

WHAT IS PRIDE?



Pride is the promotion of the self-affirmation, dignity, equality, and increased visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and other gender and sexual minority folks. Pride events are typically held during LGBTQ Pride Month or some other period that commemorates a turning point in a country's LGBTQ history. Pride events include parades, marches, rallies, parties, festivals and more.

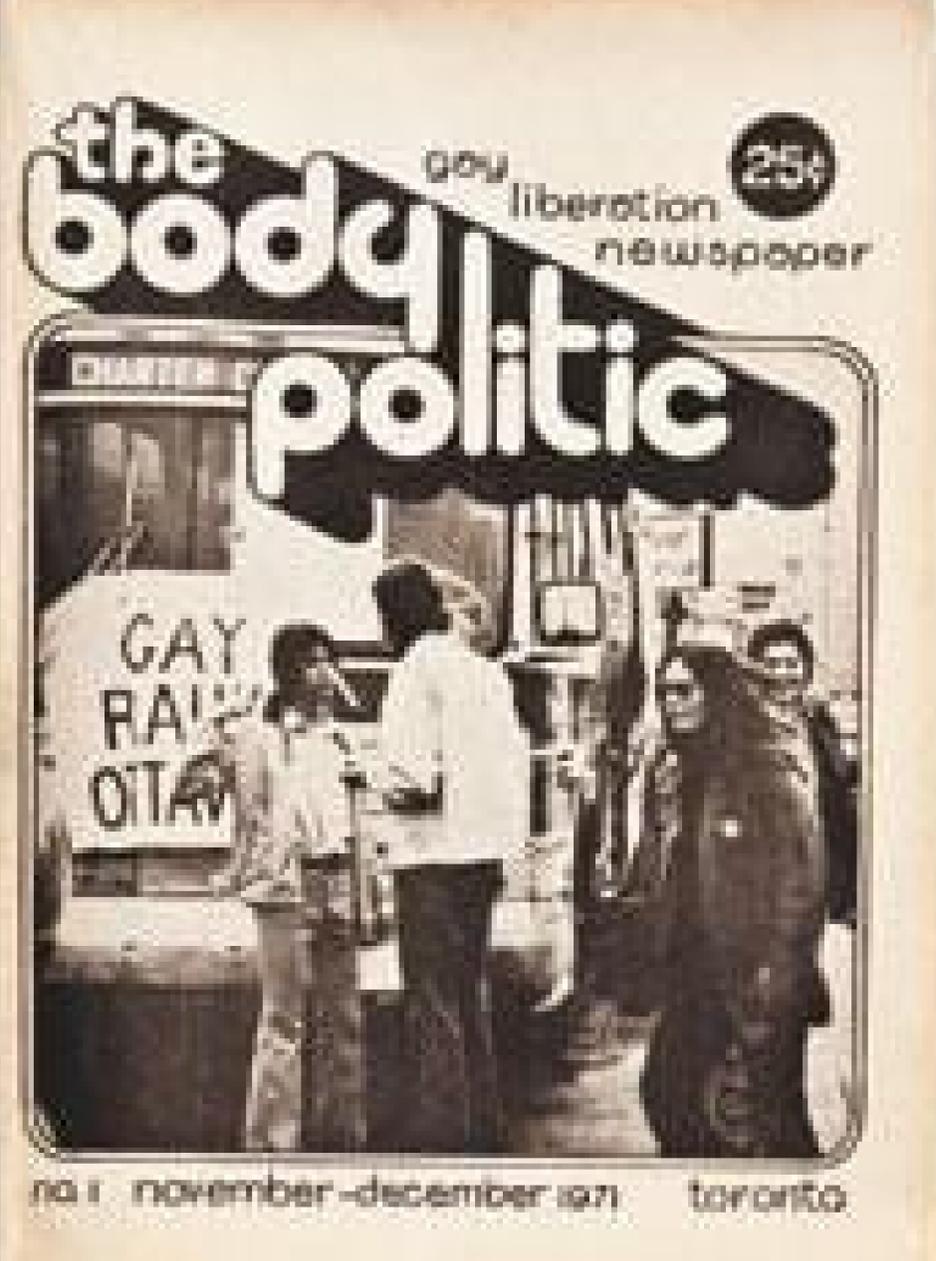


PRIDE SUNDAY



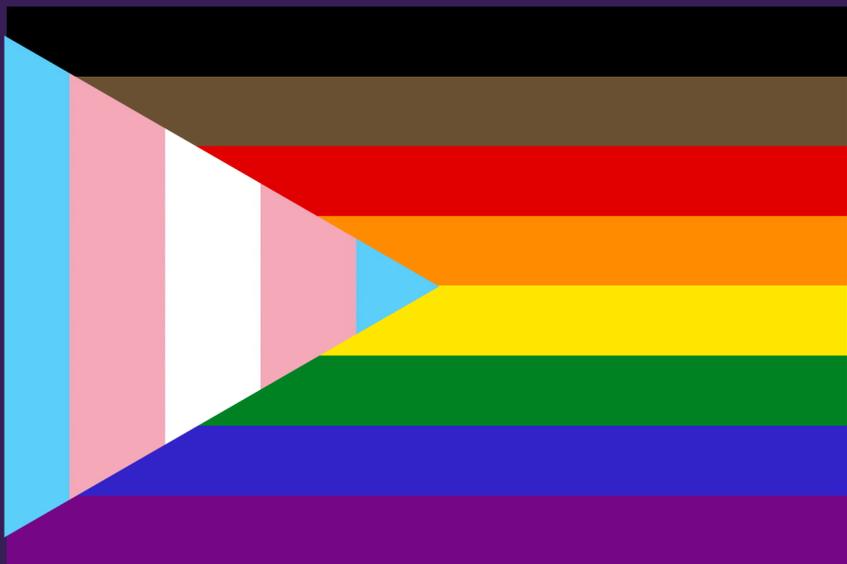
The United Church affirms that gender and sexuality are gifts of God, and that all persons are made in the image of God. We welcome into full membership and ministry people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The United Church celebrates its official Pride Sunday on the first Sunday in June. It is the day to publicly celebrate the rainbow people of God, intentionally affirm people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and make explicit our acceptance and kindness for all.

During this time of restricted public gatherings and the renewed calls for racial justice and decolonization, it's all the more crucial for people of faith to publicly celebrate people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in all their diversity—age, race, ability, socioeconomic status, marital status, ethnic origin, language, and any other way in which they identify. In this way, we show all LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people that they are loved and affirmed as children of God.



FIRST GAY MARCH

On Aug 28, 1971 in Ottawa, a rally was organized by the gay rights activist groups Toronto Gay Action and Community Homophile Association of Toronto. A group of about 100 men & women gathered in support of a 13-page document called "We Demand," which was submitted to the federal government. It contained ten points calling for changes to the law and public policy regarding gays & lesbians. After the march, participants listened to speakers from gay organizations in Toronto, Montreal and United States. The rally played an important part in the history of queer rights in Canada as the first large-scale public protest for gay rights in Canada.



FIRST PRIDE

Pride Week 1973 was a national LGBT rights event held in August 1973 in several Canadian cities, including Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Saskatoon and Winnipeg. Programming included an art festival, a dance, picnic, a screening of a documentary and a rally for gay rights that occurred in all the participating cities.

