



LGBTQ ROLE MODELS & SYMBOLS



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LGBTQ ROLE MODELS



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This section includes profiles of a number of people who are active locally and nationally, or who have made contributions to history, or who are well-known personalities. Many have links to Newfoundland and Labrador. Public figures who are open about being members of the LGBTQ communities help to raise awareness of LGBTQ issues and foster acceptance in the general population.



ADVOCACY



Stella Christie-Cooke ✨

b. April 23, 1984

Stella Christie-Cooke was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her family moved several times, until the age of 14, when they relocated to Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador, her father's hometown. It was here, during her final year at Goose High School that she "came out of the closet". Stella went through an initial adjustment period but with support from those around her she soon began to accept and embrace her sexual orientation. Stella was involved with several queer focused groups while completing her Bachelor of Social Work at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB.

Stella returned to Happy Valley-Goose Bay at the beginning of her career as a social worker in 2007. It soon became very clear to her that, despite Canada's progress in legally recognizing the rights of queer individuals, there continued to be many gaps in the system and many individuals continued to struggle with a sense of isolation. Identifying as a queer person of Aboriginal ancestry, Stella continued to experience this first hand. Witnessing the impact this was having on her community, she became very motivated to bring others together to help address these gaps and create a sense of unity throughout Labrador. In 2009, Stella co-founded Labrador's Safe Alliance, a group focused on providing support and resources to the LGBTQ community. Stella was also instrumental in coordinating Labrador's first Pride celebration in 2010.

In 2007, Stella and her partner, Theresa, got married and Theresa became pregnant with their first child, River. During Theresa's pregnancy, Stella learned that the Vital

Statistics Act of Newfoundland and Labrador was written in such a way that she would not be legally recognized as her child's parent unless she went through an adoption process. After closer examination Stella realized that this was only an issue because she was a female; if she was a male her partner would be able to list her as the second legal parent with no questions asked. She filed a Human Rights Complaint and was successful in changing the Vital Statistics Act. In December, 2007, River was the first baby born in Newfoundland and Labrador to have two mothers listed on her birth certificate without having gone through an adoption process.



In September 2010, Stella gave birth to her family's second child, Rowan. Stella continues to be involved in the queer community on a personal and professional level.

Bio provided by Stella Christie-Cooke.



Denise Cole ✨
b. May 21, 1975

Denise Cole is a proud Inuit-Metis Labrador woman. She was born in Manitoba and moved to Charlottetown in southern Labrador as a child, and then finished high school in Victoria, NL at Persalvic High School. Denise went on to college completing Electronics, Commercial/Advanced Commercial Cooking, and Community Studies. After travelling around Atlantic Canada as a young adult, she eventually settled down in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in 2009.

Denise once believed that she would accomplish nothing; that the despair of being different, of being “the tomboy”, would kill her. She remembers “coming out” and the mixed emotions and the crazy situations she found

herself in. She found safety in close friends and family who accepted her regardless of her sexual orientation. Belief in her Ancestors, and the teachings of her culture have helped Denise to see her own beauty.

In her career, Denise has worked as a youth worker, community facilitator, career counsellor, mentor, and development coordinator. Currently she works with the Labrador Friendship Centre where she oversees the Housing Department.

Denise is an advocate for Two-Spirited and LGBTQ individuals in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area. She is the Co-chair of the Safe Alliance, a Labrador based LGBTQ support/awareness group. Denise also sits as Co-chair of Violence Prevention Labrador where she ensures the LGBTQ voice is heard and activities are inclusive. She speaks regularly about LGBTQ issues, resources, and opportunities. She makes herself available to youth and supportive agencies for discussions, counselling support, and keynote speeches.

Denise has embraced her “Two-Spiritedness”, realizing the teachings have respected LGBTQ Aboriginals hundreds of years ago as the teachers of all children, taught and revered by the medicine people, and exalted for their many skills/artistic talents. She is a student and a teacher of cultural (First Nations/Inuit) lessons and is a community facilitator for various workshops and events. She uses First Nations/Inuit philosophies to guide her life. Denise has been given healing tools from these elders and is a student of healing medicines, sweat lodges, hand drum, and sacred fire ceremonies. She is proud of the role given to her, and walks the path with integrity and humility.



Bio provided by Denise Cole.



Nancy Ruth 
b. January 6, 1942

Since her twenties, Nancy Ruth has been a feminist “truth teller” and social activist. She has been instrumental in co-founding organizations that work for women’s social change in Canada, such as the Charter of Rights Coalition, the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), and the Canadian Women’s Foundation—a foundation specifically directed to supporting women and girls in micro-enterprise and violence prevention. She was a visionary in the founding and development of the Women’s Future Fund, a national fundraising effort to replace government funding for women’s groups, and the Linden



School, Toronto’s (and perhaps Canada’s) first girls’ school based on feminist pedagogy. She also co-created section15.ca (formerly coolwomen.ca), Canada’s largest website for young women on the history and contribution of women to Canada. In 1994, in recognition of her outstanding work and contribution to her country, Nancy Ruth was named a Member of the Order of Canada.

She has sat on the Board of Directors of the following organizations, among others: the Economic Council of Canada, the Canadian Centre for Arms Control, the Canada-USA Fulbright Foundation, the Doctor’s Hospital Foundation, Mount Saint Vincent University, the LEAF Foundation, and the International Institute of Concern for Public Health.

Nancy Ruth has given a powerful and eloquent voice to women in Ontario and Canada. She has spoken extensively on the Charter, the three-year moratorium on equality rights in the law, the inequities of

both the Meech Lake and the Charlottetown Accords, and a myriad of other issues concerning women, poverty, politics, and economics. She has a keen interest in feminist art and culture, music, education, and spiritual expression.

Nancy Ruth is an Honorary Advisory Board Member of the Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, supporting Egale's work in helping to make Canadian schools safer and more inclusive, respectful, and welcoming learning and working environments for all members of school communities.

www.MyGSA.ca



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Trey Anthony
b. 1974

Trey Anthony is the award-winning playwright of *da Kink in my Hair*. Critics have referred to Anthony as “The Oprah of the Canadian theatre scene”! Anthony is also the Executive Producer, co-creator, and writer of Global Television’s hit television show “*da Kink in my Hair*,” which includes the first black lesbian kiss (Episode 108) ever to be broadcast on primetime television.

The theatrical version was nominated for a Dora award in 2004, has received critical acclaim, and has broken box office records wherever it has played. The play is also the recipient of four NAACP theatre awards and was the first Canadian play to be produced at

the Princess of Wales Theatre, Canada’s largest commercial theatre.

Anthony is a former television producer for The Women’s Television Network and a writer for the Comedy Network and CTV. She is also the producer of Canada’s first Urban Womyn’s Comedy Festival—‘dat girl sho is funny!

Anthony is also the co-writer of the hit *I Am Not a Dinner Mint*, *The Crap Women Swallow to Stay in a Relationship*, which debuted to packed houses and critical acclaim in the summer of 2006. She has also been a playwright in residence at the prestigious Canstage theatre and is the president of the *Trey Anthony @ One Centre*, a creative wellness centre for women dedicated to nurturing “the whole woman.” Anthony hopes that this centre will be a catalyst for change in the way that Canadian women view themselves.

In 2009, Anthony was honoured in Egale’s Queering Black History Campaign.

www.egale.ca/QueeringBlackHistory2009



Jacinda Beals

b. February 15, 1974

Jacinda Beals is a well-known singer/songwriter from The Big Land (Labrador). Jacinda's family is from the small community on the south coast of Labrador called Pinware, but she was born and raised in Labrador City. Jacinda attended Notre Dame Academy, and graduated from Grade 12 at Labrador City Collegiate in 1992. Jacinda went on to study Journalism for two years in Stephenville at Westviking College.

Since 1997, Jacinda has been working professionally as a musician. Her first two albums, *Slip into My Skin* (2002) and *Love, Cin* (2005) demonstrate her unique talent and have done well commercially. Her music has been described as "funky folk with rock and roll attitude." Her shows have received

great reviews. She has been nominated for three Music NL Awards including Female Artist of the Year. Jacinda lives in beautiful Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador with her two dogs, and performs with her band, JBB.

Jacinda's song *Everything is Ok* from her first album *Slip into My Skin* talks about the love that one girl has for another and the struggle to convince everyone that it is okay.

As an "out" lesbian in Labrador, Jacinda was receiving calls at the Women's Centre from local people looking to her for support. In 2000 Jacinda founded the Labrador Lesbian and Gay Society (LLAGS). It was the first LGBTQ support group in Labrador.

Jacinda has performed at Goose Bay's *Pride in the Park* Celebrations since it started in 2010. She has also travelled to Labrador West to march and perform for the first ever Labrador Gay Pride March in Wabush in 2011. Jacinda works at Libra House, a women's shelter in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Bio provided by Jacinda Beals.



Georgina Beyer
b. November 1957

As an elected Member of Parliament in New Zealand, Georgina Beyer was the first openly trans person in the world to hold a national office. Beyer's transformation from stripper and sex worker to politician is a testament to her remarkable fortitude.

Beyer, born biologically male, spent her early childhood on her grandparents' farm in rural New Zealand before moving to Wellington with her mother and stepfather. From an early age, Beyer recalls feeling like a girl trapped in a boy's body.

In her twenties, Beyer began working in the Wellington gay nightclub scene as a singer and drag queen performer and then as a sex worker. During a trip to Australia, she was attacked and raped by four men. Beyer refers to this experience as her defining moment.

In 1984, she had sexual reassignment surgery and forged a successful career as a film and television actor in Auckland. She was often typecast as a drag queen or streetwalker. From Auckland, Beyer moved to the small conservative town of Carterton, where she took a job as a youth social worker.

In 1993, Beyer was elected to the Carterton District Council. Two years later, she was elected Mayor of Carterton, where she served for five years. In 1999, she won a seat in the New Zealand Parliament. While in Parliament, Beyer helped pass the Prostitution Reform Act, which decriminalized prostitution and protects sex workers and their clients. She was instrumental in securing same-sex civil union benefits for New Zealanders.

Beyer chronicled her life in *Change for the Better: The Story of Georgina Beyer* (1999). A documentary film about her, *Georgie Girl* (2002), won international awards.



Beyer was a keynote speaker at the International Conference on LGBT Human Rights in Montreal in 2006. She retired from Parliament in 2007, saying, "I can now look for fresh challenges."

In the fall of 2010, Beyer did a cross-Canada tour sponsored by Egale Canada. As part of this tour, Egale invited her to speak as the Guest of Honour at their Annual Gala and Awards Ceremony held in Toronto, Ontario. She also travelled to Lethbridge, Alberta and Vancouver, British Columbia for screenings of *Georgie Girl* with accompanying panel discussions on trans topics.

Adapted from www.glbthistorymonth.com



Leon Chisholm
b. March 25, 1981

Leon Chisholm is a musician and musicologist who was born in St. John's. He began playing the organ as a student at Holy Heart of Mary Regional High School, when he spent most evenings honing his craft on the Casavant organ at St. Pius X Church. He continued his musical studies at the School of Music, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador (MUN), and Arizona State University. As an organist, he has held posts at institutions in England and the United States. At the time of publication of this document, Leon was the organist at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley, California.

A dynamic soloist, Leon was praised in the Bay Area Reporter for having “effortlessly seduced his audience” in a performance of Handel’s Concerto for Organ, Op. 4, No. 4. He is equally engaging as a chamber musician. His continuo playing in one concert was described as “eminently supportive and even imaginative” in the San Francisco Classical Voice. In 2007, he was featured in a program of organ concertos by Handel and Poulenc with the Sinfonia of the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra. Leon’s interest in early music has led him to study significant historical organs in Mexico and Italy. Recently, he has taken up the cembalo cromatico (a microtonal harpsichord popular in the 17th century) and has performed a recital of music for cembalo cromatico in Vicenza, Italy, in celebration of the 500th anniversary of music theorist Nicola Vicentino.

As a musicologist, Leon specializes in music-making in early modern Europe. His research interests range

from music theory in 16th-century Italy to fiddle playing in 18th-century Scotland. He has delivered papers on his research for the American Musicological Society, the International Council for Traditional Music, and the International Conference on Baroque Music. Leon is a Ph.D.



Candidate in music history at the University of California, Berkeley, where his research has been supported by fellowships from the Graduate Division and the Townsend Center for the Humanities. In 2011-12, he continued his dissertation research in Venice, Italy, with a borsa di studio from Fondazione Giorgio Cini. At UC Berkeley, Leon has taught undergraduate courses in music history and musicianship. He has also served as the assistant director of the UC Berkeley Chorus.

A transgender man, Leon was born and raised a girl. He underwent the transition from female to male while a student of MUN. He feels privileged to have been both a Girl Guide and a best man.

Bio provided by Leon Chisholm.



Portia DeGeneres
b. January 31, 1973



Portia DeGeneres is an Australian actress, best known for her roles as Nelle Porter on the television series *Ally McBeal*, Lindsay Bluth Fünke on the sitcom *Arrested Development*, and Veronica Palmer on the ABC sitcom *Better off Ted*.

Born Amanda Lee Rogers in Horsham, Victoria, Australia, the daughter of Margaret and Barry Rogers, DeGeneres was raised in Grovedale. As a child, she modeled for print and TV commercials. She adopted the name Portia de Rossi at a young age: "When I was 15, I changed my name legally. In retrospect,

I think it was largely due to my struggle about being gay. Everything just didn't fit, and I was trying to find things I could identify myself with, and it started with my name. I picked Portia because I was a Shakespeare fan (Portia is the character in *The Merchant of Venice* who comes to the rescue of Antonio and Bassanio in their time of need); De Rossi because I was Australian and I thought that an exotic Italian name would somehow suit me more than Amanda Rogers. When you live in Australia, Europe is so far away and so fascinating, so stylish and cultured and sophisticated."

She studied at Geelong Grammar School and Melbourne Girls Grammar School, then the University of Melbourne Law School, but left before finishing the course to pursue an acting career.

Her first significant role was in the 1994 Australian film *Sirens*. Soon afterwards she moved to Los Angeles and had guest roles on several TV shows, and a permanent role in *Nick Freno: Licensed Teacher*, before landing a role in the film *Scream 2*.

She attracted international attention when she joined the main cast of the *Ally McBeal* TV series in 1998 playing lawyer Nelle Porter. She remained with the show until its end in 2002. In 2001, she starred in *Who is Clelio Tout?* with Christian Slater. From 2003-2006, DeGeneres starred as Lindsay Bluth Fünke on Fox Television's critically acclaimed, Emmy-winning series *Arrested Development*. She has had a number of other roles, including her appearances in the fifth season of *Nip Tuck* and her role in *Stigmata*.

DeGeneres is openly lesbian. In 2005, DeGeneres came out publicly about her sexual orientation in interviews with *Details* and *The Advocate*. She became engaged to Ellen DeGeneres and they were married on August 16, 2008 at their home. On August 6, 2010, she officially filed a petition with the LA County Superior Court to change her name legally to Portia Lee James DeGeneres.

Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portia_de_Rossi



Christopher House
b. May 30, 1955

Christopher House is one of Canada's most respected dance artists. He was born and raised in St. John's, Newfoundland and graduated from Prince of Wales Collegiate in 1972. He joined Toronto Dance Theatre (TDT) as a dancer in 1979, where he was named Resident Choreographer in 1981, and became Artistic Director in 1994.

Christopher has contributed over sixty works to the TDT repertoire. He has also created works for Lisbon's Ballet Gulbenkian, the National Ballet of Canada, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens and Ballet British Columbia, among others, and directed two collaborations with Joel Gibb and The Hidden Cameras.

Christopher has participated three times as a dancer in the Solo Performance Commissioning Project with Deborah Hay

in Findhorn, Scotland. He premiered his adaptation of *News* by Deborah Hay in December 2006, and presented five performances of this solo at the Canada Dance Festival in June 2008. He performed his adaptation of *Hay's At Once* in London and Brighton, UK, in December, 2011.

Artistic Advisor of the Professional Training Program of The School of TDT, House has taught technique, improvisation, repertoire and creative process at The School of TDT and at such institutions as the Juilliard School, Rotterdam Dansacademie, Jacob's Pillow, and at Ryerson, Simon Fraser and York Universities.

Christopher has received many awards for his work, including three Dora Mavor Moore Awards for Outstanding New Choreography. He received the Muriel Sherrin Award for International Achievement in Dance in October 2009, and was made an honorary doctor of letters by Memorial University in 2010.

Christopher House is an Associate Dance Artist of Canada's National Arts Centre.

http://www.tdt.org/about_chouse.html



Robert Jay
b. August 17, 1951

Robert grew up in St. John's, Newfoundland, attending St. Bon's Elementary, Brother Rice High School and Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. His first professional acting job was with The Newfoundland Travelling Theatre Company, playing British farce in the evenings and *The Wizard of Oz* in the afternoons. He was the Cowardly Lion.

A few months later he won the Rhodes Scholarship, and spent part of 1973 and 1974 at Oxford University.

During the spring of 1974, Robert had the opportunity join CODCO, a Newfoundland comedy group, for a tour of its first show *Cod on a Stick*. Robert spent four years with CODCO, as writer/actor/composer/musician. With CODCO colleagues and others, he worked on the Newfoundland film *The Adventures of Faustus Bidgood*.

In 1978, Robert landed the role of Peter in a Toronto production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. He earned enthusiastic reviews. Nine months later, when the production was remounted in New York, he was named one of the New Faces of the Theater Season by the New York Times, and his New York career was off and running.

Film roles followed. His first three were in *Atlantic City*, *Ragtime* and *Ticket to Heaven*. Since then Robert has continued to play a wide variety of roles on stage, screen, and television.



On stage, Robert won a Drama Logue award for his Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* at the La Jolla Playhouse. He

played Huck Finn in the world premiere of the musical *Big River*, and the title role in the Broadway comedy *The Nerd*.

Film roles include Madonna's boyfriend in *Desperately Seeking Susan*; Harriet's dad in *Harriet the Spy*, and Denzel Washington's antagonist in *Fallen*. He has also appeared in: *Resurrection*, *Land of the Dead* and *The Hills Have Eyes*. He was one of the leads in the HBO comedy series *The High Life*, and in the ABC series *MD's*; and he has guest-starred on many television shows, including *Commander In Chief*, *Medium*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Boston Legal*, *Two Guys and a Girl*, *Without a Trace*, *The Agency*, *Wings*, *Gideon's Crossing*, *Star Trek: Voyager* and *Law and Order*. For the past seven seasons, he has played Sid Hammerback, the medical examiner on *CSI:NY*.

Bio provided by Robert Joy.



Jane Lynch
b. July 14, 1960


Jane Lynch is an American writer, actor, comedian, and singer best known for her roles in *Glee*, Christopher Guest comedies such as *Best in Show*, Judd Apatow comedies like *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, and *Two and a Half Men* as Charlie and Alan Harper's sarcastic psychologist. She has also appeared in the crime drama *Criminal Minds* as Spencer Reid's schizophrenic mother.

Lynch, from Dolton, Illinois, was raised in an Irish Catholic family and attended Thornridge High School. She received her Bachelor's degree in theatre from Illinois State University and her MFA from Cornell University, also in theatre. Lynch is openly gay and married her partner Dr. Lara Embry on May 31, 2010.

Lynch's extensive theater background involved touring with *The Second City* comedy troupe and playing Carol Brady in *The Real Live Brady Bunch*. She also wrote and starred in the award-winning play *Oh Sister, My Sister*. Originally produced in 1998, the play kicked off the Lesbians in Theater program at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center in 2004.

Her breakthrough film role was as Christy Cummings, the butch lesbian personal dog handler to trophy wife Sheri Ann Cabot (Jennifer Coolidge) in director Christopher Guest's mockumentary *Best in Show* (2000). She also appeared in Guest's *A Mighty Wind* (2003) as Laurie Bohner and in *For Your Consideration* (2006).

Lynch is also a television performer. She starred with John Hannah and William Fichtner in 2002's *MDs*, and has made guest appearances in numerous television series, including *The L Word*, *Judging Amy*, *The West Wing*, *7th Heaven*, *Felicity*, *Arrested Development*, *Two and a Half Men*, *Weeds*, *Boston Legal*, *Criminal Minds*, *Help Me Help*

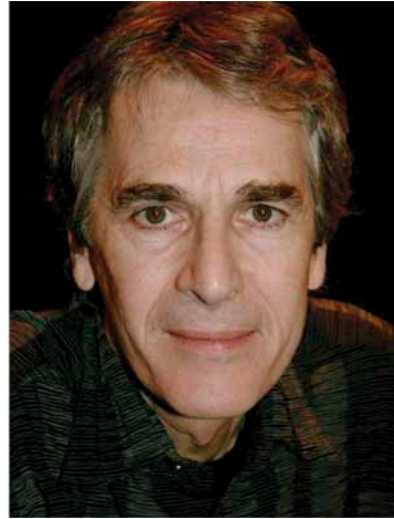


You, Gilmore Girls, The New Adventures of Old Christine, Psych, and Monk as well as others.

In 2005, Lynch was named as one of POWER UP's "10 Amazing Gay Women in Showbiz." She starred in *Julie and Julia*, playing the role of Dorothy McWilliams, Julia Child's sister. *Entertainment Weekly* dedicated an article on its website to the possibility of her performance receiving an Academy Award nomination.

On December 15, 2009, Lynch received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Supporting Actress in a Series, Miniseries, or Television Film for her role on *Glee*.

Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Lynch



Greg Malone ★
b. October 19, 1948

Greg Malone is one of the original founders of CODCO Theatre Company. He is perhaps best known for the *CODCO TV* series and his wicked impersonations of political icons like George Bush, the Queen, and of course, Barbara Frum. He has received many awards for writing, performing and directing, including a dozen Gemini Awards.

Besides the sixty-three, award winning *CODCO TV* shows, Greg wrote and performed in the wildly popular *WGB (Wonderful Grand Band)* series for CBC television. He is recognized across Canada for his part in the campaign that successfully stopped the privatization of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, and

his consistent efforts to protect the environment. In recent years he has been a motivational speaker to many groups across Canada on topics such as globalization, privatization, AIDS, sex, spirituality and the environment. His presentations are inspired and hilarious, peppered with impersonations of famous characters.

Greg's first book, *You Better Watch Out*, was published in February 2009. *You Better Watch Out* is a very touching and funny memoir of growing up in St John's in the 1950s and the difficulties of coming to terms with his sexuality before the term "gay" was coined. It has received wonderful reviews across the country. Greg's second book, *Don't Tell the Newfoundlanders*, is about the deal that brought Newfoundland into the Canadian Confederation.

In 2011 Greg had two major stage hits – Shylock in the *Merchant of Venice*, and Miss Hannigan in *Annie*. He currently plays the role of Finn, the snitch in the *Republic of Doyle* TV series

on CBC TV. In November 2011 Greg headlined a sold-out tour with the Wonderful Grand Band to publicize the release of the last two volumes of *The Best of the WGB*.

Greg is a dedicated amateur theologian, spending endless hours trying to reconcile the new cosmology with a medieval Catholic education.

Bio provided by Greg Malone.



Rick Mercer 
b. October 17, 1969

Richard (Rick) Vincent Mercer was born in St. John's, Newfoundland. He is a Canadian comedian, television personality, political satirist, and blogger.

Mercer first came to national attention in 1990, when he premiered his one-man show *Show Me the Button, I'll Push It*, or *Charles Lynch Must Die* at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, Ontario. A pointed, satirical, political commentary on Canadian life after the Meech Lake Accord, *Show Me the Button* made Mercer a national star.

In 1992, he created and performed his second show, *I've Killed Before, I'll Kill Again*, which he took on tour across Canada. In that same year, he also began to work with former CODCO members Cathy Jones, Mary Walsh, and Greg Thomey, to create a new television series for CBC *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*. Mercer's one-minute "rants", in which he would speak directly to the camera about a current political issue, quickly became the show's signature segment. In 1998, he published a book, *Streeters*, which compiled many of his most famous rants from 22 Minutes. It quickly became a national bestseller.

In 1998, Mercer created, performed and produced the sitcom, *Made In Canada*, which ended its run in 2003. A satire of the Canadian film and television industry, the show aired outside of Canada as *The Industry*. Mercer won a Gemini Award for the last episode, entitled "The Last Show."

In 2001, Mercer co-produced a CBC special "*Talking to Americans*", which attracted 2.7 million Canadian viewers - the highest-rated

comedy special in the history of the CBC. In 2003, Mercer began to work on a new CBC series, *Rick Mercer Report*, which debuted in January, 2004. At the end of its second season, *Rick Mercer Report* was the highest rated arts and entertainment show on the CBC. Mercer has received more than 20 Gemini Awards for his television work. He has also been a winner of the prestigious Sir Peter Ustinov Award, presented to him at the 2003 Banff Television Festival. In 1993, Newfoundland premier Clyde Wells honoured Mercer with the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council's Artist of the Year award. In 2004, Mercer was presented with the Governor General's Performing Arts Award. Mercer donated his \$15,000 cash prize to the LSPU hall, the theatre in Newfoundland where Mercer performed his early work.

Mercer holds honorary degrees from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario and Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador.

<http://www.short-biographies.com/biographies/RickMercer.html>



Seamus O'Regan
b. January 18, 1971

A familiar face in homes across the country—Seamus O'Regan is no stranger to reporting stories. The co-host of CTV's national morning show, *Canada AM*, for nine years, O'Regan interviewed prominent newsmakers and celebrities delivering Canadians the significant stories of the day.

In his new post as a Correspondent at CTV *National News With Lisa LaFlamme*, O'Regan is already putting his story telling skills to use on a new series "Canadian Originals" profiling everyday Canadians from all walks of life who are doing extraordinary things.

In addition to his role on *Canada AM*, O'Regan has also reported for W5 and CTV *National News*, and hosted programs on Bravo! He recently travelled to Africa with K'naan to shed light on famine in Somalia, and reported from Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey for CTV's Royal Wedding coverage. He

reported from the devastating floods in Manitoba, and from Newfoundland after it was slammed by Hurricane Igor last year.

In 2010, O'Regan co-hosted *Olympic Morning* from Whistler, British Columbia. O'Regan has also reported from Kandahar, Afghanistan, and NORAD headquarters inside Cheyenne Mountain, Colorado.

In 2007, O'Regan became the first journalist to be named to Canada's Top 40 Under 40. In 1999, he was named to Macleans magazine's "100 Young Canadians to Watch". He has been twice nominated for a Gemini Award— in 2004 for the Viewers' Choice Award and in 2005 for Best Host or Interviewer in a News Information Program or Series.

Originally from St. John's, Newfoundland, and raised in Goose Bay, Labrador, O'Regan studied politics at St. Francis Xavier University and University College, Dublin, and marketing strategies at INSEAD, the international business school near Paris. He received his Masters of Philosophy degree from the University of Cambridge, England.

Bio provided by CTV.



Gerry Rogers 
b. August 17, 1956

Gerry Rogers was born in Cornerbrook, to Leo Rogers from St. John's and Philomena Coles from Port Saunders. Leo joined the army, and the family moved to Montreal, then to Toronto, Winnipeg and Germany. They eventually returned to St. John's in 1979, where Gerry completed a Bachelor of Social Work at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Leo & Philomena were dedicated community activists and started the first food bank in their church. It's no wonder Gerry became an activist working for women's rights, LGBTQ rights and social justice!

Gerry worked at the St. John's Women's Centre where she helped establish the first transition house for battered women and

children. In 1982 Gerry moved to Montreal to make documentary films at the National Film Boards' Studio D, the only state funded women's filmmaking unit in the world. In 1992, she returned to St. John's and founded Augusta Productions, and directed several international award winning films including *My Left Breast*, a humorous, touching documentary about her own breast cancer, *FERRON: Girl on a Road* featuring lesbian singer/songwriter icon Ferron, *The Vienna Tribunal* about the violations of women's human rights all over the world and *After the Montreal Massacre* about the murder of 14 female engineering students at L'Ecole Polytechnique.

Gerry has made over 20 films and has won over 30 international awards, including 2 Geminis and the Gold at Hot Docs.

Gerry has spent 20 years with her partner, Peg Norman, community activist and entrepreneur.



Tommy Sexton
b. July 3, 1957 d. December 13, 1993

Tommy Sexton, actor, writer, dancer and musician, was born at St John's, Newfoundland. The fifth of nine children, Tommy was a child star - a hit on stage as early as Grade 3 when he played Alice in *Alice in Wonderland*. Tommy won numerous oratorical contests. At the age of twelve he played the title role in *Oliver* at the Arts and Culture Centre and landed a part in *The Rowdyman* a year later.

In 1971 he appeared in *See How They Run*, the first production of the Newfoundland Travelling Theatre Company. After the success of their second production, *Pool's Paradise*, in which he first acted with Greg Malone, Tommy, an honours student, left school and moved to

Toronto where he worked on stage and TV. In no time he was part of the newly formed, legendary CODCO comedy troupe.

Tommy wrote and starred in many national TV shows and specials including the 63 episodes of *Codco* (1986-92), 42 episodes of *WGB TV* (1980 – 1983), 4 CBC specials, *The S&M Comic Book* (1983-84), *The National Doubt* (1991), and had many guest appearances and roles in films including *The Adventures of Faustus Bidgood* (1986), *The Rowdyman* (1972) and *A Whale for the Killing* (1981). His many awards included six Gemini

A comic genius, Tommy's original characters, including Nanny Hynes, Dickie and Carmel Ann, have become part of the cultural fabric of Newfoundland and Labrador. He is also remembered for his characters, wickedly funny parody and biting satire. And he looked great in a dress!

Tommy was a great supporter of human rights and especially gay rights. Tommy was comfortable with his sexual orientation and was undoubtedly one of the first openly "out" gay performers on

Canadian TV. He died in 1993 from complications from AIDS. Tommy was moved and greatly comforted by the outpouring of love and support from his family, friends and fans and his last wish was to help the many people who were living with HIV, who had little or no support.

The Tommy Sexton Centre, a hospice and treatment centre in St. John's for people living with HIV, and The Tommy Sexton Project, an annual charitable fundraising event run by his family, grew out of Tommy's advocacy for inclusion.

Tommy Sexton is well loved and respected by his many loyal fans, and his fan base continues to grow. His work is available on DVD. Tommy's writing, the CODCO and WGB TV shows and some memorabilia have been donated to Memorial University Archives and can be viewed on campus or online at <http://www.library.mun.ca/qeii/cns/archives/cnsarch.php>.

Bio provided by Tommy Sexton's estate.



Lucas Silveira ✨
b. July 30, 1979

Lucas Silveira is the openly trans lead singer of Toronto alternative-rock band The Clinks. Born in Canada to a Portuguese-Canadian family, he lived from the age of four to the age of ten on Pico Island, part of the Azorean archipelago. He has been interviewed by the Associated Press, the Boston Globe, and many radio stations, quickly becoming one of the most visible transpeople in the music industry.

Lucas Silveira's revolution began with a fearless attitude that embraced radical change. Lucas founded The Clinks in 2004 when his musical and self identity transitioned from being a solitary folk singer/songwriter lesbian, to an 'over the top' rock n' roll front man. This shift reflected a vision he had carried his entire life. He found the courage to make significant

life changes and create a vehicle for the music in his head.

The Clinks have two internationally successful record label releases (Snakehouse 2006/Dirty King 2009), and have participated in two major tours (True Colors 2007/2008, The Cult 2007/2008). Lucas has received the New Now Next: Artist On The Brink award and Chart Attack's Sexiest Man In Canada in 2010 (the first transman to win this award).

Silveira understands the link the media has made with his trans identity and the band's music, stating that he knows he is a pioneer and eventually the novelty of his gender identity will wear off. He has said that he wants to be seen first and foremost as a musician rather than an identity spokesperson. Silveira has also gotten much attention from the fact that, in his transition from female to male, he has said that he sacrificed the use of male hormones to maintain his singing voice, creating a distinct vocal sound and range.

Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Clinks





Photo credit: Elijah Nouvelle

Wanda Sykes

b. March 7, 1964

Wanda Sykes is an American writer, stand-up comedian, and actor. She is known for her blunt comedic observations on current events, the differences between sexes and races, and the human condition. Sykes was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and raised in the Washington, D.C. area.

In 2004, *Entertainment Weekly* named her as one of the 25 funniest people in America. She has won an Emmy for her writing as well as numerous other awards.



In October 2008, Sykes appeared in a television ad for the Think B4 You Speak Campaign, aimed at curbing homophobic slang in youth communities. In the 30-second spot, she uses humour to scold a teenager for saying “that’s so gay” when he really means “that is so bad.”

The same month, she and her female partner, Alex, whom she met in 2006, got married in California. In November 2008, she publicly came out as lesbian while at a same-sex marriage rally in Las Vegas regarding Proposition 8, which forbid new marriages of same-sex couples in California (Proposition 8 has since been overturned). Alex gave birth to twins Olivia Lou and Lucas Claude on April 27, 2009.

Sykes expressed her excitement over the presidential election of Barack Obama, and feeling “crushed” after California voters passed state Proposition 8. She has continued to be active in same-sex marriage issues, hosting events and emceeing fundraisers.

Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wanda_Sykes



EDUCATION



Costa Kasimos ✨

b. January 9, 1980

Costa Kasimos was born in Moncton, New Brunswick and spent the first nine years of his life in Montreal before his family moved to St. John's. At the age of 14 the family moved to Marystown, NL, where Costa attended Marystown Central High School and graduated in 1998. Costa then attended Memorial University where he completed a B.Sc. with Honours in Biology, followed by an M.Sc. in 2007.

Costa currently lives in St. John's, where he is the executive director of Planned Parenthood—Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre. In his current role at Planned Parenthood, Costa is responsible for overseeing the delivery of the organization's services as

well as the “Making Queerness Visible” projects, which include a school-based workshop for students, the LGBTQ Youth Group, and Camp Eclipse: OUT in the Woods. These programs empower youth to implement positive change in their schools and communities, to be a support for other youth, and to take a leading role in ending discrimination and oppression. Through his work, Costa is also involved with the Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation of Youth (CASEY), the Cervical Screening Initiative, the Coalition for LGBTQ Inclusion, and the Coalition Against Violence – Avalon East.

In his spare time, Costa likes to forage in the forests for wild delicacies and enjoys discussing the joys of growing food. Being involved with Food Education Action St. John's (FEAST), writing blogs for Root Cellars Rocks, and offering support at the Oxen Pond Community Garden gives him an outlet to share this enthusiasm with the broader community. Costa also enjoys cooking what he harvests and is known for his quick, simple, and unique dishes.

Bio provided by Costa Kasimos.



Susan Rose ✨
b. July 27, 1957

Susan Rose was born in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and graduated from Herdman Collegiate High School. She has been an advocate for human rights most of her life.

During the late seventies she lobbied for the right to be employed as a summer student at the local mill and was one of the first four females hired as a laborer at Bowater's Paper Mill.

Susan graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador and acquired her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1982, followed by degrees in Education and Special Education.

Susan worked as a Special Education teacher in St. John's from 1985 until 2006, and taught students from grades four to twelve.

In 1992 Susan began to lobby for LGBTQ rights in the education system—work that she continues to do today. She began NAN (Newfoundland Amazon Network) in 1994. Meetings were held in her home where lesbians would meet to plan ways to help other lesbians in the province, as well as ways to lobby the government for gay and lesbian human rights. Susan ran a phone line in her home for three years where women could call from around the province when they needed support.



Since 2006, Susan has been working with students and parents in Newfoundland and Labrador offering

resources to assist them in dealing with issues within their school and community.

In 2008, Susan developed a workshop through Planned Parenthood for high school students called “Making Queerness Visible” and co-presented it in fifteen high schools on the west coast of the province. “Presenting the workshops that week really made me realize the importance of teacher workshops,” Susan says. “Especially when we were told, ‘Welcome, but we don’t have any queer students in this community’.”

Susan has been a returning volunteer at Camp Eclipse – a Leadership Camp which provides a safe environment each summer for LGBTQ youth in Newfoundland and Labrador.

In July 2009 Susan was awarded “Pride Citizen of The Year” for Newfoundland and Labrador for her contribution in the field of LGBTQ education. The award was presented to her by the Lieutenant Governor John Crosbie, at a ceremony at



Government House. This was the first formal invitation into Government House for the LGBTQ communities.

Susan Rose is currently the Vice President of Egale Human Rights Trust and Chairperson of Egale’s Education Committee. This committee conducted “The First National Survey on Homophobia and Transphobia in Canadian Schools” and has created this resource.

In addition to her ongoing work for LGBTQ human rights (specifically with youth) Susan also runs a small tourism business called Coastal Cottages.

Bio provided by Susan Rose.



MATH & SCIENCE



Photo credit: GLBT History Month

Rachel Carson

b. May 27, 1907 d. April 14, 1964

Rachel Carson was a writer and research biologist credited with establishing the environmental movement. Carson brought public attention to the need to regulate industry and protect the environment.

She was raised in rural Springdale, Pennsylvania, where she and her mother explored woods and springs, and enjoyed bird watching. She claimed her most enduring childhood memory was a desire to become a writer.

In 1929, Carson graduated from the Pennsylvania College for Women (now known as Chatham College) with a degree in zoology. She earned a Master's degree in zoology from Johns Hopkins University in 1932.

Carson is best known for her book *Silent Spring* (1962), a meticulously researched work about the dangers of the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Though the book sparked fierce opposition from the chemical industry, it succeeded at raising public awareness. President Kennedy ordered an investigation. As a result, the pesticide DDT was banned.

While battling cancer, Carson continued her efforts to bring attention to environmental issues. She spoke out on the need for an independent government regulatory agency to monitor environmental degradation and its effects on human health. Her activism led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Chatham College established the Rachel Carson Institute to promote "awareness and understanding of significant and current environmental issues." In 1980, she was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor.

www.glbtHistoryMonth.com





Magnus Hirschfeld
b. May 14, 1868 d. May 14, 1935

Pioneering sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld devoted his life to the scientific validation and political liberation of homosexuals. He helped lay the groundwork for the modern GLBT civil rights movement.

Born in 1868 in Kolberg, Germany (now Kolbrzeg, Poland), to a highly renowned physician, Hirschfeld followed his father into medicine. Practising in Berlin, he soon turned his efforts to the study of human sexuality.

In 1896, Hirschfeld, under a pseudonym, distributed a pamphlet titled “Sappho and Socrates.” This became the basis for his later research, which includes the 23-volume

Yearbook for the Sexual Intermediates, the first periodical dedicated to homosexual studies.

The next year, Hirschfeld founded the Scientific Humanitarian Committee to enlighten the public about homosexuality and to encourage homosexuals to fight for their liberation. The Scientific Humanitarian Committee aimed to repeal Paragraph 175, the law criminalizing homosexuality.

In his tireless—and lengthy—campaign to raise awareness and repeal Paragraph 175, Hirschfeld became a well-known public figure and earned the moniker “The Einstein of Sex.” With over 5,000 signatures of prominent Germans collected, the bill eventually made progress in the Reichstag.

In 1919, Hirschfeld founded the Institute for Sexual Research, which housed a vast library on sexuality and the Museum of Sex, provided educational services and resources, and offered medical consultations. The same year, he produced the film *Different from the Others*, likely the first gay film.



In 1921, Hirschfeld organized the First Congress for Sexual Reform, during which the World League for Sexual Reform (WLSR) was formed. Touring internationally, he promoted the WLSR and its goals. At its peak, the WLSR boasted 130,000 members worldwide.

With the rise of the Nazi Party, Hirschfeld came under attack both politically and personally. On May 6, 1933, while Hirschfeld was abroad, a mob of students and storm troopers raided the Institute for Sexual Research. They burned books, journals, and other materials in a bonfire to cleanse the city of “un-German” materials.

Exiled, Hirschfeld settled in Nice, France, and died two years later. He left a legacy of innovative research and advocacy.

www.glbtHistoryMonth.com



Photo credit: GLBT History Month

Alan Turing
b. June 23, 1912 d. June 7, 1954

Alan Turing was by nature skeptical and indifferent to conventional values. While often at odds with authority, he made remarkable connections between apparently unrelated areas of inquiry, including treating symbolic logic as a new area of applied mathematics.

As a fellow at King's College, Cambridge, Turing wrote “On Computable Numbers,” his landmark paper published in 1936, which is considered the founding work of modern computer science. After completing doctoral work at Princeton University, Turing returned to Britain in 1938 shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War.



Turing's potential ability as a code breaker had been identified and he had been introduced to the secret operations at the Government Codes and Ciphers School in London. On September 4, 1939, the day after Britain declared war on Germany, Turing reported to work at Bletchley Park, Britain's code breaking center.

At the conclusion of the war, Turing's ambition was to create a computer, but the classified status of his wartime work prevented him from realizing that dream. His contention that the computer could rival the computing power of the human brain correctly anticipated the field of Artificial Intelligence. In the postwar years, Turing competed as a distance runner, reaching near-Olympic times in the marathon. Asked why he engaged in such

demanding training, Turing replied, "I have such a stressful job that the only way I can get it out of my mind is by running hard."

Alan Turing lived at a time when homosexuality was regarded as a mental illness and homosexual acts were illegal. Despite his critical wartime role, when his relationship with a Manchester man became public, he was charged with "gross indecency" and forced to accept hormone treatment with estrogen. He also lost his security clearance and was no longer able to work as a cryptographer.

Turing died in 1954 shortly before his 42nd birthday after eating a cyanide-laced apple. His death was ruled a suicide.

www.glbHistoryMonth.com


$$\neg (p \vee q) \Leftrightarrow (\neg p) \wedge (\neg q)$$

$$\neg (p \wedge q) \Leftrightarrow (\neg p) \vee (\neg q)$$



RELIGION



Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.
b. June 2, 1950

The Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M. has been the Senior Pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Toronto for 30 years. Rev. Hawkes is a native of Bath, New Brunswick and a graduate of Mount Allison University (B.Sc. & B.Ed.). As the pastor of the Toronto MCC, Rev. Hawkes has been at the forefront of the city's ministry to the LGBTQ community. He serves as spiritual leader to a faith community of some 575 congregants at regular Sunday worship. As well, he has served the community at large

with distinction, championing several human rights initiatives.

In 2007, Rev. Hawkes was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada. Rev. Hawkes is the first LGBTQ activist to be received into the order.

Rev. Hawkes has tirelessly served the cause of justice for gays and lesbians. He has helped thousands of LGBTQ individuals and their families come back into spiritual relationship with God. This is demonstrated through the popularity of the MCC of Toronto's Christmas Eve Service held at Roy Thompson Hall, Toronto's premier cultural venue. It is one of the largest Christmas Eve services in Canada with an average of 2500 people in attendance.

He has constantly challenged the church to examine important issues, such as prejudice against LGBTQ individuals and communities, inclusive

language , and the ordination of women. He has played a significant role in promoting the inclusion of sexual orientation in the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. He was a past co-chair for the Campaign for Equal Families. Rev. Hawkes is a champion for equal rights for LGBTQ individuals and continually challenges the status quo with regards to racism, poverty, and housing.



In 2006, Rev. Hawkes was appointed to the Ontario Citizens Panel for Increasing Organ Donation.

Adapted from http://www.mcctoronto.com/WhoWeAre/brent_hawkes.htm



SPORTS



Photo credit: greginhollywood

John Amaechi

b. Nov. 26, 1970

John Amaechi is the first NBA player to speak publicly about being gay. In 2007, three years after retiring from pro basketball, he became one of only six male professional athletes in the four major U.S. sports to come out. Esera Tuaolo, an NFL player who came out in 2002, said of Amaechi, "What John did is amazing. He does not know how many lives he's saved by speaking the truth." Amaechi, the son of a Nigerian father and a white British mother, grew up in England. When he started playing basketball at 16, his right hand was nearly

severed in an accident.

As a result,

Amaechi

became

ambidextrous, which helped

him become a better basket-

ball player. Amaechi played

basketball at Penn State

University, where he was

twice selected a First Team

Academic All-American. "It

was absolutely my ultimate

goal to play in the NBA," says

Amaechi. In 1995, Amaechi's

dream became reality. He

played for the Cleveland

Cavaliers, followed by the

Orlando Magic and the Utah

Jazz. In 2000, Amaechi made

headlines when he turned

down a \$17 million offer from

the Los Angeles Lakers. Opting

to stay in Orlando earning

\$600,000 a year, Amaechi

remained loyal to the Magic,

who hired him when no

other team would. Amaechi's

memoir *Man in the Middle*



(2007) explores the challenges he faced as a closeted professional athlete. After the NBA, Amaechi returned to Britain, where he turned to television sportscasting and covered the 2008 Beijing Olympics for the BBC. In Beijing, Amaechi also served as a human rights ambassador for Amnesty International. He appeared on several episodes of *Shirts & Skins*, a Logo reality series, where he mentored a gay basketball team and shared his experiences as an out athlete. Amaechi owns Animus Communications, a company that provides motivational speakers. He established the ABC Foundation, which builds sports centers in Britain and encourages children's involvement in sports and their communities.

<http://www.glbHistoryMonth.com>



Photo credit: GLBT History Month

Martina Navratilova

b. Oct. 18, 1956

Navratilova knew from an early age that she wanted to be a tennis player. At 16, she turned pro and two years later, she defected from her native Czechoslovakia to the United States. In 1981, she became an American citizen.

Navratilova played a powerful serve-and-volley style of tennis the women's game had not seen before. She pioneered attention to diet and cross-training for physical conditioning. Navratilova's friend and former on-court rival Chris Evert said, "Martina revolutionized the game by her superb athleticism and aggressiveness, not to mention her outspokenness and her candor. She brought athleticism to a whole new level with her training techniques . . . She had everything



down to a science, including her diet, and that was an inspiration to me.”

In 1981, Navratilova became the first athletic superstar to announce her sexual orientation. While her candor cost her millions in endorsement opportunities, her tournament winnings alone in 1982 made her the first female athlete to earn more than one million dollars in a year.

Navratilova retired from women’s singles tennis in 1994, but continued as a mixed doubles player until 2006, winning a total of 175 doubles titles in her career. She has earned a reputation as an advocate of gay rights, the environment, animal welfare, and women’s issues. She spoke at the

1993 March on Washington and filed a lawsuit against the enactment Colorado’s Amendment 2, which banned legal protection for lesbians and gays in housing and employment.

TV analyst Bud Collins said, “Martina is probably the most daring player in the history of the game. She dared to play a style antithetical to her heritage without worrying about making a fool of herself. She dared to remake herself physically, setting new horizons for women in sports. And she dared to live her life as she chose, without worrying what other people thought of her.”

www.glbthistorymonth.com





Mark Tewksbury ✨
b. Feb. 7, 1968

In 1992, Mark Tewksbury burst onto the international scene following a thrilling come-from-behind victory in the 100-metre backstroke at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. This gold medal performance capped a remarkable 16-year athletic career which included three Olympic medals, seven world records, a cover appearance on TIME Magazine, and inductions into three major Halls of Fame. ✨



Today Mark is recognized as a leader of social change. Author of three books, including *Inside Out: Straight Talk from a Gay Jock*, Tewksbury is one of the few openly gay Olympic champions in the world. With other leading Canadian advocates and athletes, Mark took a difficult but necessary step in holding the International Olympic Committee accountable to its own ideals by co-founding OATH (Olympic Advocates Together Honourably). In 2006, he was the President of the 1st World Outgames held in Montreal and recognized as one of *OUT* magazine's Top 100 People. He was named Person of the Year for his fight against homophobia by Foundation Emergence in 2007.

In 2008, Mark was asked by the Government of France to speak on LGBT issues at the United Nations in NYC and he was an ambassador for the historic Pride House at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, ensuring the LGBT community had a presence for the first time at the Olympic and

Paralympic Games. For his ethical leadership and active humanitarianism, Mark has received Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University of Western Ontario and the University of Calgary.

Mark is the Chef de Mission of the Canadian Olympic team competing in London, England in 2012 as well as an Honorary Advisory Board Member of the Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, supporting Egale's work in helping to make Canadian schools safer and more inclusive, respectful, and welcoming learning and working environments for all members of school communities.

www.MyGSA.ca



LGBTQ SYMBOLS



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BISEXUAL PRIDE FLAG



The first Bi Pride Flag was unveiled on Dec 5, 1998. The intent and purpose of the flag is to maximize bisexual pride and visibility. The pink color represents sexual attraction to the same sex only (gay and lesbian), the blue represents sexual attraction to the opposite sex only (straight), and the resultant overlap color purple represents sexual attraction to both sexes (bi). The key to understanding the symbolism in the Bi Pride Flag is to know that the purple pixels of color blend unnoticeably into both the pink and blue, just as in the 'real world' where most bi people blend unnoticeably into both the gay/lesbian and straight communities.

<http://www.rainbowresourcecentre.org/symbols.htm>

GENDER



Gender Symbols are common astrological signs handed down from ancient Roman times. The pointed Mars symbol represents the male and the Venus symbol with the cross represents the female. Since the 1970s, gays have used double interlocking male symbols to represent gay men. Double interlocking female symbols have often been used to symbolize lesbianism, but some feminists have instead used the double female symbols to represent sisterhood among women and three interlocking female symbols to denote lesbianism. In the 1970s, some lesbian feminists used three interlocking female symbols to represent their rejection of male standards of monogamy.

<http://www.rainbowresourcecentre.org/symbols.htm>

RAINBOW PRIDE FLAG



The Rainbow Flag as we know it today was developed by San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker in 1978. At the time, there was a need for a gay symbol which could be used year after year for the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. Baker took inspiration from many sources, from the hippies movement to the black civil rights movement, and came up with a flag with eight stripes. Colour has always played an important part in the gay rights movement—Victorian England symbolized homosexuality with the colour green, lavender became popular in the 1960s, and pink from the pink triangle has caught on as well—and the colours of the gay flag were no different. Baker explained that his colours each stood for a different aspect of gay and lesbian life:

Hot pink for sexuality,

Red for life,

Orange for healing,

Yellow for the sun,

Green for nature,

Blue for art,

Indigo for harmony,

Violet for spirit.

Black—A San Francisco group suggested a modification to the traditional rainbow flag by adding a black stripe to the bottom of it to commemorate everyone lost to the AIDS virus over the years.

<http://www.lambda.org/symbols.htm>



TRANSGENDER/INTERSEX



The Transgender Pride flag was designed by Monica Helms, and was first shown at a pride parade in Phoenix, Arizona, United States in 2000. The flag represents the transgender community and consists of five horizontal stripes, two light blue, two pink, with a white stripe in the center. Monica describes the meaning of the flag as follows:

“The light blue is the traditional colour for baby boys, pink is for girls, and the white in the middle is for those who are transitioning, those who feel they have a neutral gender or no gender, and those who are intersexed. The pattern is such that no matter which way you fly it, it will always be correct. This symbolizes us trying to find correctness in our own lives.”

Other transgender symbols include the butterfly (symbolizing transformation or metamorphosis), and a pink/light blue yin and yang symbol.

Popular transgender symbols, used to identify transvestites, transsexuals, and other transgender people, frequently consist of modified gender symbols combining elements from both the male and female symbols. The most popular version, originating from a drawing by Holly Boswell, depicts a circle with an arrow projecting from the top-right, the male symbol; a cross projecting from the bottom, the female symbol; and with an additional crossed arrow, combining the female cross and male arrow, projecting from the top-left.

Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender_symbol#Transgender_symbols



TRIANGLES



The pink triangle was one of the Nazi concentration camp badges, used by the Nazis to identify male prisoners in concentration camps who were sent there because of their homosexuality. Every prisoner had to wear a triangle on his or her jacket, the colour of which was to categorize him or her according "to his kind." Jews had to wear the yellow star (in addition to any other badge representing other reasons for incarceration), and "anti-social individuals" (which included vagrants and "work shy" individuals) had to wear the black triangle. The inverted pink triangle, originally intended as a badge of shame, has become an international symbol of gay pride and the gay rights movement, and is second in popularity only to the rainbow flag.

The black triangle was later adopted as a lesbian or feminist symbol of pride and solidarity, on the assumption that the Nazis included lesbians in the "asocial" category.

Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_triangle

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_triangle_%28badge%29

**This Equity and Inclusive
Education Resource Kit for
Newfoundland and Labrador,
Grades 7-12 is part of Egale's
Safe Schools Campaign.**

