

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 antirepression 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.



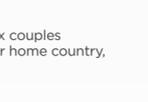
February 8, 2010
First Olympics pride house, Vancouver

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

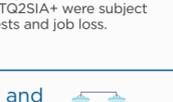


May 5, 2015
Alberta elects first non-binary politician



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.

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.

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