

**1972** Establishment of Office of Equal Opportunities for Women in Public Service Commission.

**1973** Jean Folster of Norway House became the first female treaty Indian in Manitoba to become a magistrate.

**1974** -The RCMP hired its first female member.  
-Legislature passes allowing for the splitting of Canada/Quebec pension credits on dissolution of marriage.

**1978** Female flight attendants won the right to continue working after marriage and past the age of 32. The same year the law changed so that women could not be fired for pregnancy in federally regulated industry

**1980** Nova Scotia the first woman to be elected leader of a provincial political party holding seats was Alexa McDonough. Also law disallowing women fishers working with their husbands from UI benefits was overturned.

**1981** Extensive lobbying and women's rights were included in the constitution.

**1982** After being laughed at in the House of Commons when she raised the issue of violence against women. National attention was brought to the issue.

**1983** -Rape laws were broadened to sexual assault and for the first time made it a criminal offense for a man to rape his wife.

-Canadian Human Rights Act prohibited sexual harassment in workplace under federal jurisdiction. Before this there was no recourse.

**1985** -Law was changed so that Aboriginal women who married non status men could retain their Indian status,  
-CRIAW Board member Audrey McLaughlin was elected to the House of Commons as MP for the Yukon, in 1989 becoming leader of a federal political party with sitting members.

**1986** Sharon Wood from Canmore, Alberta was the first Canadian woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest. A century before women were discouraged from any sport by doctors who claimed sportswomen's uteruses would shrivel and they would become mentally ill.

**1987** Systematic discrimination in the hiring of women is found to be unlawful. A tribunal discovers that CNR has made no real effort to hire women and orders the CNR to start an employment equity program. CNR refuses and

appeals to the Supreme Court and loses citing s.41 (2) (a) of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

**1989** the Supreme Court of Canada decides that sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination.

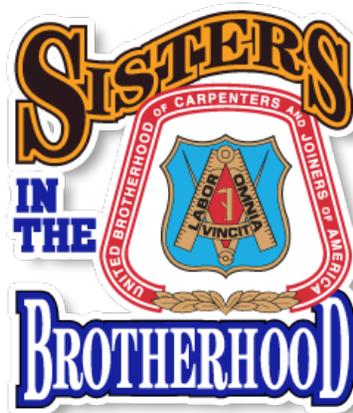
**1993** Canada's refugee guidelines were changed to include women facing gender related persecution.

**1999** The Supreme Court ruled that job standards and tests cannot be solely based on capabilities that would favour men. The case was brought by BC forest fighter Tawney Meiorin, who had been laid off from her job after a completely satisfactory job performance due to a new physical fitness test based on men's abilities and having little to do with the actual ability to do the job.

**2011** After 28 year battle with Canada Post PSAC was awarded over quarter of a billion to women who were refused equal pay for equal work.

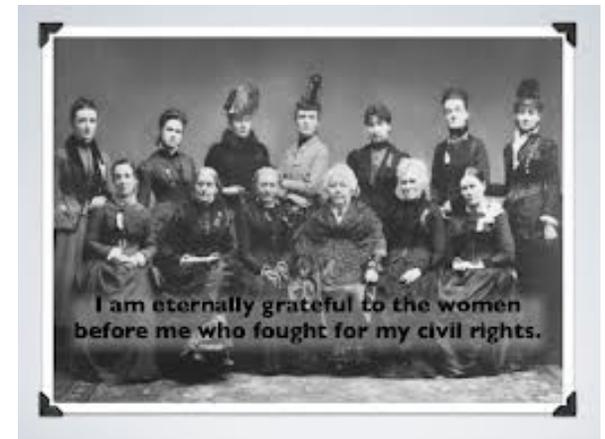
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## **together a Fact Sheet on Women's Contributions in Canadian History**



**In Celebration of International  
Women's Day we have put**

**1897**, Clara Brett Martin became Canada's first woman to practice law in the British Empire. Overcoming editorials opposing it on grounds of physical attraction between them and judges and juries she lobbied for a bill in Ontario overturning the Law Society of Upper Canada's regulations barring women because they were not 'persons'. She overcame widespread ridicule.

**1906** Manitoba Legislation barred married women from municipal vote and restored these privileges in 1907.

**1909** The criminal Code was amended to criminalize the abduction of women over the age of 16.

**1913** The Home and Domestic Employees Union was formed in Vancouver. In 1915 Helena Gutteridge ensured that equal pay was written into the Vancouver Trades and Labour Council constitution. Together with other women's groups and labour activism resulted in BC's first minimum wage act in 1918.

**1916** -Women in Alberta are given the provincial vote.  
-Women in Saskatchewan are given the provincial vote.  
-Women with property are permitted to hold office in Saskatchewan  
-Nellie McClung and the Political Equality League gave voting rights to women in Manitoba.  
-Women in British Columbia are given the provincial vote.  
-Nurses, under the Military Voters Act are given the federal vote,  
-Women's suffrage activist and shit-disturber Emily Murphy became Canada's first women judge.

**1917** -BC women with close relatives in armed forces can vote in behalf of male relatives for the federal vote.  
-Miss Robert McAdams and Mrs. Louise McKinney in Alberta are first women elected to Provincial Legislatures.  
-Women given full federal franchise except native women

**1918** -Women given the right to vote in Nova Scotia.  
-Canadian Women obtained right to vote in federal election

**1919** Women given the vote in New Brunswick.

**1920** Under the Dominion Elections Act women had the right to be elected to Parliament. Mary Ellen Smith was

appointed first woman Cabinet Minister in BC and British Empire.

**1921** - Agnes Mchail is the first woman elected to the House of Commons.  
-Women in Prince Edward Island are given the right to vote in provincial elections and hold elected office.

**1922** Martha Bowes of Saskatoon was the first female Canadian radio broadcaster.

**1925** -Women over 25 are given the vote in Newfoundland.  
-Federal divorce law was changed to allow a woman to divorce her husband on the same grounds that a man could, simple adultery. Before she had to prove adultery in conjunction with other acts such as 'sodomy' or 'bestiality'.

**1927** Emily Murphy, Irene Parlby, Nellie McClung, Henrietta Muir Edwards and Louise Crummy McKinney petition the Supreme Court of Canada decision on whether women are "persons" according to the British North America Act of 1867.

**1928** The Department of Justice recommends to Prime Minister King that the best question to present to the Supreme Court is "Does the word 'persons' in the Section 24 include female persons?"  
The Supreme in Edwards vs Canada, decides that a woman is not a qualified person and cannot be appointed to Senate.

**1929** the five women challenge the highest appeals court of the time, The Judicial Privy Council of England which overturns the decision, Oct 18, women are considered persons and eligible to become members of Senate.

**1930** Federal divorce laws allow a woman deserted by her husband to sue for divorce after 2 years. Before that a woman's legal residence was wherever her husband lived even if she didn't know where that was. -

**1931** Cairine Reay Wilson of Montreal becomes the first woman appointed to the Senate.

**1934** Women are permitted to hold elected office in New Brunswick.

**1938** In Nova Scotia minimum wage laws that protected women now expanded to men.

**1940** Quebec women obtained the provincial vote. 1941 Quebec women allowed to practice law.

**1943** Women took over male jobs during war time.

**1945** Emily Carr died and the National Gallery exhibited her work.

**1946** Chinese women entering Canada regulations were relaxed since Chinese men had been building the railroad since 1860 and were not permitted to citizenship till 1946.

**1947** Canadian women no longer lost citizenship automatically if they married a non-Canadian.

**1948** Federal Elections Act is changed so race is no longer grounds for exclusion to vote.

**1951** Ontario enacted Canada's first equal pay legislation.

**1952** Women allowed to be jurors in Manitoba. New Brunswick followed 1954, PEI 1966.

**1955** Restrictions on married women in federal public service was removed. Before they were fired upon marriage.

**1958** Margaret Meagher is appointed ambassador to Israel and the first female Canadian head of a diplomatic mission.

**1960** Aboriginal men and women obtained the right to vote.

**1961** Canadian Bill of Rights is passed.

**1967** For the first time, a member of the Federal Cabinet Robert Andras is given the responsibility for Status of Women concerns. The Royal Commission on the Status of Women is set up.

**1971** -Canada accepted an equal number of female and male immigrants.  
-Labour Code was revised strengthening equal pay for equal work and maternity leave by amendments on prohibition on the grounds of sex and marital status.  
-Quebec finally allows women jurors