

THANK A FEMINIST!

On International Women's Day, March 8, THANK A FEMINIST for these ground-breaking achievements in Canada!

- 1862: Mount Allison University first to admit women students.
- 1909: Abduction of women becomes a crime.
- 1916: Prairie Provinces first to grant women the right to vote in provincial elections.
Emily Murphy: Canada's first woman judge.
- 1918: Women (except First Nations) win vote in federal elections. (It is not until 1960 that First Nations women and men win the right to vote).
- 1921: Agnes Macphail: First woman elected to House of Commons.
Nellie McClung: Elected to Alberta legislature; campaigns for pensions, minimum wage, mother's allowances, legal protection for widows, better factory conditions, birth control
- 1929: "Qualified persons" in Article 24 of the BNA Act includes females.
Elsie MacGill: World's first female aeronautical engineer.
- 1945: Saskatchewan CCF MP Gladys Strum states in Parliament: "No one has ever objected to women working. The only thing they have ever objected to is paying women for working."
- 1946: Ontario Teachers' Federation approves equal pay for male and female teachers.
- 1947: Women married to non-Canadians no longer lose their citizenship.
- 1952: Manitoba women permitted to serve on juries. (PEI women achieve this in 1966.)
- 1955: Restrictions on employment of married women in the federal public service removed.
- 1956: Federal legislation guarantees equal pay for equal work.
- 1961: Emily Pauline Johnson: First Canadian Metis woman honoured in commemorative stamp.
- 1966: Women win battle against high food prices through massive supermarket boycotts.
- 1967: Royal Commission on Status of Women established.
- 1968: Presbyterian Church of Canada ordains women.
- 1969: Dissemination of birth control information decriminalized.
- 1971: Frances Phipps: First woman to explore the North Pole.
- 1972: Federal government introduces child care expense deduction.
- 1973: First rape crisis centres open in Vancouver and Toronto.
- 1974: Women accepted into RCMP.
- 1975: United Nations declares International Year of Women.
- 1976: Remaining overt discrimination against female immigrants removed from Citizenship Act.
- 1977: Marion Ironquill Meadmore: First Aboriginal woman admitted to the bar (Manitoba).
Discrimination on the grounds of sex in employment prohibited; 17 week maternity leaves introduced.
- 1978: Female flight attendants win right to work after marriage and age 32.
Canada Labour Code amended to prohibit dismissal or lay-off because of pregnancy.
- 1980: 32% of graduate doctors are women; whereas in 1900, women doctors were not allowed to practise medicine in Montreal hospitals.
- 1981: Inclusion of women's rights in Canadian constitution.
- 1982: Bertha Wilson: First woman appointed to Supreme Court. When she applied to law school she was told to go home and take up knitting.
Outcry from women brings national attention to issue of violence against women, after NDP MP Margaret Mitchell is laughed at in the House of Commons for speaking to it.
- 1983: Rape laws broadened to sexual assault laws, and spousal rape becomes illegal.
Ontario police directed to lay charges in domestic violence cases.
Sexual harassment prohibited in workplaces under federal jurisdiction.
- 1984: Daurene Lewis: First Black woman elected mayor of a Canadian town.
- 1985: First Nations activist Jeanette Lavell achieves amendment to Indian Act, restoring status to First Nations women married to non-status men.
- 1986: Employment Equity Act introduced to correct discrimination against women, First Nations people, people with disabilities and visible minorities.
- 1991: Dec. 6 declared National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in commemoration of the Montreal Massacre, Dec. 6, 1989.
54% of university students are women; up from 40% in 1972, and 16% in 1921.
- 1993: Refugee guidelines include women facing gender-related persecution.
- 1995: Federal Plan for Gender Equality published.
- 1997: Third Family Violence Initiative launched.
- 1999: Supreme Court upholds Bill C-46, restricting access to medical files of sexual abuse victims, and affirms that "No means no"; "implied consent" non-existent in Canadian law.
- 2000: World March of Women launched to mobilize women, and advance actions to end poverty and violence against women.

The Rachel Marie 8/10/16