



CATALYST (NOUN): A PERSON, EVENT OR THING THAT SPARKS A GREATER MOVEMENT

A long history of 2SLGBTQIA+ Rights: For hundreds of years, 2SLGBTQIA+ folks have had to fight for their rights, for freedom, and for love. It wasn't until 2003 in the United States that same-sex relationships were decriminalized. While there has been huge progress, we know that the fight still continues today.

## STONEWALL RIOTS BACKGROUNDER:

The Stonewall Riots (or Stonewall Uprising) began on June 28, 1969 when New York City police raided a gay club called the Stonewall Inn.

The Stonewall Inn welcomed members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, including drag queens and runaway or homeless queer youth.

The raid sparked a riot between the patrons and neighbourhood residents, as police hauled employees and patrons out of the bar.

What started as a few hundred people protesting became thousands of people, ultimately leading to 6 days of protests.

The Stonewall Riots served as a catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States and around the world.

## THE FIRST PRIDE PARADES:

In 1970, one year after the Stonewall Riots, thousands of people marched in the streets of Manhattan from Stonewall Inn to Central Park in what was then called "Christopher Street Liberation Day"



Photo Credit: [NBC News](#)



Photo Credit: [TVO](#)

In 1971, two years after the passing of the *Canadian Law Amendment Act*, a rally took place in Ottawa, Ontario. Hundreds of people gathered to bring awareness to the "We Demand" Brief: a document created by twelve LGBTQ+ groups from around the country calling for further change.



**SYLVIA RIVERA: PUSHING BOUNDARIES: VIDEO**  
**SYLVIA RIVERA**

Photo Credit: *The Guardian*

**MARTIN BOYCE**

Martin was born in New York, NY. As a teenager in the 1960s, he came out and found his way to Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. He was involved in the post Mattachine Society gay rights movements that sought to push gay activism beyond its traditional approach and embrace the diversity in our community by challenging racism, sexism and transphobia in the community. Following the Uprising, Martin continued to participate in activism, completed a degree at Hunter College and opened a restaurant in The East Village. He continues to share his stories and keep queer and trans history alive. In 2016, Barack Obama designated the Stonewall Inn and surrounding area a national monument in recognition of the area's contribution to queer rights.

Photo Credit: *Martin - Day of Pink*



**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK SPECIALGUEST SPEAKER**

**IMPORTANT DATES IN CANADA:**

- 1969:** Canadian government passes the *Criminal Law Amendment Act* decriminalizing same-sex sexual acts
- 1995:** sexual orientation is added to *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
- 2005:** the right to same-sex marriage is legalized federally
- 2017:** the *Canadian Human Rights Act* is updated to include gender identity and expression

**VIDEO RESOURCES:**

- [How the Stonewall Riots Sparked a Movement](#)
- [Global News: the Stonewall Riots](#)

**OTHER RESOURCES:**

- [History of Gay Rights](#)
- [The Stonewall Riots: Origins](#)
- [Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution](#)

**CANADIAN CONNECTIONS:**

- [History of Toronto Pride](#)
- [Canadian Encyclopedia: LGBT Rights](#)
- [Canadian Museum of History: LGBTQ](#)
- [CBC Interactive Timeline](#)



**MARSHA P. JOHNSON**

**MARSHA P. JOHNSON AND THE STONEWALL REBELLION: VIDEO**

Photo Credit: *ANSDEVIL*