

A Canadian LGBTQ2SIA+ timeline

To mark Pride Month, here is a look at some of the milestones in Canada from the 1960s to the present that have affected members of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.



August 28, 1971
First gay rights protest, Ottawa



August 19, 1973
National pride week (Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Saskatoon, Winnipeg)
While not the first time pride celebrations were held in Canada, these events, and their locations nation-wide, showed the emergence of the concept of gay pride.

February 1975 to June 1976
Pre-Olympics "Cleanup" in Montreal
Police raids took place in establishments throughout Montreal's gay village. It was perceived as efforts by the city to "clean up" the city in advance of the 1976 Olympics. Comité homosexuel antirépression Gay Coalition Against Repression) was formed and organized a protest that took place on June 19, 1976.



December 16, 1977
Quebec first jurisdiction in North America to add sexual orientation to the Human Rights Code

1978
Launch of Buddies in Bad Times, Canada's oldest surviving LGBTQ2SIA+ theatre company

February 5, 1981
Operation Soap Box police raids
Toronto police arrested just under 300 men. The following day, a crowd of 3,000 people protested. In 2016, 35 years later, Toronto's police chief formally apologized for the raids.

May 30, 1981
Gay establishments raided in Edmonton
In the raid, around 60 men were arrested and charged. In response, more than 100 people rallied at city hall on June 3 to condemn the raid as a violation of civil rights, as well as a waste of money.

June 22, 1985
Murder of Kenneth Zeller, Toronto
The creation of one of Canada's first programs to combat anti-gay discrimination and violence is implemented by the Toronto District School Board after a hate crime in which their employee Kenneth Zeller was murdered in Toronto's High Park.



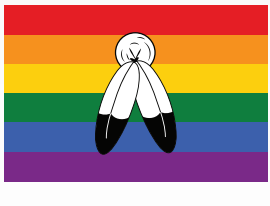
December 8, 1986
Canada Customs seizes books destined for Little Sister's bookstore

February 29, 1988
Canada's first openly gay MP
British Columbia MP Svend Robinson publicly announced he was gay during a CBC interview. Robinson was the lone publicly gay MP for another six years, until Quebecois Réal Ménard came out in 1994, followed by B.C. MP Libby Davies who was the first lesbian to come out in 2001.



May 17, 1990
WHO removes homosexuality from mental disorders list

July 27, 1990
Term Two-Spirit (niizh manidoowag) coined
Founded at the third annual Native American/First Nations Gay and Lesbian Conference in Winnipeg, the term rejects other English terms that imposed the Western views of gender and sexuality on indigenous people.

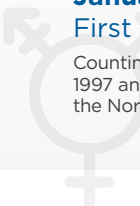


July 16, 1994
First gay and lesbian pride march held in P.E.I.

May 24, 1995
Same-sex couples gain legal adoption rights in Ontario



January 1, 1997
First trans arts festival held in Toronto
Counting Past 2 was a trans arts festival that ran between 1997 and 2002 in Toronto. It was the first festival of its kind in the North America, and thought to be the first in the world.



September 14, 2000
Club Toronto raid
Five years after the raid, which took place during a queer and trans event, the Ontario Human Rights Commission required the police force to establish cultural competency training for all members regarding the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.

December 2, 2002
Gay establishments raided in Calgary



August 4, 2004
Gay establishment raided in Hamilton, Ontario

July 20, 2005
Same-sex marriage allowed in Canada
Bill C-38 became federal law which gave same-sex couples the legal right to marry. This made Canada the fourth country in the world to allow same-sex marriage.



February 8, 2010
First Olympics pride house, Vancouver
For the first time, the Olympic games included the pride house for LGBTQ2SIA+ athletes.

August 8, 2010
Fredericton's first official pride celebration
New Brunswick's queer pride celebrations received official recognition by the City Council, ending years of struggle by the queer community and allies to hold a parade in the provincial capital.

August 1, 2012
First Yukon pride



August 31, 2012
First Northwest Territories pride

June 26, 2013
Civil marriage act amended
This amendment permits non-Canadian same-sex couples who married in Canada due to restrictions in their home country, to obtain a divorce.

September 27, 2014
First Nunavut Pride



May 5, 2015
Alberta elects first non-binary politician



June 1, 2016
Pride flag raised on Parliament Hill

July 3, 2016
Black Lives Matter Toronto challenges Pride Parade to address anti-blackness within the community

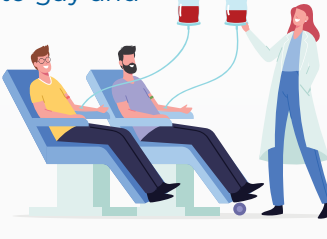


November 5, 2017
First transgender mayor elected

November 28, 2017
Federal Government apologies for LGBT purge
The federal government offered an apology for the systematic rejection LGBTQ2SIA+ people faced in the Canadian Public Service. Starting in the 1950's, federal employees suspected to be in any way LGBTQ2SIA+ were subject to psychological tests and job loss.



May 8, 2019
Blood donation barriers to gay and bisexual men lessened
Health Canada amended the rules so that gay and bisexual men need to wait less time (three months) following sex with other men before donating blood.

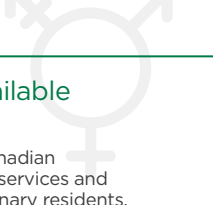


October 25, 2019
Intersex flag raised at City Hall, London and Barrie, Ontario

January 28, 2021
Quebec Civil Code declared discriminatory against trans community

The Superior Court of Quebec deemed it unconstitutional to only designate people as male or female. It also declared that trans parents have a right to change their designation on their children's birth certificate and to be recognized as "parent" and struck down the requirement to be a Canadian citizen in order to change one's name or gender.

March 24, 2022
Nation-wide funding available for gender-affirming surgeries
The Government of Nunavut became the last Canadian jurisdiction to provide funding for mental health services and transition treatments for transgender and non-binary residents.



May 14, 1969
Decriminalization of homosexuality



July 21, 1971
Everett Klippert released from prison
Klippert, the last person to be arrested (1965) for being homosexual, had been serving a life sentence for being gay.



December 15, 1973
Homosexuality removed as a "disorder" from the Diagnostics and Statistics Manual of Mental Disorders

February 17, 1977
Pickets against CBC Halifax
Nova Scotia's LGBTQ2SIA+ community came together for its first public protest, picketing CBC headquarters over the local station's refusal to run a public service announcement advertising the Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE)'s Gayline.

October 22, 1977
Gay establishments raided in Montreal

April 1, 1978
Immigration Act came into effect, which no longer prohibited homosexual immigrants



April 21, 1981
Glad Day Bookshop raided

May 16, 1981
First lesbian pride march in Canada, Vancouver



October 17, 1981
Dykes in the Streets march, Toronto

June 24, 1982
Edmonton's first gay pride weekend

October 16, 1985
"Equality for All" report
The Parliamentary Committee on Equality Rights writes that it is shocked by the high level of discriminatory treatment of homosexuals in Canada and recommends that the Canadian Human Rights Act be changed to make it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation.

August 2, 1987
Winnipeg's first gay pride march

June 1, 1988
Halifax's first official pride march

October 11, 1988
National Coming Out Day established

December 1, 1988
Foundation of World AIDS Day

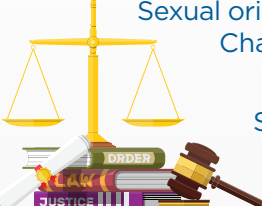


July 15, 1990
The Garage raids
Police raided a party (called Garage) and ignited 36 hours of clashes between Montreal's LGBTQ2SIA+ community and the police force, which was accused at the time of harbouring a culture of homophobia. The Garage raid is now widely considered to be Montreal's Stonewall.

October 27, 1992
Ban lifted against gays and lesbians in the military
Michelle Douglas, a lesbian woman who had been dismissed from the armed forces, launched a lawsuit against the military for compensation for her dismissal and to challenge its discriminatory policy against gay and lesbian service members. The day the trial of her case was to begin, the armed forces settled and agreed that their policies regarding the service of homosexuals in the Canadian Armed Forces are contrary to the Charter.

May 25, 1995
Sexual orientation included in Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

June 20, 1996
Sexual orientation included in Canadian Human Rights Act



June 1, 1999
First Black queer space at Toronto Pride



April 11, 2000
Same-sex couples granted equal social and tax benefits

November 18, 2001
Community rally against homophobia, Vancouver
More than 3,000 people came together for a march and vigil protesting anti-gay violence held to commemorate the death of Vancouver resident Aaron Webster, who was assaulted and killed in one of Canada's most notorious anti-gay hate crimes.

June 10, 2003
First same-sex couple issued a marriage licence and marry, Toronto

December 13, 2004
Scott Brison Canada's first openly gay cabinet minister

June 27, 2009
First trans march held in Toronto



June 17, 2010
First trans protest in Quebec
The protesters demanded changes be made to Quebec's existing regulations requiring those seeking gender marker changes to their civil status to undergo forced sterilization, as well as more accessible ways of changing one's name.

November 6, 2010
First openly gay hockey player inducted into Hockey Hall of Fame



February 11, 2013
Canada's first openly LGBTQ2SIA+ premier elected

June 28, 2014
International Asexuality Conference held in Canada
The second-ever International Asexuality Conference took place in Toronto. This is the first Asexual conference/gathering held in Canada and covered various subtopics of asexuality including a history of asexuality and the asexual (ace) community, current research in asexuality, grey-asexuality, and demisexuality.

July 26, 2015
First Newfoundland and Labrador trans march

July 3, 2016
First prime minister to march in pride parade, Toronto

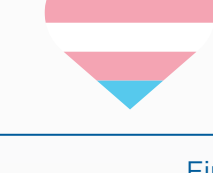


June 19, 2017
Canadian Human Rights Act expanded to gender identity and expression
The bill updated the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code to include the terms "gender identity" and "gender expression" and makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of gender identity or expression.

December 15, 2017
First trans person appointed judge in Canada



May 2018
First Ontario birth certificate issued in Ontario

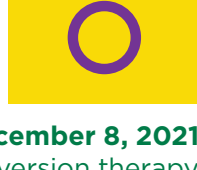


May 23, 2019
WHO removes mental disorder designation from transgender

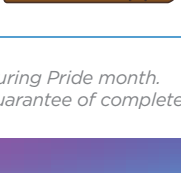
May 26, 2019
First Two-Spirit archives in Canada
The University of Winnipeg's collection is believed to be the most comprehensive collection of Two-Spirit materials in Canada and will be used by researchers, historians and Two-Spirit people.

October 29, 2019
Protests against transphobia, Toronto

October 20, 2021
First intersex crosswalk in Canada (London)



December 8, 2021
Act to criminalize conversion therapy
The bill defines conversion therapy as a "practice, treatment or service designed to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual, or to change a person's gender identity to cisgender." This legislation makes providing, promoting or advertising conversion therapy a criminal offence, in order to protect the human dignity and equality of all Canadians. Conversion therapy was already banned to different degrees in Ontario, Manitoba, Vancouver, Quebec, Yukon, Nova Scotia and P.E.I.



The purpose of this graphic is to advance understanding of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community during Pride month. While every effort was taken to confirm that this information is correct, it comes with no guarantee of completeness or accuracy.