

Born in Montréal, Martine joined the Armed Forces in 1983. She dated men and women, but was warned to keep her boyfriend front and centre, during a time which would come to be known as the LGBT Purge. In this period, the government identified and expelled queer people from the military, the RCMP and civil service. When Roy was discovered, she suffered a "harsh and humiliating" interrogation that ended with her admitting to her lesbian relationships, and subsequent arrest. During the Cold War, paranoia about communism inspired a pervasive "Lavender Scare." Believing homosexuals had a "character weakness" and could be easily blackmailed into telling national secrets, the RCMP commissioned pseudoscientific tests to identify homosexuals, amplifying witch hunts for individuals like Roy until the 1990s. The "Fruit Machine" was one such device. It is difficult to quantify the number of people fired, demoted, or forced to resign during the LGBT Purge. Many took their own lives.

In 2016, Roy led a class action lawsuit that resulted in an official apology from the Canadian Government in 2017, a settlement of \$145M, and the establishment of the LGBT Purge Fund. The Fund's reconciliation and memorialization projects include a national monument in Ottawa, and an exhibition at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. In 2024, Roy was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada for her advocacy.

Martine Roy



Rupert Raj



Rupert Raj, a pansexual trans man of East Indian Canadian trans activism since the early 1970s. Coming out in Ottawa in 1971, he went on to provide peer counselling, education, and advocacy for trans folks across the country. Over two decades, Raj helped shape trans support and visibility, establishing the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Transsexuals (FACT) in 1978, the Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation in 1981, and Gender Worker (later Gender Consultants) in 1987. He also actively supported early groups like the Association for Canadian Transsexuals (ACT). He produced trans-specific publications including Gender Review (1978–81), Metamorphosis (1982–88), and Gender NetWorker (1988), tailored to the needs of trans men and their allies. These publications grew in reach and influence to bridge gaps between trans communities and the professional world. In 1988, he launched Gender NetWorker, to foster communication between trans folks and health providers. Raj's archive, hosted by the Archives, offers a look at his countless contributions to Canadian trans history. Books by Raj include: Trans Activism in Canada: A Reader (with Dan Irving), Of Souls & Roles, Of Sex & Gender: A Treasury of Transsexual, Transgenderist and Transvestic Verse from 1967 to 1991, and Dancing the Dialectic: True Tales of a Transgender Trailblazer.

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Hey Cutie, welcome to our pride pocketbook, The Fruit Machine.



The Fruit Machine describes a slew of pseudoscientific tests built in the 1960's, in a systematic attempt to root out queers from Canadian public service. Developed by a Carleton professor, the machine measured pupil dilation when individuals were forcibly exposed to erotic photos of men and women, thereby "exposing" their queerness.

Contrasting this dark chapter in Canadian history, this issue offers a window into some of the queer and trans icons who fought to change Canadian history for the better, and continue to advance 2SLGBTQI+ rights today.

"The elders say that the circle is incomplete without the Two-Spirit community"



Gloria May Eshkibok

Gloria May Eshkibok is a Two-Spirit Indigenous actor, singer, writer, and community activist from the Wikwemikong Unceded Territory. She is of Odawa, Mohawk, Irish, and French descent, and her early life was shaped by the Sixties Scoop. From approximately 1951-1984 child welfare authorities systematically kidnapped an estimated 20,000 Indigenous children from their families and communities, and forced them to assimilate in non-Indigenous households. As a survivor, Eshkibok's experiences inform her activism and storytelling. Since 1986, she's built a rich portfolio across stage, film, television, and music. She's performed in critically acclaimed theatrical productions including The Rez Sisters and Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing. Fireweed, The Manitoulin Incident, and The Hairly Ape. She's also a co-founder of the De-Indigenous Theatre Group, the longest running Indigenous theatre in North America. She is the lead vocalist of the Unceded Band and a founding member of the Anishinaabeg Ojwe Singers and the Sweetgrass City Singers. Committed to preserving and sharing Indigenous music, in Wikwemikong, she performs traditional songs with The Nanawedjia Hand Drum Group. Eshkibok remains a passionate advocate for the Two-Spirit community, emphasizing inclusion and identity within Indigenous cultural circles.

THE FRUIT MACHINE

"They said they had made a mistake, that I was being dishonourably discharged for being a homosexual. They gave me nine days."
-Martine Roy



No. 18

Albert McLeod



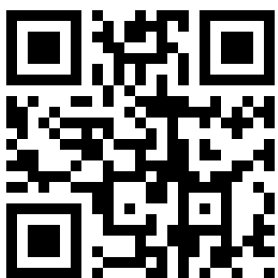
"In pre-contact Indigenous cultures, gender and sexual diversity was generally embraced and not suppressed."

Of Nisichawayasikh Cree Nation and Métis background, Albert McLeod has been advocating for 2SLGBTQI+ and Two-Spirit rights since the 1980s. In 2019, his donated materials helped launch the Two-Spirit Archives at the University of Winnipeg; the most comprehensive collection in Canada. The Archives aim to ensure Two-Spirit people are central to preserving their own history. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws for his lifelong activism. A leader in HIV/AIDS activism, his foundational HIV-101 workshops increased HIV/AIDS awareness in Indigenous communities, and helped establish organizations such as Nine Circles Community Health Centre, the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network. McLeod was Director of the Manitoba Aboriginal AIDS Task Force from 1991 to 2001. He contributed to the national dialogue on reconciliation, producing the 2021 MMIW, Girls, and served on the Advisory Council for Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ People's National Action Plan. He served on the Advisory Council for Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ apology, and his team will design the official Monument. The Thunderhead Monument will recognize the cruelty of the LGBT Purge, but also celebrate queer resilience, and serve to inspire the change still needed in Canada. A thunderhead is a dynamic cloud of unstoppable energy in Anishinaabe teachings, thunderclouds are home to the Thunderers whose storms renew the land and make things right.

Jackie Shane



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A leading figure in Toronto's R&B scene – in 1963 Jackie Shane's soulful cover of "Any Other Way" hit No. 2 on the Canadian charts. She made waves with lyrics like "Tell her that I'm happy, tell her that Jackie was one of the few openly trans artists at the time, and her presence was groundbreaking for both the Black and LGBTQ+ communities. Born in 1940 in Nashville, Tennessee, Jackie grew up as a black trans child in the Jim Crow South. Known for her confidence and unapologetic femininity, she stood her ground even as a child. She later moved to Canada after witnessing a racist attack in Nashville, stating, "One cannot choose where one is born, but you can choose your home."

After her success, Jackie vanished from the public eye. She later revealed she moved to Los Angeles to care for her mother. Decades after the most active time of her career, in 2017, Jackie's two-disc anthology "Any Other Way" introduced her to a new generation of fans. She was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Historical Album in 2019, and passed away a few months later at the age of 78. Her impact continues today, demonstrated best by a mural of her likeness now gracing 423 Yonge St. in downtown Toronto. A true trailblazer for both the transgender and black communities, she inspired countless people with her courage and authenticity. Reflecting on her own legacy, she once said, "Uproot yourself. Get into your own soil. You may be surprised who you really are."

How to Build The Fruit Machine

