

Women In History: A Timeline



Pauline Jewett was the president of Simon Fraser University in 1974.

Photograph by: George Diack , Vancouver Sun files

1639: The Ursuline Nuns establish a school for girls in Quebec.

1663: 775 French orphan girls and young women are sent to New France under the banner "Filles du Roi" to marry settlers.

1737: Marguerite d'Youville founds the Grey Nuns order in Montreal.

1783: Mohawk Molly Brant was given a house in (now) Kingston, Ontario and pension by the British government for service and loyalty to the Crown during the American Revolution.

1822: Marguerite-Magdelaine Marcot (La Framboise) retired as a wealthy Metis fur trader in Michilimackinac territory in present day Michigan.

1829: Shawnadithit, the last known Beothuk in Newfoundland died of tuberculosis in St. John's.

1850: Women in Ontario got the right to vote for school trustees if they owned property — regardless of marital status.

1852: Susanna Moodie published *Roughing it in the Bush* about life as a pioneer in then Upper Canada.

1867: Emily Stowe became the first female doctor in Canada, with a practice in Toronto. Her training was from the United States and she did not obtain a Canadian medical licence for another 13 years.

1875: Jenny Trout became the first officially licensed female doctor in Canada, based in Toronto.

1876: Emily Stowe founded the Toronto Women's Literary Club, that was eventually renamed the Dominion Women's Enfranchisement Association.

1908: Lucy Maud Montgomery published *Anne of Green Gables*.

1910: The National Council of Women go public in favour of suffrage.

1912: Painter Emily Carr travelled to the Queen Charlotte Islands and painted the images that would later make her an honorary member of the Group of Seven.

1916: Between January and April, women in Manitoba won the right to vote in provincial elections followed by women in Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario.

1918: Women over 21 get the right to vote at the federal elections. Women also won the franchise in Nova Scotia.

1919: Women get the right to run for election to the House of Commons, and also get the right to vote in provincial elections in New Brunswick.

1921: Agnes Macphail was the first woman elected to the House of Commons.

1922: Right to vote in P.E.I. elections extended to women.

1925: Women in Newfoundland get the right to vote.

1926: Lela Brooks of Toronto won a speed skating world title at a meet in Saint John, N.B.

1927: The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that women are not "persons" under the law.

1928: In the first Olympic Games that allowed women to compete, Ethel Catherwood won a gold medal in high jump and Canada won gold in the women's 400 meter sprint relay.

1929: The Famous Five appealed their case the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England and win. Women are declared "persons" under the law and qualify to be appointed to the Senate.

1930: Cairine Wilson appointed to the Senate.

1934: Women in New Brunswick allowed to run for provincial office.

1940: Women in Quebec finally allowed to vote provincially.

1946: 48,000 War brides immigrate to Canada during the decade. Most were British or Europeans who married Canadian servicemen.

1951: Charlotte Whitton became the first female mayor in Canada, running Ottawa for almost 14 years.

1956: Lucille Wheeler won Canada's first Olympic medal for downhill skiing. This year, the federal government also passed the Female Employees Equal Pay Act.

1957: Ellen Fairclough first woman in the federal cabinet.

1967: Royal Commission on the Status of Women launched.

1968: Sandra Palmer is the first Canadian on the Ladies Professional Golf Tour. She won the LPGA Championship tournament that same year. Also this year, Henry Morgentaler began performing illegal abortions at his private clinic in Montreal.

1970: Report of the Royal Commission of the Status of Women is tabled.

1971: The first federal minister responsible for the status of women is appointed. Robert Andras is the first of seven men appointed to the position.

1972: Rosemary Brown became the first black woman elected to provincial office in Canada. She was an MLA in B.C. for 14 years. Also, Monique Begin was elected to House of Commons from Quebec and Pauline McGibbon was appointed Lieutenant-governor in Ontario, the first for any province.

1975: Rosemary Brown was the first woman to run for the leadership of a federal party, losing the NDP leadership to Ed Broadbent on the fourth ballot.

1979: Bouctouche New Brunswick author Antonine Maillet won the prestigious French prize the Prix Goncourt for *Pelagie la Charette*.

1982: Bertha Wilson appointed to the Supreme Court.

1984: Daurene Lewis became the first black woman mayor in North America as mayor of Annapolis Royal N.S. Also this year, Jeanne Sauve was appointed governor-general.

1986: The federal employment equity Act is passed.

1987: Lucille Johstone appointed CEO of Rivtow, B.C.'s second largest towboat company. She started with the company in 1945 as a "girl Friday".

1988: The Supreme Court struck down all legal restrictions to abortion in Canada.

1989: Audrey McLaughlin won leadership of the federal NDP. Also this year, the Canadian Armed Forces allowed women to serve in almost all occupations, including infantry and fighter jets. And in Montreal, Marc Lepine killed 14 women at L'Ecole Polytechnique because he wanted to hurt feminists.

1991: Rita Johnson became the first female provincial premier, running B.C. for a few months. In N.W.T., Nellie J. Cournoyea became the first native woman to lead a provincial or territorial government.

1992: Roberta Bondar flew in the Space Shuttle Discovery

1993: Conservative Kim Campbell becomes the first female prime minister, for about four months. In P.E.I., Catherine Callbeck is elected premier. Also this year, Karla Homolka is sentenced to 12 years in prison for manslaughter in the murder of two teenage girls in southern Ontario. The controversial plea bargain is the only way she agreed to testify against her then husband, Paul Bernardo.

1994: Mary Simon appointed Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs.

1995: A Supreme Court ruling deemed child support payments were taxable income.

1997: Martha Billes acquired majority control of Canadian Tire from her brothers, who wanted to sell.

2000: Beverley McLachlin appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

2006: Capt. Nichola Goddard is killed in battle against the Taliban in Afghanistan.

2007: Robert "Willie" Pickton is convicted of murdering six women, mostly prostitutes and drug users, from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. He claimed to have murdered 49 women.

2010: Kathy Dunderdale was sworn in as the first female premier of Newfoundland and Labrador.

<http://www.canada.com/news/Women+history+timeline/4367539/story.html#ixzz2MWE7w0Li>