

10 WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT WORK



1. **Be inclusive.** In a recent survey, over 98% of respondents said it was important or essential to celebrate the holidays at work. Many cultures enjoy and celebrate Christmas in Canada, even if it's not part of their personal or cultural tradition. Invite others to celebrate the "holidays" with you with a focus on shared values such as joy, hope, peace, giving, and the importance of family/friends.
2. **Respect diversity.** Recognize that not everyone will be celebrating "Christmas." Instead of avoiding holiday celebrations altogether, consider celebrating more of them! Identify [cultural holidays throughout the year](#) that are relevant to your staff and clients/customers (e.g., Al-Hijra, birthdays, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Easter, Eid-al-Adha, Halloween, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Moon Festival, St. Patrick's Day, Summer/Winter Solstice).
3. **Create a holiday atmosphere.** Play seasonal background music and consider engaging staff and clients in decorating office doors, shared space, or a tree in the lobby (perhaps as a place to leave gifts for a local charity or food bank).
4. **Exchange gifts.** Gift giving is a holiday tradition that many people carry to the workplace. Consider drawing names for a gift exchange, taking a "secret Santa" approach (where the receiver doesn't know who the gift is from), or bringing gifts to a staff event where you draw numbers to either choose a new gift or "steal" one of those already selected.
5. **Support a charity.** Canadians love to give, especially during the holiday season. As an organization, consider choosing a local charity to support with time and money (perhaps give staff an extra-long lunch hour to volunteer in the community, organize a silent auction, or have an inter-departmental contest to see which team can raise the most money). Instead of exchanging gifts with co-workers, consider pooling your money and fill a hamper for a needy family or purchase from a [charitable gift catalogue](#).
6. **Eat, drink, and be merry.** Food is an essential element of most celebrations, and the holiday season in Canada is no exception. Provide treats in the workplace (e.g., chocolate, cookies, oranges, mulled cider), arrange a potluck, or encourage staff to bring in their own favourite holiday snacks. Many teams also enjoy a special restaurant meal together during the holidays.
7. **Enjoy seasonal entertainment.** Whether forming an office choir, going on a carol cruise together, or inviting staff and their families to attend the local parade, take advantage of public events and enjoy them as a team.
8. **Host a party!** Many organizations use the holiday season as a time to get together outside of office hours, often with spouses and/or families. If you have several team members who don't celebrate Christmas, consider a more generic holiday theme.
9. **Facilitate balance.** Some people love the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and others find it exhausting, enjoying the extra days off to re-energize. Some families' finances are stretched to the limit; others have a greater ability to share and give. [Respect individual differences](#); don't expect all to participate equally in workplace holiday activities.
10. **Consider your clients and customers.** Tempting as it may be to close your doors for "the holidays," people may still need access to your products and services. Aside from the statutory holidays, perhaps reduce staffing rather than closing down completely and publish "holiday hours" well in advance. Also, include clients/customers in your celebrations – set up a table with holiday treats, invite them to a lunch or party, or offer a special holiday promotion or sale.

imagine • achieve • excel



604.856.2386
info@lifestrategies.ca
www.lifestrategies.ca