

CALGARY, CA



CALGARY PRIDE

DYKES ON BIKES



The first ever Calgary chapter



Over 50 years running

Calgary Pride 2026 Edition

PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

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PAM









CALGARY PRIDE

PRIDE MARSHAL 2026

TURNING THE WHEEL OF PRIDE

Conversations with Calgary Dykes on Bikes

Carrying Forward a Legacy of Pride

For many people around the world, the roar of motorcycle engines signals that the Pride Parade has begun. Dykes on Bikes are at the head of the pack, paving the way for everyone who follows.

This year, that familiar Pride tradition comes to Calgary in a new way. Calgary Pride is proud to welcome the Calgary chapter of Dykes on Bikes as Parade Marshals for the 2026 Calgary Pride Parade, marking the chapter's inaugural ride through the city.

It is a new chapter in Calgary, but one connected to nearly 50 years of queer history.

From San Francisco to Calgary

The story of Dykes on Bikes began in 1976, when a group of approximately 20 to 25 women motorcyclists gathered at the front of the San Francisco Pride Parade.

Accounts of that first ride point in part to the practical challenges of motorcycles moving slowly among walking contingents. But whatever brought those riders to the front that day, their presence created something much bigger. One of the women coined the phrase "Dykes on Bikes," which was picked up by the San Francisco Chronicle, and a Pride tradition was born. For the next several years, riders simply showed up and rode. As Pride grew and the number of motorcycles increased, the group became more formally organized through the Women's Motorcycle Contingent in the mid-to-late 1980s. In 2003, organizers formally adopted the name San Francisco Dykes on Bikes® Women's Motorcycle Contingent.

What began with a small group of riders in San Francisco has since grown into an international movement, with the San Francisco organization serving as the mother chapter for Dykes on Bikes chapters worldwide.



For members of Calgary Dykes on Bikes, that history matters, but so does recognizing how queer identity and expression continue to evolve.

"Being gay looks several different ways now," one of the chapter's founders explained. The group wants to create room for "bitches, femmes, mascs, everything in between."

In other words, there is no single way to look queer, ride queer or belong.

Building Something New in Calgary

For several years, Winnipeg was home to Canada's only official Dykes on Bikes chapter. Calgary now joins that legacy as Canada's newest chapter, expanding the movement in Alberta and creating another space for queer motorcyclists to find community.

The Calgary chapter is new, and that is part of what makes this year's parade particularly meaningful.

Its founders wanted to create more than a group of people who happen to be queer and happen to ride motorcycles. They wanted to build a place where queer people could come together and feel comfortable being themselves.

"A safe place for queer people to be queer together" is how one founder described it.

That sense of belonging feels particularly important at a time when queer and trans visibility continues to be challenged. For the Calgary chapter, showing up visibly and publicly is one way of responding.

It is also why those motorcycles will be heard.

Motorcycle engines are loud. They attract attention. They are difficult to ignore. For Calgary Dykes on Bikes, the familiar sound of engines revving at Pride is especially fitting.

"Revving in itself is resistance," one founder explained. "We are here, we are 100% queer."

There is something wonderfully simple about that idea.

Pride has always included the right to take up space. Sometimes that means marching. Sometimes it means carrying a flag, dancing, protesting or simply standing beside someone you love.

And sometimes it means arriving on a motorcycle.

Another Thread in Calgary Pride

The arrival of Dykes on Bikes in Calgary also reflects the idea behind Calgary Pride's 2026 theme, Threads of Pride.

Our community is not one story or one experience. It is made up of people whose identities, histories and lives can be very different from one another. What connects us is not that we are all the same, but that those differences can coexist and become something larger when we come together.

For one of the Calgary chapter's founders, who moved to Calgary from Edmonton, that idea has personal meaning.

"I'm a little bit different from you, and you're a little bit different from me," they explained. "When we come together, it's deeply meaningful, and we get to celebrate that together."

Calgary Dykes on Bikes is now another of those threads.

The chapter connects Calgary to a tradition that began on the streets of San Francisco nearly five decades ago, while creating something that belongs specifically to the community here.

That connection to the wider movement is already taking shape. This summer, Calgary chapter co-founder Amy Dyck took her motorcycle south to ride with other Dykes on Bikes chapters, including the original San Francisco chapter.

Along the way, she has been meeting other riders, experiencing Pride in different cities and bringing those experiences home to Calgary.

At the same time, the local chapter is looking to grow. The hope is that more queer motorcycle riders will see Dykes on Bikes at Calgary Pride, recognize a community they might want to be part of and join them for future rides.

For a new organization, being visible in the Calgary Pride Parade is an opportunity to say: we're here, and there's a place for you here too.

Leading the Way

On September 6, thousands of people will line the streets for the 2026 Calgary Pride Parade.

Before the floats, community organizations, performers and thousands of marchers make their way along the route, people will hear something new at the front of Calgary's parade.

Motorcycles.

Calgary Dykes on Bikes hopes to have more than 20 riders join their inaugural Pride ride. And while there was some joking during our conversation about wheelies, the chapter has promised to keep both wheels safely on the ground.

Mostly.

Their presence at the front of the parade will connect two moments separated by 50 years: a group of lesbian motorcyclists riding through San Francisco in 1976, and a new group of queer motorcyclists riding together through Calgary in 2026.

The motorcycles may have changed. Our communities have changed. Pride itself has changed.

But the power of being visible together remains.

This September, Calgary Dykes on Bikes will lead us forward for the first

time, carrying nearly 50 years of history with them as they begin a story of their own.

When you hear those engines roar, you'll know Pride is coming.

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Dykes on Bikes is a movement born in San Francisco in 1976, when a group of women rode to the front of the Gay Freedom Day March. The SF Chronicle called them "Dykes on Bikes," and a movement was born. It has since grown into an international symbol of queer visibility, pride, and protection — rooted in civil disobedience, a refusal to conform to a world that expects women to be nurturing, agreeable, mild-mannered, and accommodating, all while adhering to beauty standards they never chose.

The Calgary Dykes On Bikes chapter was officially approved in May 2026 by the San Francisco mother chapter, making it only the second official chapter in Canada, after Winnipeg. With roots in queer liberation, inclusion, and civil rights, our chapter hopes to be the visibility and representation we never had — promoting empowerment, social justice, defiance, and queer joy.

We are committed to growing our chapter and actively encouraging queer women in our community to get on a motorcycle. We provide scaffolding to eliminate the barriers between any woman and a bike of her own — helping with licensing, training, gear, and skills wherever we can.

This is the 50th anniversary of Dykes on Bikes, and we're honored to carry that legacy into Alberta. To every queer and trans youth in this province: we see you, we're here, and our visibility is our resistance. We keep us safe.