

DID YOU KNOW?

More than one in ten individuals identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. 1.8% identify as transgendered or transsexual.

Toronto is home to one of the largest LGBT communities in North America. A good central point to start is Church Street, between Bloor and Dundas. Check out the 519 Community Centre at 519 Church Street where a variety of programs and services are offered to LGBT youth and adults.

Any criminal act committed against people or property that is motivated by hate or bias because of their sexual orientation is considered a hate crime. If a crime is proven to be caused by hate, the judges can give a harsher sentence. Other categories of hate crimes include race, religion, ethnicity, sex and ability/disability

The American Psychological Association removed homosexuality from the list of psychological disorders in 1973.

There are many LGBT-focused publications such as Xtra, Fab, Out, Curve, The Advocate. Some, like Xtra, are free. You can find Xtra in Xtra newspaper boxes at many subway stops.

Every last weekend in June, Toronto holds a celebration known as Pride. Over one million people from all over the world and from all sexual orientations attend Pride each year. On Saturday, Pride includes a Dyke March for lesbians and features Froot Loopz, a stage for youth talent only. Sunday is the Pride Parade as well as many stages where famous and not so famous groups show their talent. All of the entertainment is free. Numerous organizations and services have information booths.