NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

## DESCRIPTION OF VISUAL ELEMENTS

Among the various visual elements illustrating Indigenous cultures, the sun (the summer solstice) is at the center which is at the heart of the festivities. The First Nations, Inuit and Métis as well as the four elements of nature (earth, water, fire and air) are represented in the image and shown opposite. The whole visual is supported by a multicolored smoke\* reminding us of Indigenous spirituality but also the colors of the rainbow - symbol of inclusion and diversity of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and their members.

\*Smoke is used in different ways by all three Indigenous groups in Canada. Whether it is to smoke fish and meat, to burn sage and tobacco or for sacred ceremonies or celebrations, it is a significant symbol in Indigenous cultures.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE THREE ICONS**



**The eagle** to represent the First Nations peoples



**The narwhal** to represent the Inuit peoples



**The violin** to represent the Métis peoples





