

# 2009 FIRST TRANSGENDER MARCH IN CANADA

Grade: 5 to 8

(20-30 minute session)

## Learning Outcomes & Lesson Focus

### Students will:

- Identify the origins of the Transgender March and how it has changed over the years
- Identify what the catalysts were for creating a Transgender March

### Lesson Focus

- As a result of the learning activities within this lesson, students will be able to:
- Identify what the Transgender March is and when it first occurred in Canada
- Identify the catalysts for its implementation as well as how it has changed over the years



## Resources

### Lesson Materials/Supplies

- Internet access for students to research history and events

### Audiovisual

- World's Biggest Trans March - Pride 2018 (YouTube) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63gvjUDczEc>

### Print/Publications

- How Toronto's Trans March Has Evolved - <https://torontoist.com/2016/06/how-torontos-trans-march-has-evolved/>
- Canadian Queer History: Marches and Festivals - <https://www.queerevents.ca/queer-history/marches-festivals>
- Links to Manitoba Curriculum - Kindergarten to Grade 8 - Physical Education/Health Education - Human Sexuality

[https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/physhlth/hs\\_k-8/](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/physhlth/hs_k-8/)

- Manitoba Teachers' Society: @2LGBTQIA Lesson Plans - <https://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2018/04/17/lgbtq-lesson-plans/>
- \*\*\* CPHS Pride organization resources, if available, can be the primary resource for any research being completed by the students



# 2009 FIRST TRANSGENDER MARCH IN CANADA

Grade: 5 to 8

(20-30 minute session)

## Notes to Teacher

The use of the term Pride, even outside the context of Gay Pride or the LGBTQ2+ (GSRD) communities, is sensitive due to its connection with religious or other beliefs. It will likely be necessary to acknowledge that there are both positive and negative connotations to the term pride. It might be necessary to provide lead-in knowledge to the students which introduces that discrimination and harm has taken place based on who people “love” or “are attracted to”.

### Acronyms

- LGBTQ2+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, 2-Spirit
- GSRD: Gender, Sexual, and Relationship Diversity
  - There are many versions of acronyms for this community with letters being added, removed, or reordered based on who is being represented and how. There is no perfect or authorized version for use in education, rather, being aware of any local cultural sensitivities can assist in utilizing culturally competent language.

There is an expectation that questions might arise on the existence of transgender marches and events separate from the more common or broader Pride activities. It might be necessary to discuss that while the LGBTQ2+ (GSRD) communities have similarities which bring them together towards many common goals and addressing specific needs, many of the communities such as those who are transgender wish to honour their own community by highlighting their achievements as well as their struggles.



## Suggestions for Instruction

- Begin with a discussion around what distinguishes the transgender community from the LGBTQ2+ (GSRD) community
- Explain to students that the first Transgender March in Canada occurred on June 26th, 2009 in Toronto by transgender community members who felt that the greater Pride organizations did not program transgender activities, that the existing marches did not focus on their experiences as transgender people and did not make it clear that those visibly taking up space in the streets were transgender. This march was attended by 60 to 100 people.
- Due to the number of transgender people in Toronto, many Transgender Marches have occurred in that city since 2009 with them having taken place in some form every year. However, these events have not been without issues derived from governmental legitimization and oversight imposed by the greater Pride organizations. While these marches had their origins in lack of visibility and consultation, municipal and Pride support meant that the transgender community was losing control over its own marches. Transgender marches between 2011 to 2015 were very much ‘protest’ focused highlighting the community being made invisible by not being considered or consulted during event planning.
- Other significant first Transgender Marches across Canada:
  - Quebec City: 2010
  - St. Johns: 2015
- Since Canada’s federal government passed Bill C-16 in 2017, protecting persons based on gender identity and expression, there has been greater understanding and consultation with the transgender community resulting in improved visibility and inclusion.



# 2009 FIRST TRANSGENDER MARCH IN CANADA

Grade: 5 to 8

(20-30 minute session)

## Suggestions for Assessment

### Observation

Teacher Assessment: Checklist

Observe whether the student can identify when and where the first Transgender March in Canada occurred, as well as the reasons for its inception.

- Yes
- No

