

VALUE OUR PAST

Value Our Past...



T. 613.729.2898
cbdesign@magma.ca



TOWARDS EQUALITY FOR WOMEN

A CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

TOWARDS EQUALITY FOR WOMEN A CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

• FROM JEANNE MANCE AND THANANDELTHUR TO 1885 •

ASSOCIATIONS

- 1870** **Agnes Blizzard** establishes the **FIRST Canadian Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)** in Saint John, New Brunswick. By 1875 also in Toronto, Montreal, Québec City and Halifax.
- 1870** **Hebrew Women's Society** is Founded to aid poor Jewish residents of Hamilton, Ontario.
- 1871** The **Montreal Ladies Educational Association** is founded with Anne Molson as President. The Association had honorary male members and a male treasurer. Its main goal was to have women accepted as students at McGill College.
- 1874** **Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)** is one of earliest organizations of volunteer women to create social change.
- 1875** **Henrietta Muir Edwards** and her sister open the **Working Girl's Association in Montréal**. It offered a boarding house, a reading room, classes and meal services.
- 1876** The **Toronto Women's Literary Club** is founded by **Dr Emily Howard Stowe** (1831-1903) and her daughter, **Dr Augusta Stowe-Gullen** (1857-1943). The group was created for suffrage activities.
- 1883** The **Toronto Women's Literary Club** becomes the **Toronto Women's Suffrage Association**.

SUFFRAGE / RIGHTS / ROLE IN SOCIETY

- 1666** Trois Rivières region of **Québec women** were running the trading post and some taverns, operating small businesses selling clothing, furs, utensils, brandy.
- 1713** Captured as a prize of war, **Thanandelthur** becomes a peace negotiator and paves the way for other native women to hold influential positions in trade relations.
- 1791** New Brunswick passes a law **excluding women** from the **RIGHT TO VOTE**.
- 1700's and 1800's** **Aboriginal women** have relative autonomy in sexual life and marriage, influence in community decision-making and participation in religious ceremonies.
- 1869** **Act for Gradual Enfranchisement of Indians** states: *"any Indian woman marrying other than an Indian shall cease to be an Indian, as will the children of such marriage"*.

1883 Prime Minister John A Macdonald introduces the **FIRST** of 3 suffrage bills in the House of Commons. All 3 are **DEFEATED**.

1885 The **FIRST Women's Suffrage petition** is presented to the Legislature of British Columbia.

EDUCATION

1658 Marguerite Bourgeys **FIRST** school teacher in Montreal.

1870's 50% of teachers in Canada are women.

1875 Grace Annie Lockhart earns the **FIRST** degree awarded to a woman in Canada from Mount Allison University.

LITERATURE / ARTS / MEDIA

1752 Elizabeth Bushell works with her father to establish the **FIRST** Canadian printing office and Canada's **FIRST** newspaper the weekly Halifax Gazette.

1852 Susanna Moodie publishes her book *Roughing It In The Bush*.

1853 March 24 - *Provincial Freeman* Founded by **Mary Ann Shadd** and her brother Isaac.

1868 Catherine Parr Trail and her niece **Agnes Moodie Fitzgibbon** publish *Canadian Wild Flowers* in order to earn money to survive.

1878 Félicité Angers (1845-1924) is the pen name of **Laure Conan**, author of nine novels of French Canadian Life. She is the **FIRST** French Canadian female novelist.

HEALTH

1640-44 Jeanne Mance - Founder of nursing in Canada; opens **FIRST** hospital, Hotel Dieu in Montréal.

1875-80 Dr Jennie Trout - **FIRST** licensed medical doctor; **Dr Lenore King** - Medical missionary to China; and **Dr Emily Stowe** – **FIRST** Canadian woman to practice legally in Canada.

1883 After being forced out by jealous male students, **Elizabeth Smith-Shortt** stimulated Queen's to establish **FIRST** Canadian Medical College for women. **FIRST** graduate: **Dr Augusta Stowe-Gullen**. Later she was one of the first members of the University Women's Club Toronto. Canadian Encyclopaedia

TOWARDS EQUALITY FOR WOMEN A CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS • 1886-1915 •

ASSOCIATIONS

- 1893** **National Council of Women** is formed - October 27 **Lady Aberdeen** (1857-1939), wife of the Governor General, chairs the organizational meeting of the National Council of Women of Canada.
- 1897** **FIRST Women's Institute** meets at Stoney Creek, Ontario,
- 1902** **The Coloured Women's Club of Montréal** was formed with a mandate of mutual aid and fighting poverty and social exclusion.
- 1907** **Federation Nationale Saint-Jean-Baptiste** is established; and the **FIRST** francophone women interested in promoting women's civil and political rights.
- 1910** **Girl Guides of Canada** holds **FIRST** meeting and is founded.

SUFFRAGE / RIGHTS / ROLE IN SOCIETY

- 1887** In Manitoba, women are **ALLOWED TO VOTE** in municipal elections, but are not eligible for municipal office until 1917.
- 1890** June 12-13: The **FIRST** convention of the **Dominion Women's Enfranchisement Association** is held in Toronto. Noted American Susan B. Anthony attends as a guest.
- 1898** **National Council of Women of Canada** prepares a handbook **Women of Canada: Their Life and Work**: *'history, achievements and position of the women of Canada as a whole'* for the Paris International Exhibition 1900. From the handbook which was reprinted in 1975:
Legal status: *"A mother stands legally in exactly the same position as a stranger.... A father may appoint by will a guardian or guardians to his infant children and oust the mother altogether."*
Publishing industry: *"If they demanded the same wages as men they would not be employed."*
New Brunswick teachers: women -1,530, men – 382, salary range: women - \$650 - \$175., men - \$2,000 - \$200. (see also SPORTS below)
- 1909** **The Criminal Code** is amended to criminalize the abduction of women. Before this, the abduction of any woman over 16 was legal, except if she was an heiress. The maximum penalty for stealing a cow was much higher than for kidnapping an heiress.

EDUCATION

- 1903 Emma Baker** becomes the **FIRST** woman to receive a Ph D from a Canadian University – in psychology, from University of Toronto.
- 1912 Carrie Mathilde Derick** of Québec – the **FIRST** woman to become a full professor in a Canadian university: Professor of Morphological Botany at McGill

LITERATURE / ARTS / MEDIA

- 1893 Laura Adeline Muntz Lyall** exhibits her work at the World Columbian Exhibition and the following year in Paris. She was the **FIRST** female Canadian artist to receive recognition outside Canada. She was allowed to be only an Associate of the Royal Canadian Academy in 1895, as women were denied the higher membership status until 1933.
- 1894 Margaret Marshall Saunders** (1861-1947) writes the novel *Beautiful Joe* and wins a competition by the American Humane Society; **FIRST** Canadian book to sell more than 1,000,000 copies. Printed in 14 languages.
- 1898 Kit Coleman** became the world's **FIRST** female war correspondent. She was also the **FIRST** syndicated columnist in Canada.
- 1899 Margaret Campbell MacPherson** exhibits 70 paintings in St John's Newfoundland. Her work is an important part of Newfoundland's cultural heritage.
- 1908 Lucy Maud Montgomery** publishes *Anne of Green Gables* in Boston. More than 1 million copies are sold in 20th century.
- 1908 Sewing Seeds in Danny**, the **FIRST** novel by writer, activist, social reformer **Nellie McClung** (1873-1951) was published and sold over 100,000 copies.

HEALTH

- 1893 Caroline Louisa Josephine Wells** is the **FIRST** woman to graduate and gain certification from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons. She was the **FIRST** dentist in Canada to work entirely in hospital dentistry.
- 1914** The **FIRST** group of Canadian nursing sisters embarks for England to serve in World War 1.

SPORTS

- 1889 Isobel Stanley**, daughter of Governor General Lord Stanley of Preston, is one of the **FIRST** women hockey players in Canada. Her Government House hockey team played the Rideau Ladies team in what may be the **FIRST** women's hockey game on the ice rink at Rideau Hall.

- 1900** The **FIRST** Canadian women's ice hockey league is organized in Québec with three teams from Montréal, one from Québec City, and another from Trois-Rivieres.
- 1900** In the handbook **Women of Canada**, the list of sports clubs includes 4 women's hockey clubs, 1 fencing club, 1 basketball club and many tennis, golf and curling clubs.
(see 1898 - Suffrage / Rights / Role in Society above)
- 1903** A **women's curling team** from Québec City (Canada) defeats a men's curling team from the Royal Caledonia in Scotland.
- 1913** **Women's ice hockey** is played at the University of Saskatchewan.



TOWARDS EQUALITY FOR WOMEN A CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS • 1916-1930 •

ASSOCIATIONS

- 26/August/1919** **University Women's Clubs** from Toronto (1903), Victoria (1908), Winnipeg (1909), Ottawa and Edmonton (1910), Regina (1915), Saskatoon (1918), met in Winnipeg for the inaugural meeting in Scarborough of the "Federation of University Women in Canada; later becoming the **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**
- 1920** **Catholic Women's League** established in Montreal.
- 1926** **Alexandrine Gibb** leads the organization of the **Women's Amateur Athletic Federation of Canada (WAAF)**, which initiated international competition for Canadian women.
- 1930** **The Business and Professional Women Canada** is formed with the goal to develop the professional and leadership potential of women.

SUFFRAGE / RIGHTS / ROLE IN SOCIETY

- 1884** **FIRST** municipal **franchise granted** to widows and spinsters in Ontario, followed by variations on this municipal theme in other provinces during 1990s.
- 1890-1900** Many bills for the **provincial enfranchisement of women** were introduced into the legislatures of Ontario, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, and Quebec, and were defeated.
- 27/January/1916** Manitoba was the **FIRST** province to enfranchise women:
- 1916** Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta
 - 1917** British Columbia
 - 1918** Nova Scotia
 - 1919** New Brunswick
 - 1922** Prince Edward Island
 - 1925** Newfoundland (women over 25)
- 1914** Mrs. Jamieson, **FIRST** woman judge in Canada
- 1918** **Mrs. Louise M. McKinney** and **Miss Roberta McAdams** were the **FIRST** women in the British Empire to be elected to the legislature.
- 1918** **Mary Ellen Smith** was the **FIRST** woman elected to the British Columbia legislature advocating **Mothers' Pensions** and **Female Minimum Wage Act**; in 1921 was appointed the **FIRST** Cabinet

Minister in the British Empire; later **FIRST SPEAKER** of the House in the British Empire.

1921 **Agnes McPhail** becomes **FIRST** woman elected to the House of Commons, also **FIRST** woman appointed to League of Nations; in 1943 was one of two first women elected to the Ontario Legislative Assembly representing CCF; in 1951 was responsible for the Ontario Equal Pay Act; and founded the **Elizabeth Fry Society of Canada**.

1928 After a petition by the **Famous Five (Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney, Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards)** the Supreme Court of Canada decides that under the BNA women are not 'persons' and cannot be appointed to the Senate.

1929 British Privy Council overturns Supreme Court decision and **WOMEN ARE DEEMED TO BE 'PERSONS'** and can be appointed to the Senate.

EDUCATION

1918 **Frances Fish** became the **FIRST** woman to receive a law degree from Dalhousie University and the **FIRST** woman admitted to the Nova Scotia bar. She specialized in divorce cases in an era when adultery was the only grounds.

LITERATURE / ARTS / MEDIA

1918 **Annette Saint Amant** became the **FIRST** woman francophone journalist in Saskatchewan at Le Patriot de l'Ouest.

1918 **Beatrice Furniss** (1884-1977) is the **ONLY** woman journalist accredited to cover the peace treaty negotiations in Paris.

1928 **Anne Decter** becomes the **FIRST** Canadian woman radio broadcaster.

HEALTH

1923 **Mona Gordon Wilson** became the Chief Public Health Officer for the Red Cross of Prince Edward Island. She became the superintendent when the government took over public health, working for school inspections, small pox vaccination, children's health and prenatal care.

1924 The **Canadian Birth Control League** starts in British Columbia.

1929 **Women's branch** of the Saskatchewan section of the **United Farmers of Canada** asks the government to rescind the ban on the distribution of birth control information.

SPORTS

- 1915** Percy Page organizes the **Edmonton Grads of Canada**, the most successful women's basketball team with 502 wins and only 20 losses from 1915-1940. Over the next 35 years, the Edmonton Grads win 502 of 522 basketball games and 4 world championships.
- 1922** In April, the **FIRST Women's Olympic Games** were organized by the Federation Sportive Feminine Internationale in France. England, France, Italy, Norway, and Switzerland competed in a program that included 60 meters, 250 meters, 800 meter relay, 300 meter, 800 meter, and 74 meter hurdles races, high jump, javelin, and shot put. In one day alone, 20,000 spectators watched 18 world records being broken.
- 1928** Women are admitted to the Olympic Games in Amsterdam in 5 athletics events (there are 22 events for men). **Betty Robinson** wins the 100 meters to become the **FIRST** female track victor in the Olympic Games, and 18-year-old **Canadian Ethel Catherwood**, known as "The Saskatoon Lily", wins the gold medal in the high jump. Other Canadian champions include: **Florence Bell**, **Myrtle Cook**, **Fanny Bobbie Rosenfeld**, and **Ethel Smith** win the 400 yd. Relay. **Dorothy Prior** is the **FIRST** Canadian woman to enter Olympic swimming events.
- 1928** Track athlete **Gertrude Phinney** of Nova Scotia, known as **Queen of the Girl Runners**, is selected for the 1928 Olympics team. Her father feels the competition is too strenuous and **refuses** to allow her to participate.



TOWARDS EQUALITY FOR WOMEN A CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS • 1931-1960 •

ASSOCIATIONS

- 1934** CFUW established the **Legal and Economic Status of Women Committee** to co-operate with IFUW and keep clubs informed on questions concerning women's rights. (See 1979)
- 1939** **Agnes McPhail** establishes the **Canadian Elizabeth Fry Society** in Vancouver with the mission of working with women in conflict with the law.
- 1943** **Penny (O'Brian) Cooke** together with over 60 other Canadian-born women play in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League; and all were inducted into the **Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame** in St. Marys, Ontario.
- 1945** **Dr Lotta Hitchmanova** founds the Unitarian Service Committee, Canada's **FIRST** overseas relief and development agency.
- Post War:** Women's volunteer organizations, such as the **Women's Institutes** and the **National Council of Women of Canada**, worked to improve the lives of women. The **National Council of Jewish Women** promoted the creation of social services, especially for the elderly. Organizations such as the YWCA set up public affairs committees to promote anti-discrimination employment laws.
- 1947** **CFUW Penal Reform Committee** is set up to study the recommendations of the 1938 Archambault Report, leading to advocacy and education of public.

SUFFRAGE / RIGHTS / ROLE IN SOCIETY

- 1931** **Cairine Wilson** becomes the **FIRST** woman appointed to the Senate of Canada.
- 1934** Women gain the **right to hold elected public office** in New Brunswick.
- 1934** **P4W** The **FIRST** female maximum security prison opened in Kingston. Average population in 1930's: 40.
- 1936** **Barbara Hanley** becomes the **FIRST** woman elected mayor of a town in Canada, Webwood Ontario.
- 1940** Women in Quebec gain the **RIGHT TO VOTE** in provincial elections; completing the enfranchisement of women in Canada.
- 1941** Unemployment insurance legislation does not include domestic servants, teachers, or nurses.

1943 Agnes Campbell Macphail is one of two **FIRST** women elected to the Ontario Legislative Assembly.

Post War: The Prime Minister asked cabinet ministers **not to employ** female secretaries. Married women who served during the war were discharged. Married women were barred from the federal civil service until 1955.

1949 Nancy Hodges becomes the **FIRST** woman speaker in the British Columbia legislature, and in the Commonwealth.

1951 Charlotte Whitton 1896-1975; social worker, feminist and politician; **FIRST** Mayor of a large city, serving until 1964. (www.FamousCanadianWomen.com)

1953 Five women become the **FIRST** women to sit on a jury in Ontario.

1954 The **Women's Bureau** of the federal Department of Labour is created.

1955 The **Business and Professional Women** and the **National Council of Women** were successful in lobbying Ontario to adopt equal pay legislation. Other provinces followed.

EDUCATION

'FUN WITH DICK AND JANE' the American sex stereotyped reading series was part of the curriculum as late as the '60s in some provincial school systems. Dick ran and jumped and played with boats, Jane watched and played with dolls, Father went out to work and Mother wore her apron as she cooked and cleaned. In Quebec GUY AND YVETTE were similar role models of female subordination.

1941 Dr Jessie Gray is the **FIRST** woman to receive a gold medal for the highest standing in a graduating medical class at the University of Toronto and **FIRST** woman to become a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada. She also becomes a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is the **FIRST** woman to address its annual congress. She was a member of University Women's Club Toronto.

LITERATURE / ARTS / MEDIA

1944 June Callwood keeps her birth name when she marries Trent Frame to avoid losing her job. She is employed by the Globe and Mail and the policy is not to employ married women.

1957 Doris Anderson becomes editor of Chatelaine magazine. The circulation grew almost 4 times with the new feminist content.

1962 The French magazine **La Revue** publishes an article on birth control that produces an avalanche of mail. The editor, **Francine Montpetit** is fired 2 months later.

HEALTH

- 1932** **Dr Elizabeth Bagshaw** (1881-1982) opens the **FIRST** Canadian family planning clinic in Hamilton, Ontario.
- 1936** Social Worker **Dorothea Palmer** is arrested and charged under the **Criminal Code of Canada** for offering birth control information. She is acquitted in 1937
- 1948** **Ruth Bailey** and **Gwendolyn Barton** are the **FIRST** African Canadian women to graduate from a Canadian nursing school.
- 1960** **Birth Control pills** are approved by the US Food and Drug Administration,

SPORTS

- 1943** **Olive Bend Little** of Poplar Point, Manitoba leaves her job as teacher (\$75/month) to become the all star pitcher for the Rockland Peaches of the American Girls Baseball League (\$100/week). The team was immortalized in the film *A League of Their Own* in 1992.
- 1948** **Barbara Ann Scott** wins the Olympic, World and International figure skating titles.
- 1951** **Winnie Roach Leuszler**, a 25-year-old mother of three, swims the English Channel in 13 hours, 25 minutes. She is the **FIRST** Canadian to swim the English Channel and is the **FIRST** woman to create learn-to-swim programs for the YWCA.
- 1954** **Marilyn Bell** at the age of 16 years becomes the **FIRST** person to swim across Lake Ontario.

TOWARDS EQUALITY FOR WOMEN A CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

• 1961-1975 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR •

ASSOCIATIONS

- 1960's** The **Voice of Women** is at the forefront in the 1960's. The Toronto chapter is formed in response to the failure of the Paris Peace talks in 1960. Across Canada groups are prominent in the peace movement and raising awareness of issues: environment, human rights, science policy and the status of women and initiated anti-discrimination against blacks in Nova Scotia.
- 1962** The Cuban Missile Crisis brought the **Voice of Women** delegates to Ottawa. They raised awareness of the relationship of Canada to the United States in foreign policy Biculturalism and bilingualism brought the Voice of Women's Peace Train delegation, led by Therese Casgrain, to Ottawa.
- 1971** The **Committee on Equality for Women**, led by **Laura Sabia** evolved into the **National ad hoc Action Committee for Women** and then dropped the ad hoc and became NAC in 1972, one of the largest umbrella organizations of women's groups.
- 1974** **National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL)**: created at the University of Windsor Law School and for the next 30 years worked through the Law Reform Commission of Canada.

REPRESENTATION / RIGHTS / ROLE IN SOCIETY

- 1966** **CFUW President, Laura Sabia**, was a "spark plug" in convincing the government to establish the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. She presented briefs on divorce, domicile, taxation, and minimum age of marriage. CFUW provided the needed leadership in bringing together 32 national women's organizations in a successful demand for a royal Commission.
- 1967** February 16th the **Royal Commission on the Status of Women** is established with Florence Bird as chairperson. The mandate: to ensure for women equal opportunities in all aspects of Society.
- 1968** **Canadian divorce laws** are reformed to allow divorce on the basis of marital breakdown, adultery, mental or physical cruelty.
- 1970** February 8th the report of the **Royal Commission on the Status of Women** is tabled with 167 recommendations, 122 are within the federal jurisdiction.
- 1971** The office of the **Coordinator, Status of Women**, is established within the Privy Council Office. The **FIRST** Cabinet minister given responsibility for the Status of Women is Robert Andras.

- 1972** The **Office of the Equal Opportunities for Women** is established within the Public Services Commission of the Government of Canada.
- 1972** **Royal Commission Recommendations 102 and 103** implemented: Women are no longer required to apply for a passport in their husband's name.
- 1972** The **Honourable Muriel McQueen Ferguson**, honorary president of Fredericton University Women's Club and a member of the Ottawa club, appointed **FIRST** female Speaker of Senate.
- 1973** **Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women** is established.
- 1974** **Women and the Law Conference: Irene Murdoch's** lost case in the Supreme Court was a wake-up call for middle class women. At the conference former **MP Judy LaMarsh** said: *"If the courts can deny a ranch wife any claim to the property she helped acquire through hard work over a period of 25 years, what about the rest of us?"* Family property law became the focus of **CFUW** clubs for 1975, International Women's Year.
- 1974** **Pauline McGibbon** is appointed Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the **FIRST** Canadian woman to hold such a position.
- 1974** **The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women** reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women **"What's Been Done"**. Of 122 recommendations, 42 implemented, 37 partially implemented.
- 1975** **President Dr Ruth Bell** led CFUW's national project for International Women's Year: **Foster the Roster** was the slogan for roster of Canadian women qualified for community and public service.
- 1975** **Sylvia Ostry: FIRST** woman to hold the rank of Deputy Minister, Canadian Government
- 1975** The **World Conference of Women**, Mexico City: CFUW was represented by President **Dr Gwen Black**. She said *"One thing is certain; no one who attended will ever again relate to the women's movement in quite the same way as before."*

EDUCATION

- 1968** **McGill Student Society** published a **Birth Control Handbook** and became involved in abortion counseling.
- 1970** **FIRST Women's Studies** courses are offered at Universities of Toronto, Montreal, McGill, Guelph and Waterloo.

LITERATURE / ARTS / MEDIA

- 1967** At the age of 55, **Anna Minerva Henderson** publishes *Citadel*, a collection of poetry by an African-Canadian woman.
- 1972** **Bernalda Winona Sakasikwe Wheeler**, becomes the producer and host of *"Our Native Land"*. A fearless Aboriginal journalist, she exposed injustices against Aboriginal people.

1973 *Long Time Coming*, the **FIRST** lesbian newsletter is started in Montreal.

1974 **Kathleen Shannon** (1935-1998) fought for a film studio for women filmmakers; succeeds when Studio D is created, **FIRST** government-funded film studio dedicated to women **in the world**.

1975 **Renue-menage of Montreal**: a French-language publishing house was established by a collective of students and artists to advance and support the status of women.

HEALTH

1969 **The Criminal Code** is amended so it is no longer an offence to distribute **birth control information** and prescribe contraceptives.

1970 After the death of her infant son in a car accident, **Joy Salmon Moon** became Chair of the **Consumers' Association of Canada** Children's Automobile Safety Committee. Mothers of toddlers lobbied for legislation. 1986 all provinces required protection for infants and children in automobiles.

1970 **Sue Johanson** opens **FIRST** birth control clinic in high school in North America in Don Mills.

1970 Abortion is available on a case-by-case basis with a panel of 3 doctors.

1974 **CARAL** (**Canadian Association for the Repeal of Abortion Legislation**, and after 1980 **Canadian Abortion Rights Action League**) mobilize many groups on the issue of abortion reform.

SPORTS

1974 The **FIRST** National Conference on Women in Sport is held in Toronto. This leads the way to the creation of **Sports Canada's Women's Program**.

TOWARDS EQUALITY FOR WOMEN A CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

• 1976-1985 •

ASSOCIATIONS

- 1976** Following their attendance at the **1975 United Nations Conference for Women** held in Mexico City, Two Canadian women, **Dr Norma E. Walmsley** and Ms. **Suzanne Johnson-Harvor**, establish **MATCH International Centre**, a Canadian-based non-governmental organization. MATCH is created to bring to life a feminist vision of what development work can, and should, mean: equality, dignity, opportunity, and a better life for women and men the world over. (See 2010)
- 1976** The **Lesbian Organization** of Toronto is formed.
- 1977** **Coop-femmes**, a Francophone lesbian group is formed in Montreal.
- 1977** **Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW)** protest sadistic pornography and 'snuff' movies and initiate *Take Back The Night* marches.
- 1979** **CFUW's Legal and Economic Status of Women Committee** is renamed to reflect changes in society and becomes the **Status of Women and Human Rights Committee**.
- 1981** The **Women in Coaching Program** is established by the Coaching Association of Canada.
- 1985** **LEAF (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund)** is formed April 19th, 2 days after the Equality clause became part of the Charter of Rights and Freedom.

REPRESENTATION / RIGHTS / ROLE IN SOCIETY

- 1977** The **Canadian Citizenship Act** is amended to allow women to confer Canadian Citizenship on their children.
- 1979** The **Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women**, published the report **10 YEARS LATER**, documenting federal government action on the 122 recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. The score: 43 implemented, 53 partially implemented, 24 not implemented, 2 not applicable.
- 1980** **Jeanne Sauve** is appointed Speaker of the House of Commons, becoming the **FIRST** woman in Canadian history to hold that office.
- 1980** The Government of Canada, through Fitness and Amateur Sport, (Sport Canada) creates a **Women's Program**.

- 1981 Abby Hoffman** (born Toronto 11/February/1947) becomes the **FIRST** woman director of the federal government's Sport Canada.
- 1982 Iona Campagnolo** becomes the **FIRST** woman President of the Liberal Party of Canada.
- 1982** February 4th **Ad Hoc Women's Constitutional Conference**. April 17th The **Charter of Rights and Freedoms** was signed into law. However Section 15 was added April 17th 1985: Equality before and under the law and equal protection and benefit of law.
- 1983** The **Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women** publishes *Playing From Strength*, a Canadian woman's guide to initiating political action. The opening quote: "*The country is yours, ladies. Politics is simply a public affair: yours and mine and everyone's...*" Nellie McClung 1917.
- 1983 Focus on Women '83** conference is held in Manitoba to assess the status of women in Manitoba from all perspectives: Women and Employment, Women and Education, Women and Violence, Women and Aging, Women and Health, Family Issues, Women and the Arts, Women and the Law
- 1984 Energy Minister Pat Carney** is refused entrance to the dining room and bar at the Petroleum Club in Calgary. The ban is reaffirmed in 1986.
- 1985 Grace Hartman** became head of the largest union, The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

EDUCATION

- 1982 Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology** was established by the University of Alberta. The organization offers a Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) conference for girls in grades 10-12 to familiarize them with science careers.

LITERATURE / ARTS / MEDIA

- 1981 Bonnie Sherr Klein's** landmark film *Not a Love Story: A Film About Pornography* opened public discourse about pornography. Bonnie felt that films made by **Studio D**, the feminist studio of the National Film Board were an integral part of the women's movement.
- 1982 McClung's Magazine** - A feminist magazine out of Ryerson University. "*We give our readers stories about women they can't find anywhere else.*"
- 1982 Michele Landsberg** writes *Women and Children First*, a provocative look at modern Canadian women at work and at home

HEALTH

- 1977** The **FIRST** home pregnancy test is available.

SPORTS

- 1976 Sue Holloway** (born 1955) in 1976, became the **FIRST** Canadian woman to compete in winter and summer Olympic games in the same year.

TOWARDS EQUALITY FOR WOMEN A CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

• 1986-1995 •

ASSOCIATIONS

- 1984 R.E.A.L. Women** - Real, Equal, Active for Life is formed. A number of feminists proclaim themselves **FAKE Women – Feminists for All Kinds of Equality**.
- 1995 Muriel Stanley Venne** founded the **Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women**. IAAW recognizes achievements of aboriginal women in Alberta with the annual Esquao Awards. The Institute advocates on behalf of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada.

REPRESENTATION / RIGHTS / ROLE IN SOCIETY

- 1986 Shirley Carr** becomes the **FIRST** woman president of the Canadian Labour Congress.
- 1986 Sports Canada** issues a **Policy on Women in Sport**, calling for equal opportunities for women and men to compete, coach, officiate and administer sport at all levels.
- 1988 Marjorie Bowker** is appointed Alberta's **FIRST** woman Family Court judge.
- 1991 Rita Johnston** becomes the **FIRST** premier of a province – British Columbia.
- 1993 Avril Phaedra Douglas “Kim” Campbell**, PC, CC, QC (1947) becomes the **FIRST** woman to hold the office of 1994 Prime Minister of Canada, serving from June 25, 1993, to November 4, 1993.
- 1993 Catherine Callbeck** is the **FIRST** woman to lead her party to victory in a provincial election becoming the 28th premier of Prince Edward Island.
- 1994 Linda Souter**, second vice-president of the **International Federation of University Women**, co-authors a training manual for workshop leaders. **“Planning For Change”** which was translated and used by women worldwide.

EDUCATION

- 1989 Monique Frize FIRST** Chair of Women in Engineering University of New Brunswick (first official duty is to attend funeral for 14 engineering students at Ecole Polytechnique).

2001 Akitsiraq Law School officially opened in Nunavit: a 4-year project of the University of Victoria through the facilities of Nunavit Arctic College. Of its graduates, the **"FAMOUS 11"**, four years later, 10 were women. (The program may begin again in 2010.)

LITERATURE / ARTS / MEDIA

1986/87 Raging Grannies start in Victoria, British Columbia over the winter of 1986/87. There are now groups in many cities and towns in different countries. All women are old enough to be grandmothers, these social justice activists dress up in clothes that mock stereotypes of older women, and sing songs at protest rallies. Often writing the lyrics themselves or putting their political messages to the tunes of well-known songs, they give voice to peace and environmental causes.

1988 Alison Prentice, Paula Bourne, Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Beth Light, Wendy Mirchison and Naomi Black write **CANADIAN WOMEN A HISTORY**. (Comment: READ THIS BOOK!)

HEALTH

1993 The **Canadian Women's Health Network (CWHN)** is formed: a voluntary national organization to improve the health and lives of girls and women in Canada and the world. It is a far-reaching web of researchers and activists, mothers, daughters, caregivers, and family members, people working in community clinics and on hospital floors, at the university, in provincial and federal health ministries, and in women's organizations, all dedicated to bettering women's health and equality.

SPORTS

1986 Sharon Wood from Canmore, Alberta is the **FIRST** Canadian woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest (2). Only a century before, women were discouraged from any sport by doctors who claimed sports women's uteruses would shrivel and they would become mentally ill.

1988 October 2 - **Carolyn Waldo** (1964) wins a gold medal in synchronized swimming and a second gold in the duet synchronized swimming with Michelle Cameron. Waldo is the **FIRST** Canadian woman to win two gold medals at a Summer Olympics.

1988 Vicki Keith Munro. (1961) A superb marathon swimmer becomes the **FIRST** person to swim across all five North American Great Lakes. She swims the Great Lakes to earn money for charity.

TOWARDS EQUALITY FOR WOMEN A CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS • 1996-2010 •

ASSOCIATIONS

- 1996** **Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan** is founded to advance education and educational opportunities for Afghan women and their families. (www.cw4wafghan.ca/who-we-are/history)
- 1997** **Women's Executive Network; WxN** a networking, mentoring association dedicated to the advancement and recognition of executive-minded women in the workplace. (www.wxnetwork.com)
- 2004** **Amnesty International Canada** issues a report – *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination Against Indigenous Women in Canada*. (www.amnesty.ca)
- 2005** **Sisters in Spirit**, a federally funded initiative of the **Native Women's Association of Canada** compiled a list of 520 missing or murdered Canadian Aboriginal women since 1970. (www.nwac-hq.org)
- 2006** The **Ad Hoc Coalition for Women's Equality and Human Rights**, (www.womensequality.ca) comprised of 28 women's groups, unions and human rights organizations, is formed in response to federal funding cuts to Status of Women, defunding of the **Court Challenges Program** and the abandonment of the **Universal Child Care plan**. (www.womensequality.ca) (www.egaledesfemmes.ca)
- 2006** In September, 9 year old **Alaina Podmorow** was so moved by a speech made by writer, journalist, Sally Armstrong who told the reality of how women and girls were being treated in Afghanistan that she decided right then to make a difference. **Little Women for Little Women in Afghanistan** raises money for teachers' salaries so little girls can go to school. (www.littlewomenforlittlewomen.com)
- 2006** **African and Canadian Grandmothers** deliver a message to the world. The **'Toronto Statement'** is the culmination of the key points from the Grandmothers' Gathering. It is presented to representatives from UNAIDS and XVI International AIDS Conference at the close of the Gathering. By 2010 there are over 200 'Granny Groups' in Canada. (www.grandmotherscampaign.org)
- 2008** **Global Brigades**, a student-led global health and development organization forms a branch at Mount Allison University, N.B. (www.globalbrigades.org)
- 2009** On December 10th, **Human Rights' Day, Family Law Education for Women (FLEW)** unveiled a public legal education project **All Women One Family Law**. Information is provided online and in print in 13 languages. (www.onefamilylaw.ca)

REPRESENTATION / RIGHTS / ROLE IN SOCIETY

- 1998** **Linda Souter, President of the International Federation of University Women**, led the delegation to the UNESCO World Conference on Higher education. They managed to get a one-sentence reference to '*women and other minorities*' changed and expanded to five full paragraphs on women's access to and participation in higher education in the final document.
- 2000** **P4W The Prison for Women** in Kingston closed on July 6th
- 2004** **Mary Ann Burdett** is the **FIRST** woman elected Dominion President of the Royal Canadian Legion. As president she attended the wedding of Prince Floris in Holland. The Royal Canadian Legion was named godparent in gratitude for sheltering his mother and grandmother during WWII.
- 2009** **Annual Corporate Governance Survey**: 59% of corporations on the S & P/TSX index have at least one female director; and 13% of directors on Canada's 500 largest corporations are female.
- 2010** **Women in Prisons in Canada**: In the past decade there has been a 55% increase in the number of women starting federal prison sentences. These women share some common traits: 82% have a history of sexual or physical abuse, and many are homeless, undereducated and have addictions or mental-health problems. In the same period the increase for men was 15%.
- 2010** **Federal budget cuts** decrease funding to a record number of women's groups: end of 34 years for **MATCH** International Centre; cuts include: Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (**CRIAW**); Conseil d'intervention pour l'accès des femmes au travail (**CIAPT**); New Brunswick Pay Equity Coalition; Réseau des Tables régionales de groupes de femmes du Québec; Alberta Network of Immigrant Women; Centre de documentation sur l'éducation des adultes et la condition féminine; Association féminine d'éducation et d'action sociale (**AFEAS**); Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (**OAITH**); Womenspace Resource Centre - Lethbridge, AB; Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA); Feminists for Just and Equitable Public Policy (**FemJEPP**) in Nova Scotia. Examples of organizations that are receiving money: Chakam School of the Bible Inc. - \$357,146; Wycliffe Bible Translators - \$495,600; Spinach Based Cosmetics - \$281, 586; Horse Canada Magazine - \$24,920; 4 Wheel Drive Magazine - \$21, 070; Ontario Golf Magazine - \$26,070; Wine Access Magazine - \$34.390; Twitter Campaign to promote seal hunt - \$50,000 - \$100,000.
(<http://www.cbc.ca/politics/insidepolitics>)

EDUCATION

- 2010** Women out-number men in Canadian Universities, eg. at University of Alberta the ratio is 3/2.

LITERATURE / ARTS / MEDIA

- 1997-1999** **Lilith Fair**, a celebration of women in music featuring artists, one of the highest grossing touring festivals in the world, with over 1.5 million fans in attendance and raising over \$10 million dollars for national and local charities. The tour returns in 2010.
- 1999** **Donna Heimecker** helps establish the **Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company** (SNTC), which established a program to transform Aboriginal youth's experiences into drama.

- 2001** **Judy Rebick**, head of NAC 1990-93 is publisher of **Rabble.ca**, an alternative multimedia independent source of news and editorials available on screen, podcasts and iPhone apps.
- 2005** Documentary film ***Stolen Sisters*** brings the story of missing Aboriginal women to television.
- 2007** The film ***Water***, directed by **Deepa Mehta** was nominated for best foreign language film in the Academy Awards. It was the third in a trilogy set in India that Deepa began in 1995.
- 2009** **Judy Rebick** writes: ***Transforming Power: From the Personal to the Political***.
- 2010** **Leela Gilday**, Aboriginal JUNO award winning song-writer and singer makes a call for justice with her album '***Calling All Warriors***'. The title track addresses the hundreds of missing or murdered indigenous women in Canada and the people who remember them every day.

HEALTH

- 1997** **FIRST** World Conference on **BREAST CANCER** is held in Kingston Ontario
- 2010** **Webinars** are a means of online networking and education.. Webinars on topics such as Gender-bending and Environmental Justice and Women, Gender and Disaster are organized by the **Canadian Women's Health Network (CWHN)**.

SPORTS

- 1998** **Sandra Schmirler** of Biggar, Saskatchewan led her team of Marcia Gudereit, Joan McCusker, Jan Betker and Atina Ford to win the **FIRST** Gold Medal for women's curling at the Olympics in Nagano, Japan.
- 2010** **Vancouver Olympics**: In a total of 26 medals in Vancouver 2010, Canada won 14 Gold, 7 Silver, 5 Bronze. Of those, women won 6 Gold, 6 Silver and 3 Bronze
- 2010** Paralympic Games in Vancouver: Electrical engineer and skier, **Lauren Woolstencroft** earned **FIVE GOLD MEDALS**.
- 2010** Olympic Committee **refuses** to hold women's downhill ski jumping in Vancouver, despite strong objections.