2SLGBTQIA+ Timeline in Canada

When asked about the history of pride, often the first thing that comes to people's minds are the 1969 Stonewall Riots. Canada, however, has it's own rich history and turning points in the struggle for and eventual celebration of 2SLGBTQIA+ rights.

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Here you will find not only important events that were tipping points, important steps on the road to rights and representation, but also a sense of how long ago and how recently some of the events that have shaped our community have happened.

We often lose the memory of how recent some of these battles have been fought, once we have gained a measure of peace. It is important we never forget these points in our history that have shaped the world we are in today.

*Our history is expansive and this is not, by any means, a comprehensive list.

(C-150)

acts between consenting adults with the passage of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Stonewall Riots in New York City

The Stonewall riots were a series of spontaneous violent demonstrations by members of the gay, lesbian and transgender communities against a police raid that began in the early morning hours of June 28th, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in the Manhattan neighbourhood of Greenwich Village, New York City. They are widely considered constituting the most important event leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern activists demonstrated at Robson Square in Vancouver. fight for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights in across the world.

The Brunswick Four

The Brunswick four refers to four lesb Rosen, Pat Murphy, Sue Wells and Lamar Van Dyke) about homophobia and harassment in Canada, and fu Toronto's growing 2SLGBTQIA+ rights movement.

Decriminalization of homosexuality

On May 14th, 1969 Canada decriminalizes homosexual

were arrested at the Brunswick Tave

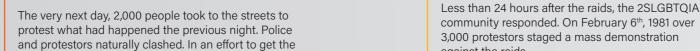
Homosexuality is removed from the Diagnostics and Statistics Manual

Montreal Bathhouse Raids

On the night of October 22nd, 1977, Montreal police raided two gay bars on Stanley Street (Truxx and Le Operation Soap Mystique). This raid was more of a military operation then a normal police intervention: 50 police officers, wearing bulletproof vests with guns (including machine guns) drawn, went in and arrested 146 patrons, all exual men, as part of what was at the time the biggest mass arrest since Trudeau had declared the

"War Measures Act" during the October Crisis. The men who were arrested were crowded into holding cells for more than eight hours, and forced to take venereal disease tests. They were also forbidden from were eventually dropped or discharged.

against the raids.



Toronto Bathhouse Raids:

On February 5th, 1981, patrons of four bathhouses in downtown Toronto were surprised by hundreds of Toronto Police Service officers in a series of coordinated raids, called "Operation Soap."

Many men detained during the raids reported excess mistreatment by police, including verbal taunts and physical violence. When the night was over, 286 men were arrested. Most charges connected to the incide

community responded. On February 6th, 1981 over 3,000 protestors staged a mass demonstration The event is now considered one of the crucial turn

Credit: (Top) Frank Lennon,
(Bottom) Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives

Obscene material for purposes of resale."

Canadian Parliament

British Columbia MP Svend Robinson came out as Canada's first openly gay member of parliament. Robinson publicly announced he was gay during an interview with CBC reporter Barbara Frum.

points in Canadian 2SLGBTQIA+ history.

rears, 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. Glad Day Bookshop raid On April 21st, Glad Day Bookshop which is the oldest

surviving 2SLGBTQIA+ bookstore across Turtle Island

was targeted by the Toronto Police Services in a serie

of raids. Kevin Orr is charged with "possession of

First openly gay member of

The Sex Garage Raids

Party. The violence ignited 36 hours of clashes between Montreal's 2SLGBTQIA+ community and the police force, which was accused at the time of harbouring a

culture of homophobia.

sexuality and gender.

Sex Garage politicized a generation of 2SLGBTQIA+ Idoment granting declarations that Douglas's section tivists who would change the Quebec p rights had been violated and that "the Defendant's andscape, uniting gays and lesbians, and francopl nd anglophones, in a common front. These activists would establish the Divers/Cité Pride March and political-action groups like La Table de concertation des gaies et lesbiennes du grand Montréal to statement that "Canadians, regardless of their sexual successfully fight for 2SLGBTQIA+ civil rights and orientation, will now be able to serve their co improve gay life in Montreal. without restriction".

Federal court lifts ban against

gays and lesbians in the military

n January 1990, Michelle Douglas, a lesbian woman

case was to begin, the armed forces agreed to settle

as part of the settlement the Federal Court signed

had been dismissed from the armed forces ched a lawsuit against the military to Canadian Charter of Rights ar ompensation for her dismissal and to challenge its discriminatory policy against gay and lesbian service members. On October 27th, 1992, the day the trial of her

> This event resulted in protests and pickets of the Toronto police's 52 Division. In 2002, an Ontario provincial court judge ruled that police were wrong to raid the party and a 2005 class action lawsuit and complaint to the Ontario Human Rights Commission resulted in a \$350,000 settlement

the force to establish cultural competency training for [Little Sisters Book and Art Emporium v Canada

Marriage equality is achieved in

Toronto's first Trans March

for the Trans Community.

The Trans March, originally started by Karah Mathiason

The march, which was not recognized by Pride Toronto

began in response to Pride's lack of organizing efforts

as an officially programmed event, was a short route

from Church & Bloor Streets to Church & Wellesley

When the march reached the Church and Wellsley

up across the street. The marchers, disappointed and

frustrated, pushed through the barricades, and finished

Streets, they were met with large metal barricades lined

Canada (C-38)

Olympics gets a Pride House

couples the legal right to marry. This made Canada the

the Pride House for 2SLGBTQIA+ athletes.

all members regarding the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. (Minister of Justice) [2000] 2 S.C.R. 1120, 2000 SCC 69] fourth country in the world to allow same-sex marriage.

Ontario Human Rights Code launches

Estefania Cortes-Vargas is elected to the Legislative

Assembly of Alberta becoming the first out

policy on Preventing Discrimination

Because of Gender Identity and

Gender Expression

Alberta elects first

non-binary politician

2015

Trans Rights are Human Rights

which officially extends human rights protection

transgender and transsexual people in Canada.

The House of Commons passes Bill C-279 in March,

(C-279)

Parliment raises pride flag

Gender markers no longer displayed

Northwest Territories introduces marker, a huge step for non-binary, intersex and changes to the Vital Statistics Act

Canadian Human Rights Act

expanded to include Gender Iden

and Gender Expression (C-16)

On June 19th, 2017 Bill C-16 was passed by the fe

updated the Canadian Human Rights Act and the

men who were seeking consensual sex. The sting

the gender on their birth registration without first having

to undergo gender reassignment surgery.

Ontario Government marks Trans Day

s bill marks November 20th as the official Trans Day

Ontario's government is the first to legislate recognition

First transgender mayor elected

Montérégie region of Quebec.

and the first female mayor in the history of

Très-Saint-Rédempteur, a municipality in the

This marked the first time a transgender person was

elected as mayor in any municipality across Canada

Canada launches

Kael McKenzie is appointed to the Provincial Court of Established in cooperation with the Rainbow Refugee

such, it includes the homophobic policies which archives in Canada. The collection — mostly donated by furthered the larger communities homophobia resulting | long-time Winnipeg Two Spirit activist Albert McLeod is in an even greater social oppression that was detrimental believed to be the most comprehensive collection of

Canada announces new initiative

to support 2SLGBTQIA+ refugees

is introduced. The initiative aims to support more

Canadians in privately sponsoring 2SLGBTQIA+

refugees who are fleeing violence and persecution

organizations and the refugee settlement community

Queer Events

Sources:

History of Canadian Pride: https://www.queerevents.ca/canada/pride/history

The Tipping Point - Four Key Protest in Canadian LGBT2Q+ History: https://www.queerevents.ca/queer-corner/blog/history/tipping-point-key-protest-lgbt-history

The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CCGSD)

History Study Guide: https://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/our-history-study-guide/https://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/CCGSD_OurHistoryStudyGuide_April2019.pdf https://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Canadian-History-Timeline.pdf

Who Are Two Spirit People: https://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/1-who-are-two-spirit-people/

Re:searching for LGBTQ Health

Two-Spirit Community: https://lgbtqhealth.ca/community/two-spirit.php

https://arquives.ca/newsfeed/the-pussy-palace-raid-a-brief-herstory/

Toronto Bathhouse Raids (1981):

https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/toronto-feature-bathhouse-raids#

Brunswick Four (1974): https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/the-brunswick-fo

Rights of LGBTI Persons: https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/rights-lgbti-persons.html

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_Canada#:~:text=In%20June%202015%2C%20the%20Affirmi

g,for%20anyone%2C%20of%20any%20age.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/two-spirit-archives-university-winnipeg-1.5150759

Some charges dropped in 'Project Marie' Etobicoke park sex sting: stinghttps://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/project-marie-charges-dropped-1.4379087

Edmonton City as Museum Project

Queers Crash the Beat

will lower the blood donation deferral period, clearing gay and bisexual men to donate blood after abstaining om sex with other men for three months, instead of one year. They still refuse to eliminate the ban.

On November 28th, 2017 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

delivered a formal apology in the House of Commons t Remembrance (TDOR) and requires the legislature to individuals harmed by federal legislation, policies and hold a minute of silence at 10:29am each year in honour practices that led to the oppression of and discrimination rans people who have died as a result of anti-trans against 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Canada.

> the suppression of "two-spirit Indigenous values and beliefs" and "abusing the power of the law, and making criminals of citizens." This began the process in which

> > The Arquives - Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives The Pussy Palace Raid: A Brief Herstory:

The Canadian Encyclopedia

LGBTQ2 Timeline: https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/timeline/lgbtq2

Two-Spirit: https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/two-spirit

LGBT rights in Canada:

Society, the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Partners University of Winnipeg Two-Spirit Archives a first in Canada: and strengthen collaboration between 2SLGBTQIA+

The Pisces Bathhouse Raid: hhttps://citymuseumedmonton.ca/2015/05/28/the-pisces-bathhouse-raid.



petition to the government with a list of ten demands 1976 Summer Olympics. for equal rights and protections. Simultaneously, another much smaller group of roughly twenty gay



Resisting the Olympic 'Cleanup'

On August 28th, 1971, roughly 100 people from Ottawa, Police crackdowns against gay bars ramped in the pouring rain at Parliament Hill for Canada's First was widely perceived as mayor Jean Drapeau's Gay Liberation Protest and March. They presented a attempts to "clean up" the city in advance of the

bottles at the police.

in Montreal's Stanley Street gay village. This event

Signed in law on December 16th, 1977, Quebec became the first jurisdiction in Canada to amend its provincia charter of human rights to include sexual orientation as

an organization called the Comité homosexue ession/Gay Coalition against Repress (R) was set up with representatives from real gay groups bringing together French and English-speaking activists, lesbians and gay men, w sections of the left and the feminist movements. O

to the *Human Rights Code*

a prohibited ground for discrimination.

prohibits 'homosexuals'

Quebec adds Sexual Orientation

crowd to disperse, police rode their motorcycles into

the crowd, clubbing protestors, who in turn threw beer

The Act was positively regarded as a progressive piece of legislation and received broad support from the liberties in Edmonton. parliamentary parties.

Pisces Raids in Edmonton

New *Immigration Act* no longer

civil rights, as well as a waste of money.

employees, were charged with being keepers of a common bawdy house. A local TV station ran the

On April 1st, 1978, this new amended Act lifted a ba prohibiting homosexuals from immigration. There was shift in language in this particular legislative act, this was created to state who was welcome in Canada instead of who should be prevented from immigrating.

names of those found at Pisces outing the men publicly. In response to the raid, over 100 people rallied at city

Police Service, six RCMP officers, and two crown attorneys stormed the Pisces Health Spa, a bathhouse

hall on June 3rd to condemn the raid as a violation of

The raid drew groups within Edmonton's gay community together and made it more vocal and public.

another similar demonstration would be held in Toronto. It was also noted that the Edmonton police cons with Toronto police on how to execute the raids. outrage that Edmontonians felt after the raids led to more accepted and public 2SLGBTQIA+ community and the lack of tolerance towards infringements of civil

Dyke March taking place in 1993, the first documented lesbian march took place in Vancouver, British Columbia charged while an additional six men, owners and attending the fifth Bi-National Lesbian Conference

> r, on October 17th, 1981, the now-defunct organization ans Against the Right held a "Dykes in the Streets

used by gay men. In the raid, 56 men were arrested and Canada, in May 1981. Approximately 200 lesbians

here, look over there, lesbians are everywhere!"

visibility as the theme. 350 women participated in th demonstration. It would not be until 15 years later that

rch in Toronto, Ontario, with lesbian power, pride, an

First Lesbian Pride March in Canada

marched through downtown streets chanting "Look over

is coined

about their identity in the context of their cultural identity, and to reject the colonial definitions of

Supreme Court rules that refugees

can apply based on sexual orientation On June 30th, 1993 the Supreme Court ruled that gays At the third annual intertribal Native American/ First Nations Gay and Lesbian Conference in Winnipeg, the term Two Spirit (niizh manidoowag) was coined. The term Two Spirit allows Indigenous folks to talk

the Supreme Court of Canada, in a landmark (and precedent-setting) decision, declared that sexual orientation should be seen as a "social group" within the context of determining convention re This ruling opened up the way for 2SLGBTQ

Sexual Orientation included in Canadian Human Rights Act (C-33)

at Toronto Pride

history, creativity and resistance.

Blockorama: First Black Queer Space

Curated and organized by the community collective

Blackness Yes!, Blockorama made its appearance as

the very first black queer space in the Toronto pride

festival. Blockorama showcases black queer and tran

and lesbians could apply for refugee status on the bas ment passed Bill C-33, adding "sexual ration" to the *Canadian Human Rights Act*, a of facing persecution in their countries of origin. i-discrimination law that applies to federally In a ruling regarding an unrelated 2SLGBTQIA+ case, regulated activities throughout Canada.

refugees to seek protection in Canad [Canada (AG) v Ward, [1993] 2 S.C.R. 689]

Northwest Territories add Gender

Pussy Palace Raids

On September 14th, 2000 six male officers from the

queer and trans event known as the "Pussy Palace."

Toronto Police raided Club Toronto during an all-female

which included a formal apology in writing and required

Modernization of Benefits and

pension benefits, bankruptcy protection, incon

grant equal rights to same-sex couples as

heterosexuals in common-law relationships.

old age security, and immigration, among others, to

Obligations Act (C-23) he Northwest Territories becomes the first jurisdiction Canada to explicitly add "gender identity" to On April 11th, 2000, the federal government responde human rights legislation as a prohibited ground to the 1999 Supreme Court decision by passing Bill discrimination regarding the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. C-23, which amended 68 federal statutes, inclu

Ontario legalizes same-sex marriage Michael Leshner and Michael Stark become the first same-sex couple to be issued a marriage license and the first ever Trans March inside the Village.

Little Sister's win for Freedom

Little Sister's Bookstore in Vancouver launched a

constitutional challenge over its treatment at the

and holding shipments from the US. The Book a

Art Emporium claimed Customs was purposefully

The Supreme Court agreed in a ruling on December

targeting Little Sisters and Justice Ian Binnie stated

Customs officials prohibit and thereby censor

15th, 2000 that the actions by Canada Customs were

awful gay and lesbian erotica, they are making

the statement was reasonably interpreted by the

appellants as demeaning gay and lesbian values

Identity to Human Rights Act

a statement about gay and lesbian culture, and

hands of Canada Customs, which had been delayin

of Expression

targeting them.

of Appeals. The Court unanimously found that the exclusion of same-sex couples was a clear violation o the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Following the ruling, other provinces and territories

marry in Toronto after the ruling by the Ontario Court

legalized same-sex marriage, including: (2003) British Columbia, (2004) Quebec, Yukon, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador, and (2005) New Brunswick.

First open 2SLGBTQIA+ Premier

Bill C-38 bill became federal law which gave same-sex

British Columbia was the host to the 2010 Winter February 11th, 2013, becoming both Ontario's firs Olympics, for the first time, the Olympic games included female Premier and Canada's first openly

Angela James is Inducted into the

Angela James was inducted into the Hockey Hall of

Fame in 2010, becoming the first openly gay player

Angela James aka "the Wayne Gretzky of women's

hockey" among many other achievements led the

James has been a dominant force in promoting an

the CWHL awards the highest scoring player the

inspiring women and young girls in sports, each year

Canadian women's hockey team to four world

championships (1990, 1992, 1994, and 1997).

Angela James Bowl. In 2009 the city of Toronto

renamed her hometown hockey arena the Angel

James Arena to honour her contributions and work

within the local community.

only the second black athlete to ever be inducted

Hockey Hall of Fame

Ontario Liberal Party on the 3rd ballot in its leadershi election. Wynne is formally sworn into office on

raised on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

Black Lives Matter Protest for Equality

the parade in an effort to address anti-blackness within an

already marginalized community. The chapter consulted with

Black Queer Youth, an organization for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth,

which has also faced some of the largest budget cuts.

indigenous people. The group also viewed the shutdown as a

Although met with mixed reception from both within the queer

community and outside, this marked a collective outpouring of

frustration and demands for equality and an end to racism from

many gueer indigenous and people of colour who were being

prioritize the hiring of black transgender women and

with the communities.

marginalized within the queer community.

which had its stage moved farther away from the main crowd:

queer Indigenous people who have also boycotted pride and its | Criminal Code to include the terms "gender identity"

rasure: and Blackness Yes!, the community organization that and "gender expression." The legislation also makes it

nosts Blockorama, Pride Toronto's stage for people of colour, illegal to discriminate on the basis of gender identity of

to increase representation among Pride Toronto staff, and to terms, and makes it a hate crime to target someone for

moment to highlight how Toronto Pride and the Toronto Police | Identity or expression can be considered an aggravat

were attempting to erase the department's poor relationship circumstance by a judge during sentencing.

The operation was greatly understood to be

targeted men who have sex with men, in an effort to Individuals born in the NWT may now apply to change

effecting the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Oppression extended beyond charging men for

Prime Minister delivers apology

Trudeau's broad apology for "state-sponsored, systemic

records from those targeted during the Purge (1950's

reparations paid to civil servants and military personnel

First trans person appointe

appointed as a judge in Canada.

Manitoba making him the first transgender person

He is a member of the Manitoba Métis Nation and has

also served as the Manitoba chair of the Canadian Bar

Association, and president of the provincial Rainbow

Blood Ban reduced but not elimated

Health Canada announces on May 8th, 2019 that they

Resource Centre for Manitoba's 2SLGBTQIA+

judge in Canada

communities.

through the 1990's) would be expunged as well as

to 2SLGBTQ+ Canadians

same-sex relations years beyond 1969's legalization of University of Winnipeg launches the first Two Spirit

who lost their livelihood from this Cold War era policy First Two Spirit archives in

LGBT History in Canada: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_history_in_Canada

Women strip-searched, charged in bathhouse raids reject public apology: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/bathhouse-raids-pussy-palace-1.3647636

Project Marie: https://queerscrashthebeat.com/project-marie/

