

Quiz – LGBTQ+ History in Canada

ANSWERS

1. If you wanted to start a Rainbow Club/GSA/Pride Alliance, your school has to let you.

TRUE. The Accepting Schools Act, 2012 calls for, among other things, students to have the right to form a GSA in their schools. It was coupled with further anti-bullying legislation.

2. The Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC) protects against discrimination based on gender identity and/or gender expression.

TRUE. Toby's Law, 2012 adds both to the OHRC and prevents discrimination on those bases in employment, housing, and public service.

3. What year was same-sex marriage legalized across Canada?

- A) 1999
- B) **2005**
- C) 2003
- D) 2015

Bonus question: What is the significance of the other years?

1999 – Ontario courts struck down the exclusion of same-sex couples from common law partnerships as a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, specifically section 15(1), which led to...

2002-2003 – Provincial appeals courts in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec all rule that same-sex couples have the same right to marry as heterosexual couples (the QC ruling didn't go into effect until 2004), which prompted Prime Ministers Jean Chretien & Paul Martin to bring forward legislation instituting a national right to marriage, finally passing in...

2005 – PM Paul Martin introduced the Civil Marriage Act to legalize same-sex marriage across Canada. Two Liberal cabinet ministers resigned from cabinet in order to vote against the bill, but it carried 158-133 with the strong support of the New Democratic Party (NDP), Bloc Quebecois, and Conservatives voting in favour. It took a decade, but this was followed by...

2015 – Our neighbours to the south, by a 5-4 ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) in Obergefell v. Hodges, legalized same-sex marriage across their country as well.

4. What significant event took place in February 1981 in Toronto and is widely considered one of the launching pads of Canada's modern Pride movement?

Police raided four bathhouses in Toronto, causing structural damage and attacking several patrons. Finally, sick of constant police harassment and abuse, Toronto's LGBTQ communities took to the streets immediately afterward, and then held a "Gay Freedom Rally" on March 6, 1981. This is widely considered the birth of the modern Pride Weekend (and month-long) celebrations that are now the 3rd largest in the world.