a shared affirmation of peace, international cooperation, cultural understanding and friendship among peoples.

SEPTEMBER 21 PROGRAMME

TIME	PROGRAMME	DETAILS
11:00-11:30 a.m.	Arrival & VIP Check-In	Diplomatic representatives, invited dignitaries and registered guests check in at the VIP Lounge adjacent to the main stage.
11:30 a.m.-12:00 noon	VIP Seating	Invited representatives and dignitaries are escorted to reserved seating for the Opening Ceremony.
12:00 noon-1:30 p.m.	Official Opening Ceremony	Official greetings, brief remarks and opening presentations marking the United Nations International Day of Peace.
1:30-3:00 p.m.	VIP Cocktail Reception	Participating representatives, dignitaries, community leaders and media are welcomed to the VIP Lounge for a reception with refreshments.
Afternoon	International Cultural Pavilion & Festival Activities	Cultural exhibits, community participation, vendors and other Festival activities continue across Nathan Phillips Square.
5:00-10:00 p.m.	Evening Performing Arts Programme	Multicultural music, dance, vocal and other performing arts presentations on the main stage.

OPENING CEREMONY

The formal Opening Ceremony will feature brief greetings and reflections centred on peace, international cooperation, cultural understanding and friendship among peoples. Participating speakers will generally be asked to keep remarks to approximately two to three minutes.

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PAVILION

The International Cultural Pavilion will bring together participating countries and cultural communities in a dedicated exhibition area. Displays may include cultural and tourism information, publications, photographs, artwork, cultural objects and educational materials that encourage cross-cultural understanding.

VIP HOSPITALITY, EVENING STAGE PROGRAMME & MEDIA

Reserved VIP seating and hospitality will be provided for participating diplomatic representatives, dignitaries and invited guests during the Opening Ceremony. Reserved VIP seating in the front rows of the main stage seating area will also remain available for invited representatives and registered members of their delegations who remain for, or return to attend, the evening musical and multicultural performing arts programme on the main stage from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Accredited members of the press and media will be welcomed for coverage of the Opening Ceremony and Festival activities.

Programme information is subject to final confirmation and operational requirements.

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