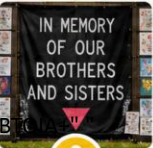


The Evolution of **PRIDE** in Canada

A journey of courage, community, and equality.

1969	1971-1978	1980s	1995	2005	2016	TODAY & BEYOND
						
THE BEGINNING Inspired by the Stonewall Uprising, queer communities across Canada begin to organize. Early protests and grassroots groups lay the foundation for change.	THE FIRST PRIDE MARCHES The first Pride marches are held in Vancouver (1971), Toronto (1971), Winnipeg (1972) and Montreal (1978), bringing visibility and unity to queer communities.	THE AIDS ERA The 1980s bring devastating loss, but also activism, advocacy, and care. Communities come together to demand research, support, and compassion.	LEGAL MILESTONE The Supreme Court of Canada rules that laws banning same-sex intimacy are unconstitutional. A historic step toward equality and dignity.	MARRIAGE EQUALITY Canada becomes the fourth country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage. A victory for love, equality, and human rights.	PROGRESS & PROTECTION The Canadian Human Rights Act is amended to include gender identity and expression. Stronger protections for 2SLGBTQ+ people across the country.	CELEBRATE. EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. Pride continues to grow in every city, town, and community. We celebrate our history and keep building a more inclusive Canada for all.


 From activism to acceptance, from silence to celebration—Pride in Canada is a testament to resilience, love, and the ongoing pursuit of equality for all. **WE ARE HERE. WE ARE PROUD. WE KEEP GOING.**

1

“Queer community” is being used as an inclusive shorthand umbrella term to refer to the diverse **2SLGBTQIA+** communities.

We recognize that language is personal and evolving, and not everyone identifies with the term “queer”



2

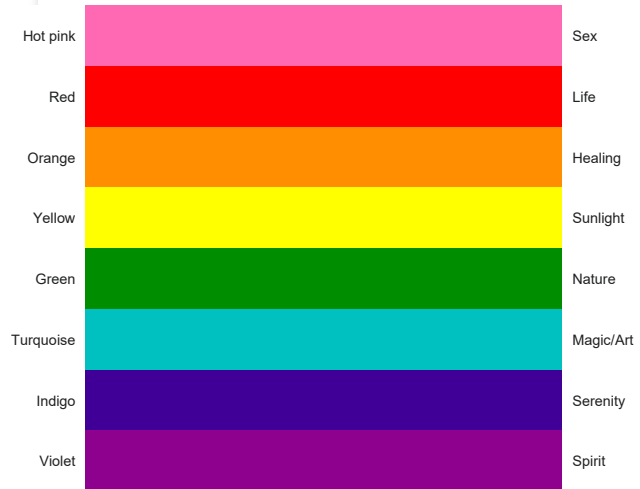
What's in a flag?

The original rainbow Pride flag was designed in **1978** by artist and activist **Gilbert Baker**

Urged by gay rights leader [Harvey Milk](#) (assassinated) to create a positive symbol for the community

For the **San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade**.

Initially featured **eight horizontal stripes**



3

Progress Pride Flag

Amended in 2018 by activist **Daniel Quasar** and inspired by the rainbow flag, this design celebrates the diversity of the Queer communities and calls for a more inclusive society.

This flag incorporates chevrons featuring new colours



4

Lost ...not forgotten



5

1969: The Stonewall Uprising Sparks a Movement

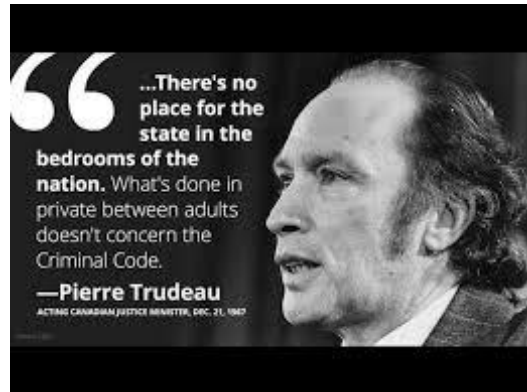
- Following years of police harassment and discrimination against Queer people, patrons of the Stonewall Inn Gay Bar in New York City resisted a police raid, sparking several days of protests.
- This became a catalyst for modern "Queer" activism.
- Its influence spread internationally, including to Canada.
- Community organizing and advocacy groups began growing across the country.



6

Canadian Decriminalization (1969)

- Homosexuality was partially decriminalized in Canada in 1969.
- Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau famously stated: 'There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.'
- Legal change did not end discrimination or stigma.



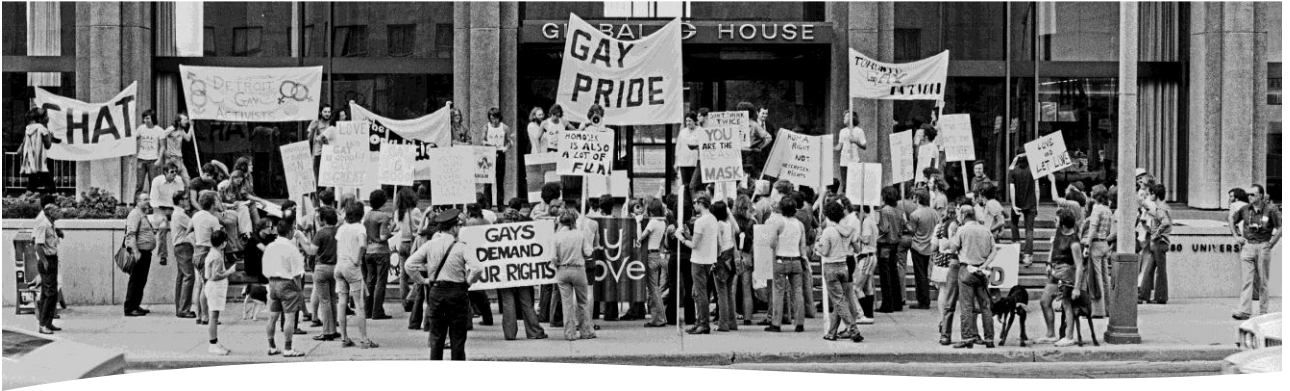
7

1971: We Demand

- 'We Demand' demonstration on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.
- Canada's first large-scale "Queer" rights demonstration.
- Activists presented a list of demands on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.
- Widely regarded as a foundational moment in Canadian Pride history.



8



The First Pride Events

- Early Pride gatherings emerged in Vancouver, Toronto, Montréal, and other cities.
- Events focused on visibility, human rights, and community building.
- Participation often involved significant personal risk.

9

1981 Bathhouse Raids

- Police raids in Toronto led to mass protests. **“Operation Soap”**
- Many compare the response to Canada's Stonewall moment.
- The events galvanized “Queer” organizing across the country.



10

The HIV/AIDS Crisis

- Communities mobilized to support people living with HIV.
- Activists demanded healthcare, funding, dignity, and research.
- Organizations across Canada emerged as leaders in advocacy and support.



11

2005: Marriage Equality

- Canada became one of the first countries to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide.
- The Civil Marriage Act represented a major milestone for "Queer" rights.



12

Trans Inclusion

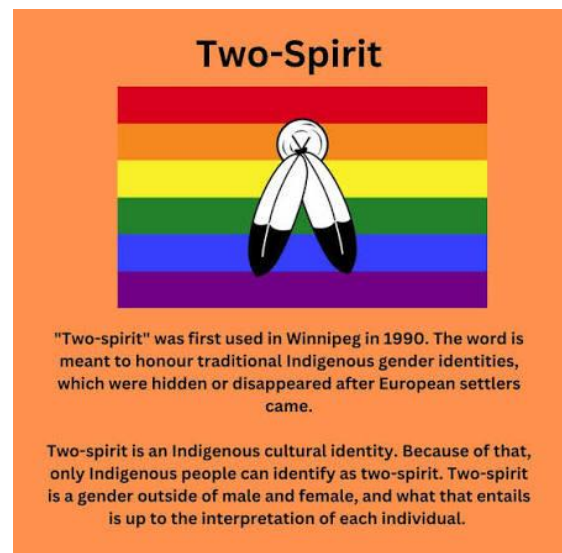
- Increasing visibility of transgender, non-binary, and diverse communities.
- Transgender and gender-diverse people were central to the early "Queer" rights movement and the fight against discrimination.
- Advocacy has led to important legal protections, including gender identity and gender expression being added to the Canadian Human Rights Act in 2017.
- Pride evolved to address intersectionality and inclusion.



13

Two Spirit Recognition

- Greater recognition of Two-Spirit identities and Indigenous leadership.
- Prior to colonization Two-Spirit Individuals were highly valued and honoured in Indigenous communities



14

Pride in Canada Today

- Pride celebrations occur across the country, from large cities to small communities.
- Events combine celebration, advocacy, education, and remembrance.
- Focus areas include trans rights, reconciliation with Two-Spirit communities, equity, and inclusion.
- Pride continues to evolve as both a celebration and a movement for social justice.

15



16



This year's Places of Pride stamp issue honours:

- The 519 in Toronto
- Metamorphosis festival in Saskatoon
- Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium in Vancouver
- The Turret in Halifax

