

# THAT'S GAY!



**1965:** Everett Klippert acknowledges to police that he is gay. For doing so, he was sent to prison indefinitely as a "dangerous sex offender," a sentence which was backed up by the Supreme Court of Canada that same year.

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**1969:** Trudeau's amendments pass into the Criminal Code of Canada, decriminalizing homosexuality. **THAT'S GAY!**

**1991:** Delwin Vriend, a lab instructor at King's University College in Edmonton, Alberta, was fired from his job because he is gay. The Alberta Human Rights Commission did not investigate the case because the Alberta Individual Rights Protection Act does not cover discrimination based on sexual orientation. **THAT'S GAY!**

**1992:** The federal court lifted the country's ban on homosexuals in the military, which would allow gays and lesbians to serve in the armed forces. **THAT'S GAY!**

**1996:** The federal government passed Bill C-33, which added "sexual orientation" to the Canadian Human Rights Act. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2010:** Parallel to a controversial string of gay teen suicides in the United States, two lesbian teenagers were found dead in a forest near Orangeville, Ontario. **THAT'S GAY!**

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**2000:** The Attorney General of British Columbia, Andrew Petter, announced that he will approach the courts for guidance on whether or not Canada's ban on same-sex marriages is constitutional, making the province the first to do so. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2002:** Ontario Superior Court Justice, Robert McKinnon, rules that a gay student has the right to take his boyfriend to his school prom. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2003:** After extensive discussion and debate, the United Church of Canada votes overwhelmingly to endorse same-sex marriages. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2003:** A gay and lesbian group goes to trial against the federal government, in a political attempt to force Ottawa to extend survivor benefits to gays and lesbians who have been excluded. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2004:** The Quebec Court of Appeal rules that homosexuals have the right to marry, and that the traditional definition of what marriage is was discriminatory and unjustified. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2005:** Two men (a Canadian Forces sergeant and a warrant officer) are married in a chapel in Nova Scotia, in the military's first ever gay wedding. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2005:** Bill C-38, the law that gives same-sex couples the legal right to marry, received royal assent and became law. **THAT'S GAY!**

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**1964:** Canada sees its first gay-positive organization in history, ASK, and the first gay magazines: ASK Newsletter (in Vancouver), and Gay (by Gay Publishing Company of Toronto). Gay was the first to use the term 'Gay' in the title, and expanded quickly, distributing American publications under the name Gay International. **THAT'S GAY!**

**1965:** "Winter Kept Us Warm," a gay-themed film created independently by David Secter, became the first English Canadian film to be given a screening at the Cannes Film Festival in France. **THAT'S GAY!**

**1969:** Canada decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults when the passage of the Criminal Law Amendment Act was changed. **THAT'S GAY!**

**1988:** The Kids in the Hall, a comedy series with a cast, including the openly gay Scott Thompson, debuts on CBC Television. Thompson's character that he created, Buddy Cole and the follow-up sketch "The Steps," were the most visible representations of gay culture on Canadian television at that point in time. **THAT'S GAY!**

**1996:** The Toronto District School Board launched the Triangle Program, which was Canada's first alternative high school program for at-risk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered youth. **THAT'S GAY!**

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**1977:** Two gay businesses in Montreal, Mystique and Truxx, were raided. A protest organized the next day attracted over 2,000 participants. By December, the province of Quebec became the second dominion in the world, behind only Denmark, to pass law that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation. **THAT'S GAY!**

**1990:** Chris Lea won the leadership of the Green Party, becoming the first openly gay leader of a political party ever in the country of Canada. **THAT'S GAY!**

**1985:** Kenneth Zeller was murdered in Toronto's High Park. This was a hate crime which spurred the Toronto District School Board, Zeller's employer, to commence one of Canada's first programs to contest anti-gay discrimination and violence. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2010:** Shawn Woodward, who had physically assaulted Ritchie Dowrey in Vancouver's Fountainhead Pub, was sentenced to six years in jail for this outrageous crime. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2010:** The home of a gay couple in Little Pond, Prince Edward Island was firebombed. Both men had escaped the fire unharmed, but their home was consumed in the flames. In late October and November, a flood of rallies and fundraising concerts was held in Little Pond and Charlottetown to support the couple and to oppose homophobic violence. **THAT'S GAY!**

**2010:** On February 8, 2010, the Winter Olympics began in Vancouver and Whistler, British Columbia. The venue in Whistler included the Olympics first ever Pride House for LGBT athletes. **THAT'S GAY!**

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**1952:** The Immigration Act prohibited the entry of gays and lesbians into Canada, along with persons with disabilities; also excluded were Chinese, East Indian and black immigrants. These decisions were based on a system “Preferred Nationalities.”

**1967:** The Federal Government of Canada made changes to the criminal code to relax laws against homosexuality. Later that year, Federal Justice Minister, Pierre Trudeau, became famous for saying “there’s no place for the state in the bedrooms of the Nation!” **THAT’S GAY!**

**1979:** The Canadian Human Rights Commission recommends that “Sexual Orientation” be added to the Canadian Human Rights Act. This made it possible for many changes to occur. **THAT’S GAY!**

**1992:** The Ontario Court of Appeal finds that the failure to include sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act is discriminatory. **THAT’S GAY!**

**1995:** Ontario becomes the first province in Canada to make it legal for same-sex couples to adopt. **THAT’S GAY!**

**2006:** Montreal hosted the 2006 World “Outgames.” On July 29 of the same year, the Declaration of Montreal, an international statement of principle pertaining to the human rights of LGBT people around the world, was adopted at a conference held as part of the celebrations. **THAT’S GAY!**

**Now:** ARGRA (Alberta Gay Rodeo Association) was established in 1991 and the first endorsed Canadian Rockies International Rodeo was set in motion in the summer of 1994. After years of growth they now have a membership base of over 400. This makes this the largest gay rodeo association world-wide! **THAT’S GAY!**

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