

What Do You Mean, Women Couldn't Vote?



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH IN CANADA.

STORIES AND FACTS ABOUT THE
WOMEN WHO SHAPED THE SOCIETY
YOU LIVE IN TODAY.

Canada

Women & The Vote.

Today, the lives of Canadians are filled with **MANY EXAMPLES OF THE GAINS THAT WOMEN HAVE MADE THROUGHOUT HISTORY. GIRLS AND WOMEN CAN CHOOSE TO GO TO COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN WHATEVER PROGRAM OR DEGREE THEY WISH AND THEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO FOLLOW THE CAREER OF THEIR CHOICE.**

NOT SO MANY YEARS AGO—WHEN YOUR GREAT-GRANDMOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, OR EVEN YOUR MOTHER WAS YOUNGER—LIFE FOR GIRLS AND WOMEN WAS QUITE DIFFERENT.

Before the 20th century, women who owned land were occasionally allowed to vote. In 1849, all Canadian women, regardless of race, religion or property rights, were banned from voting in all elections. Beginning in the 1860s, wanting a say in the moral and social welfare of their communities, women began to unite for this common goal. This surge of activism was the beginning of the women's suffrage movement.

Suffragists were relentless campaigners, lecturers, demonstrators and petitioners. They bravely faced politicians' ire and the aggressive opposition of public opinion. By 1918, some women were granted the right to vote and to have a say in the political future of Canada. For many

Although women won the right to vote in 1918, other factors, such as race and religion, prevented many others from voting until nearly 50 years later.

other women, their race, ethnicity and religion still barred them from the vote



1789 THE BISHOP OF QUEBEC REPORTED THAT THE NUMBER OF LITERATE WOMEN EXCEEDED THE NUMBER OF LITERATE MEN IN THE PROVINCE.

and, for them, the fight continued for almost 50 years. It wasn't until the introduction of the **Universal Right to Vote** in 1963 and the addition of the equality clause in the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** in 1985 that the right to vote could not be denied on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, mental or physical disability, or gender.

Education, in particular, university and college education, is often credited as opening up many opportunities for girls and women. Before Confederation, young girls were sent to school with the boys, but their dreams of college or university went unfulfilled. Chores and family duties kept many young girls and boys from completing school, but girls and





X LONG BEFORE COLONIZATION, ABORIGINAL WOMEN HAD A VOICE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES. THE IROQUOIS, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE A MATRILINEAL SOCIETY, WHERE PROPERTY RIGHTS, INHERITANCE, VOTING RIGHTS AND EVEN THE ARRANGEMENT OF MARRIAGES WERE HELD AND PASSED ON THROUGH THE ELDER WOMEN OF THE COMMUNITY.

young women didn't even have the option of further education in Canada until 1862. That year, Mount Allison University in New Brunswick became the first Canadian university to allow female students. It was here that Grace Annie Lockhart, the first woman to receive a university degree in Canada, graduated with a bachelor's degree in science and English literature. Other universities and colleges opened their doors to female students shortly after.

Despite Grace's interest in science, many women who followed her were encouraged to take general arts degrees or domestic science courses during the early years of available post-secondary education for women. Women who wanted to be medical professionals were discouraged from most disciplines, except nursing. At the turn of the century, hospitals in Montréal refused to accept any women medical practitioners. As a result, Bishop's University decided to close its doors to women medical students. Many other

universities soon followed. In 1943, exactly 50 years after they closed their doors to female medical students, Queen's University was one of the last Canadian universities to reopen the program.

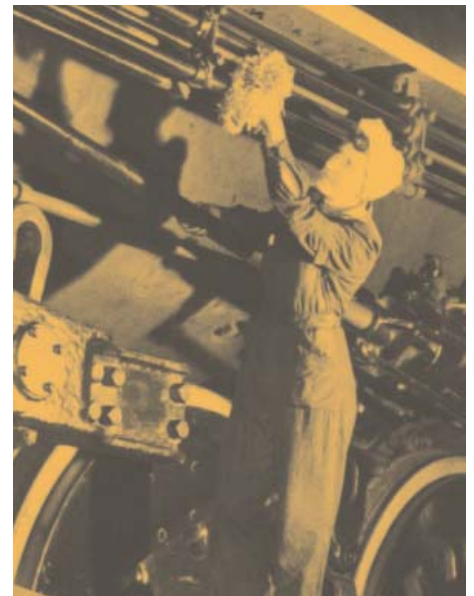
In 1929, Elsie MacGill graduated from the University of Toronto with a degree in aeronautical engineering, but it wasn't until more than 50 years later, in the 1981 census, that women appeared to be entering male-dominated fields of studies such as business, engineering, medicine and law in greater numbers. In 1996, the National Research Council of Canada sponsored, in part, the Chair for Women in Science and Engineering to support and to encourage girls and women to pursue schooling and careers in non-traditional fields such as science and engineering.

In 1998, according to Statistics Canada, over 55 percent of graduates at the university level were women. That same year, female engineering and applied science graduates made up 20 percent of all graduates in their field and female mathematics graduates made up 30 percent of all graduates in their field.



X TODAY, WOMEN REPRESENT SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF THE CANADIAN POPULATION, BUT ONLY HOLD 21 PERCENT OF THE SEATS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. THERE ARE 10 WOMEN IN THE CABINET AND 34 WOMEN IN THE SENATE.

During the Second World War, women entered the factories in record numbers to replace men who were away at war.



WHM Quiz

Correctly answer each of the quiz questions. Write your answers in the space provided next to the WHM Hidden Word. The last names of the 10 famous women history makers can be found within the WHM Hidden Word grid. See the example in the WHM Hidden Word section.

1. THIS ACTOR IS THE FIRST CANADIAN TO WIN AN ACADEMY AWARD. SHE ALSO OWNED ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS: UNITED ARTISTS.

- A) PAMELA ANDERSON
- B) MARGOT KIDDER
- C) MARY PICKFORD

2. SHE WAS THE FIRST FEMALE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE PLAYER.

- A) KIM ST-PIERRE
- B) JUSTINE BLAINÉY
- C) MANON RHÉAUME

3. WHO FOUNDED FÉDÉRATION NATIONALE DES FEMMES CANADIENNES-FRANÇAISES IN 1914?

- A) ALMANDA WALKER-MARCHAND
- B) MARIE-HENRIETTE LEJEUNE-ROSS
- C) MARIE GÉRIN-LAJOIE

4. WHO LED THE CHALLENGE FOR CHANGES TO THE INDIAN ACT TO RESTORE STATUS AND BAND MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS TO ABORIGINAL WOMEN WHO HAD LOST THOSE RIGHTS THROUGH MARRIAGE TO NON-ABORIGINALS?

- A) ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW
- B) JEANNETTE VIVIAN CORBIERE LAVELL
- C) HILDA MAY TOROK BINNS

5. BORN IN HONG KONG IN 1939, THIS WOMAN MADE HER FAME IN BROADCASTING AND NOW OCCUPIES A POSITION OF POWER THAT DATES BACK ALMOST 400 YEARS IN CANADA. WHO IS SHE?

- A) ADRIENNE CLARKSON
- B) JEANNE SAUVÉ
- C) KIM CAMPBELL

Throughout most of the 20th Century, the role of homemaker was considered ideal for women. Any job that would take a woman away from her family and household duties was discouraged. Despite this stereotype, many companies were looking for women who wanted to work. In fact, women were considered a great benefit because they were paid less than their male counterparts for the same work.

The choices of job opportunities for women workers in the paid workforce were limited. During the first half of the 20th century, jobs for women included work as a domestic servant for a higher-class home, retail sales or teaching. But, during the Second World War, women



WITH ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO HIRING PRACTICES, WORKING CONDITIONS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, THE 2001 CENSUS INDICATES WOMEN NOW REPRESENT 44 PERCENT OF ALL INCOME EARNERS IN CANADA AND 40 PERCENT OF ALL FULL-TIME, FULL-YEAR EARNERS.

entered the factories in record numbers to replace men who were away at war. Working conditions for most jobs consisted of unhealthy environments, long days and 60 or more hours of work a week. At the end of the war, women were expected to leave their jobs to make way for returning soldiers.

WHM Hidden Word

To find the famous women history makers within the puzzle, solve the WHM Quiz questions first. The last name of each correct answer in the quiz is hidden in the word grid! The names can appear diagonally, horizontally or vertically.

EXAMPLE:



SHE WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO BE ELECTED TO CANADA'S HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 1921, SERVING IN PARLIAMENT UNTIL 1940.

- A) IRENE PARLBY
- B) AGNES MACPHAIL**
- C) LISE FORTIER

ANSWER:

MACPHAIL

1. _____

6. _____

2. _____

7. _____

3. _____

8. _____

4. _____

9. _____

5. _____

10. _____

A lack of access to training and higher education, a woman's expected role at home and with the family, the number of women in part-time work and the many different ways women were discriminated against are just a few of the barriers women faced in the workplace.

Even when women began working in other sectors, such as the public service, they were required to quit their job when they got married. When it became acceptable to hire married women, there was no protection from being fired or being forced to quit when women were pregnant.

Over the years, women became actively involved in labour organizations and

support groups, lobbying for minimum wage legislation for women, shorter workweeks, access to education and training and better, healthier work conditions. Today, both women and men have the option to take time off, without penalty, to look after young children. With additional changes to hiring practices, working conditions and training opportunities, the 2001 Census indicates women now represent 44 percent of all income earners in Canada and 40 percent of all full-time, full-year earners.

As the foundation of politics, education and work changed for Canadian women, so too did their rights. As breakthroughs happened in one area, changes and accomplishments were happening in others.

W L C C O R B I E R E L A V E L L
 F P A R W A L K E B M B I N S I O
 O I W B F R E Z S W O M E N W O C
 S E I B E C K O S A U E V E A S K
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 M C L A C H L A N K N W V E C B A
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 C A M E L L A J O R T D A H K E T
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 I P T I K H A I P A T E O L E N I
 R H E A U M E P I C K F O R D D O

WHM Quiz (cont.)

6. WHAT SINGER AND SONGWRITER WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HIGHLIGHTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FEMALE SINGERS TO MUSIC IN THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES THROUGH HER SUCCESSFUL "LILITH FAIR" FESTIVAL?

- A) CÉLINE DION
- B) ALANIS MORISSETTE
- C) SARAH MCLACHLAN

7. THIS MONTREAL WOMAN WAS TOLD TO STUDY CHEMISTRY BECAUSE "GIRLS AREN'T ENGINEERS." SHE IS NOW A CHAIR FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING.

- A) MARIE SAINT-PIERRE
- B) GUYLAINE SAUCIER
- C) MONIQUE FRIZE

8. WHO WAS THE FIRST CANADIAN WOMAN TO RECEIVE A UNIVERSITY DEGREE IN CANADA?

- A) ELSIE MACGILL
- B) GRACE ANNIE LOCKHART
- C) CARRIE DERICK

9. SHE WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO RUN FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF A FEDERAL POLITICAL PARTY IN CANADA.

- A) ROSEMARY BROWN
- B) KIM CAMPBELL
- C) ALEXA MCDONOUGH

10. SHE WAS THE FIRST ABORIGINAL WOMAN ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 1988. HINT: HER RIDING IS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

- A) ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW
- B) EMILY PAULINE JOHNSON
- C) JEANNETTE VIVIAN CORBIERE LAVELL

After the right to vote in 1918, five determined suffragists (the **Famous Five**) pushed forward to change the **British North America Act** in 1929 so that women were considered 'persons' who were qualified for appointment to the Senate. This declaration further opened the door to equality for women that the right to vote had unlocked in 1918.

The Royal Commission on the Status of Women began in 1967 and listened to the concerns of women's and community organizations as well as individuals across the country. As a result, 167 recommendations were presented in the final report that brought women's issues to the attention of the government in 1970. Although its report dealt thoroughly and knowledgeably with the specifics of women's lives of the time, the Commission also looked at some of the underlying causes of women's inequality instead of just the results. The majority of the Royal Commission's recommendations have been acted upon. Status of Women Canada, for example, was established as a government department as a result of some of those recommendations.

Since the report from the Royal Commission, women have continued to push for changes that would bring equality closer to reality. Addressing the systemic nature of women's equality remains a challenge facing Canadian society in the 21st Century.

Canadian women have lobbied for change in Canada and on behalf of women across the world. They have brought about changes and additions to the Canadian Criminal Code, advocated for the removal of land mines and helped to get rape recognized as a war crime.

On April 17, 1985, three years after the enactment of the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**, the equality provision (or Section 15) was included in the **Charter**. Section 15 ensures that all individuals are equal under the law and are entitled to equal rights regardless of gender, age, race, religion, ability and national or ethnic origin. This event, still fresh in our recent history, helped to open the door of opportunity wider and guarantee that it remains open for future generations of Canadian girls and

women. It is amazing to think that it almost did not make it into the final version of our **Charter**! Thanks to the tireless efforts of women's organizations, politicians and citizens in general, the federal and provincial governments were convinced to put these rights in writing and make them law.

Canada's history and the role that women played in its many events is rich and vibrant. The rights and privileges we enjoy today were not just given, the women and men who came before us fought hard to ensure they were guaranteed. Women have a voice in how the country is run. Girls and women can and do follow their dreams to be astronauts, athletes, doctors, engineers, politicians and more. There are many great Canadian girls and women who have done just that and whose stories are just waiting to be told. Speak with your teacher, librarian, or surf the Web for more information about Canadian women history makers!

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י'נ' ז'ג' ז'א' ז'ב' ז'ג' ז'ד' ז'ה' ז'ו' ז'ז' ז'ח' ז'ט' ז'י' ז'כ' ז'ל' ז'מ' ז'נ' ז'ס' ז'ע' ז'פ' ז'צ' ז'ק' ז'ר' ז'ש' ז'ת' ז'י' ז'ף' ז'ג'

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