

1998 Ontario decides that health insurance will no longer cover Sexual Reassignment Surgery. Manitoba and Alberta follow suit in 1999.

1998 Mathew Shepard's death starts activism around hate crimes.

1999 The Supreme Court rules that the Ontario Family Law Act's definition of "spouse" is unconstitutional, as well as any law that denies equal benefits to same-sex couples.

2000 The City of Toronto becomes Canada's first city to seek guidance from the courts on whether Canada's ban on same-sex marriages is constitutional.

2000 The Federal Government introduces Bill C-23, to give same-sex couples who have lived together for more than a year the same rights and access as other common-law

2000 Ontario's first same-sex couples are married by MCC church in Toronto. The Ontario government insists that the marriages will not be legally recognized.

2000 Ontario Human Rights Commission releases a policy on harassment and discrimination, stipulating that transgender individuals are protected by the Ontario Human Rights Code under "sex".

2002 Ontario Superior Court rules that Marc Hall has the right to take his boyfriend to the prom.

2002 Ontario Superior Court rules in favour of recognizing same-sex marriages under the law - Federal government appeals the ruling.

2002 Canada changes its immigration policy to include same-sex couples

2003 United Church of Canada votes overwhelmingly to endorse same-sex marriages.

2003 Federal government introduces legislation to make same sex marriages legal.

2003 Ontario court rules that the Federal government discriminated against same-sex couples regarding death benefits for those who had lost a partner prior to 1998. The court rules that the benefits should be awarded.

2004 The Canadian Parliament adopts Svend Robinson's private member's bill giving gays and lesbians protection in Canada's Hate Crimes legislation.

2005 The Government of Canada passes Bill C-38 giving gays and lesbians the right to marry.

2005 Ontario's birth registry is challenged, enabling the names of 2 same-sex parents to appear on a child's birth certificate.

2006 The "Dyke March" and Trans Awareness is added at Toronto Pride.

2008 Egale completes country-wide safe schools survey of students in grades 8 - 12. Survey reveals that harassment of LGBT students is almost double that of heterosexual peers.

2008 A "trans stage" is added to Toronto Pride events and will be included annually.

2008 Sexual Reassignment Surgery is covered again by OHIP in Ontario.

2009 Obama administration endorses U.N. declaration calling for decriminalization of homosexuality.

2009 Canadian labour and human rights activists protest Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Bill.

2011 The 39th Synod of the Lutheran Church of Canada gives permission to its ministers to officiate at same-sex marriages.

2012 Government of Canada discusses how to make same-sex divorce legal for couples who have come to Canada to marry and have been married under 1 year.

2012 Advocacy groups and the NDP continue to fight for the inclusion and protection of gender identity and gender expression for trans and gender-variant identified.

2012 Toby's Act, a private member's bill to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code to include gender identity and gender expression was passed and is currently in senate.

2012 The Ontario Legislature passes "Bill 13" - a bill indicating that students are allowed to form Gay-Straight Alliances in public and Catholic schools.

A full version of LGBTQ history can be found on the Waterloo Region Rainbow Website at: www.yourwrrc.ca. For details of our local history, visit the Grandriver Rainbow Historical Project at: <http://www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/>. To learn more about the history of the flag, visit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow_flag Supported by the Region of Waterloo

Thanks to the following people who contributed to creating this timeline:
The Ontario Federation of Labour, Chris White, Dana Christensen, Judith Lodi, and Allisa Scott.

