

# Activity 4

## FIRST WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

### Objective

To become familiar with:

- the life, achievements and values of women in Canadian government, past and present.

### Directions

Have users research and write a short biography of one of the notable women in Canadian politics listed below, or any other “first” woman in Canada’s government. (Format suggestions follow the list.)

#### First Women in the Canadian governments

The Honourable Jean Augustine: *First black woman elected to the House of Commons*

\*The Honourable Rosemary Brown: *First black woman elected to a legislature in Canada (British Columbia)*

Catherine Callbeck: *First woman elected Premier of a province (Prince Edward Island)*

The Right Honourable Kim Campbell: *First female Prime Minister, first female Minister of Justice and Attorney General, first female Minister of National Defence, first woman elected leader of Progressive Conservative Party*

\*The Honourable Marie Thérèse (Forget) Casgrain: *First woman to head a provincial political party in Canada*

The Honourable Andrée Champagne: *First female Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons*

The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson: *First Canadian Governor General who was not born in this country and came to Canada as a refugee*

The Honourable Sheila Maureen Copps: *First female Deputy Prime Minister*

Pat Duncan: *First female Premier of a territory (Yukon)*

The Honourable Senator Joyce Fairbairn: *First female Leader of the Government in the Senate*

\*The Right Honourable Ellen Louks Fairclough: *First female Minister in the federal Cabinet*

The Honourable Muriel McQueen Fergusson: *First female Speaker of the Senate*

Agnes Campbell Macphail: *First female Member of the House of Commons, one of the first two women elected to Ontario Legislature*

The Honourable Pauline McGibbon: *First female Lieutenant Governor (Ontario) and first woman to hold a vice-regal position in the Commonwealth*

Audrey McLaughlin: *First woman to serve as head of a federal political party in Canada*

The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin: *First female Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada*

The Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé: *First female Governor General, first female Speaker of the House of Commons, and first female Member of Parliament from Quebec to be a Cabinet Minister*

Suzanne Tremblay: *First woman appointed Official Opposition House Leader*

The Honourable Bertha Wilson: *First woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada and the first woman appointed to the Ontario Appeal Court*

Cairine Reay Mackay Wilson: *First female Senator, first woman appointed Chair of a Senate Standing Committee*

### Suggested Sources:

*The Canadian Encyclopedia.*

Web sites such as:

<http://www.nlcnc.ca/femmes/h12-278-e.html>; and

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/people/house/WomenHofC.asp?Language=E>.

## ACTIVITY 4: FIRST WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT (Cont.)

### Members of the “Famous Five:”

- \*Henrietta Muir Edwards
- \*Nellie McClung
- \*Louise Crummy McKinney (also mentioned below, under Alberta)
- \*Emily Murphy
- \*Irene Parlby

### Also notable:

- \*Henriette Bourque: *First female lawyer hired by the Department of Justice*

### First Women in Provincial and Territorial Legislatures

<b>Alberta</b>	Roberta Catherine MacAdams Price *Louise Crummy McKinney
<b>British Columbia</b>	Rita Margaret Johnston Mary Ellen (Spear) Smith
<b>Manitoba</b>	Edith MacTavish Rogers
<b>New Brunswick</b>	Brenda May Robertson (now Senator)
<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>	Lady Helena E. (Strong) Squires
<b>Northwest Territories</b>	Lena (Elizabeth Magdalena) Pedersen
<b>Nova Scotia</b>	Gladys Muriel Porter
<b>Ontario</b>	Margarette Rae Morrison Luckock Agnes Campbell Macphail
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>	Catherine Callbeck Ella Jean Canfield
<b>Quebec</b>	Marie-Claire Kirkland-Casgrain
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	Sarah Katheume (McEwen) Ramsland
<b>Yukon</b>	G. Jean Gordon

**Also:** a current female Lieutenant Governor or Territorial Commissioner

\*Note: names marked with an asterisk\* can also be found on the “Path of Heroes” site:  
<http://www.heroes.gc.ca>.

### Format suggestions:

- a 10-page TV script for your own “Heritage Minute” style biography (see the Histor!ca Web site for Heritage Minutes at: <http://www.histori.ca>) If possible, have users research television biographies by watching programs or using Web sites on the Internet. An excellent, free and downloadable documentary script template is available at:  
[http://www.chicagomediaworks.com/2instructworks/3editing\\_doc/3docedit\\_scriptmpl/3editing\\_docscripttemplate.html](http://www.chicagomediaworks.com/2instructworks/3editing_doc/3docedit_scriptmpl/3editing_docscripttemplate.html)
- a 10-page annotated photo scrapbook using sourced magazine clippings, downloaded and/or scanned pictures
- a 5-minute radio docudrama (using partly invented dialogue and events) or documentary using the guidelines from  
<http://radio.cbc.ca/programs/drama/>  
or <http://ottawa.cbc.ca/information/psasguide.jhtml#radio>
- a 2-page “Résumé”