

**Toronto Neighbourhood Centres**  
**Rainbow Affinity Group**  
 Important Dates for the 2SLGBTQ+ Community

**February**

<b>Aromantic Awareness Week</b>	Week following Valentine's Day (14th)	An aromantic is someone who does not experience romantic attraction. Where romantic people have an emotional need to be with another person in a romantic relationship, aromantics are often satisfied with friendships and other non-romantic relationships. Aromantics may feel sexual attraction or be on the asexuality spectrum. Being aromantic does not determine sexuality but can impact a person's ability to act on their sexuality..
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**March**

<b>International Transgender Day of Visibility</b>	March 31st	Celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide. The holiday was founded by Michigan-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBT holidays celebrating transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centered holiday was the Transgender Day of Remembrance which mourned the loss of transgender people to hate crimes, but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community.
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**April**

<b>Day of Silence</b>	*Varies from year to year* (April 12 in 2019)	A student-led national event that brings attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Students from middle school to college take a vow of silence in an effort to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBTQ behavior by illustrating silencing effect of bullying and harassment on LGBT students and those perceived to be LGBT.
<b>Lesbian Visibility Day</b>	April 26th	This day showcases women-loving-women, providing a platform for lesbian role models to speak out on the issues facing female-identified sexual minorities.

**May**

<b>International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia</b>	May 17th	Represents an annual landmark to draw the attention of decision-makers, the media, the public, opinion leaders, and local authorities to the situation faced by lesbian, gay, bisexuals, and transgender, and intersex people and those who do not conform to sexual and gender norms.
<b>Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness &amp; Visibility Day</b>	May 24th	This is a day to celebrate the pansexual and panromantic community and educate others on the community. "Pan" refers to the sexual, romantic or emotional attraction towards people regardless of their sex or gender identity.

### June (Pride Month)

<b>Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots</b>	June 28th	Also referred to as the Stonewall uprising or the Stonewall rebellion, these were a series of spontaneous, resistant demonstrations by members of the LGBT community against a police raid that began in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood.
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### July

<b>International Non-Binary People's Day</b>	July 14th	International Non-Binary People's Day is observed each year on July 14. Non-binary, also known as genderqueer, is a spectrum of gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine; identities that are outside the gender binary.
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### September

<b>Celebrate Bisexuality Day</b>	September 23rd	This celebration of bisexuality in particular, as opposed to general LGBT events, was conceived as a response to the prejudice and marginalization of the bisexual persons by some in both the straight and greater LGBT communities. This day is a call for the bisexual community, their friends and supporters to recognize and celebrate bisexuality, bisexual history, bisexual community and culture, and the bisexual people in their lives.
<b>Bisexual Awareness Week</b>	September 23rd-29th	Highlights that the definition of bisexual is beyond that of "being attracted to both men and women" and can include two or more of the multiple gender expressions. Bisexual means being attracted to the gender the same as your own and other genders.

## October (LGBT History Month)

<b>National Coming Out Day</b>	October 11th	Started in 1988 by Rob Eichberg and Jean O’Leary in celebration of the second March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. In the 1980s, when many people did not know any openly LGBT2Q+ people, ignorance and silence allowed homophobia to persist. Coming out was a form of activism and it was believed that when people realised they knew someone who was LGBT2Q+, they would be far more likely to support equality under the law.
<b>International Pronouns Day</b>	3rd Wednesday in October	International Pronouns Day began in 2018 and seeks to make asking, sharing, and respecting personal pronouns commonplace. Referring to people by the pronouns they determine for themselves is basic to human dignity. Being referred to by the wrong pronouns particularly affects transgender and gender nonconforming people.
<b>Spirit Day (Anti-2SLGBTQ Bullying)</b>	3rd Thursday in October	Spirit Day was first established in 2010 by Canadian teenager Brittany McMillan. It was created in response to a series of bullying related suicides of 2SLGBTQ+ students. This day encourages everyone to speak out against 2SLGBTQ+ bullying and standing with 2SLGBT2Q+ youth, who disproportionately face bullying and harassment because of their identities. On this day, supporters wear purple as a way to visibly show solidarity with 2SLGBTQ youth and to honour 2SLGBTQ+ victims of suicide. The name “Spirit Day” comes from the purple stripe of the Rainbow flag which represents ‘spirit’.
<b>Asexual Awareness Week</b>	3rd Week in October	Asexual Awareness Week is an international campaign that seeks to educate about asexual, aromantic, demisexual, and grey-asexual experiences and to create materials that are accessible to the “ace” community and their allies around the world.
<b>Intersex Awareness Day</b>	October 26th	Celebrated in October to commemorate the first intersex protest, which took place in Boston, MA outside the annual American Academy of Pediatrics conference in 1996. This day was first established in 2003 by Emi Koyoma and Betsy Driver, as a way to raise awareness and a day of action to end shame, secrecy and unwanted genital cosmetic surgeries on intersex children.

## November (Transgender Awareness Month)

<b>Trans Parent Day</b>	1st Sunday in November	This day was first established in 2009 and is a day to celebrate and honour transgender parents instead of the traditional Mother's or Father's Day. Today the day also includes parents who have transgender children. This day typically involves small celebrations and gift-giving to one's parent or caregiver.
<b>Intersex Day of Remembrance (Intersex Solidarity Day)</b>	November 8th	An internationally observed civil awareness day designed to highlight issues faced by intersex people. It marks the birthday of Herculine Barbin, a French intersex person whose memoirs were later published by Michel Foucault.
<b>Transgender Awareness Week</b>	2nd Week of November	A week to help raise the visibility of transgender people and address issues members of the community face.
<b>Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)</b>	November 20th	A day to memorialize those who have been lost due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The first candlelight vigil occurred in 1999. TDOR provides us all an opportunity to publicly mourn and honor the trans lives lost in our community over the past year, in addition to helping raise awareness about hate crimes that the trans community experience daily.

## December

<b>World AIDS Day</b>	December 1st	An opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988.
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