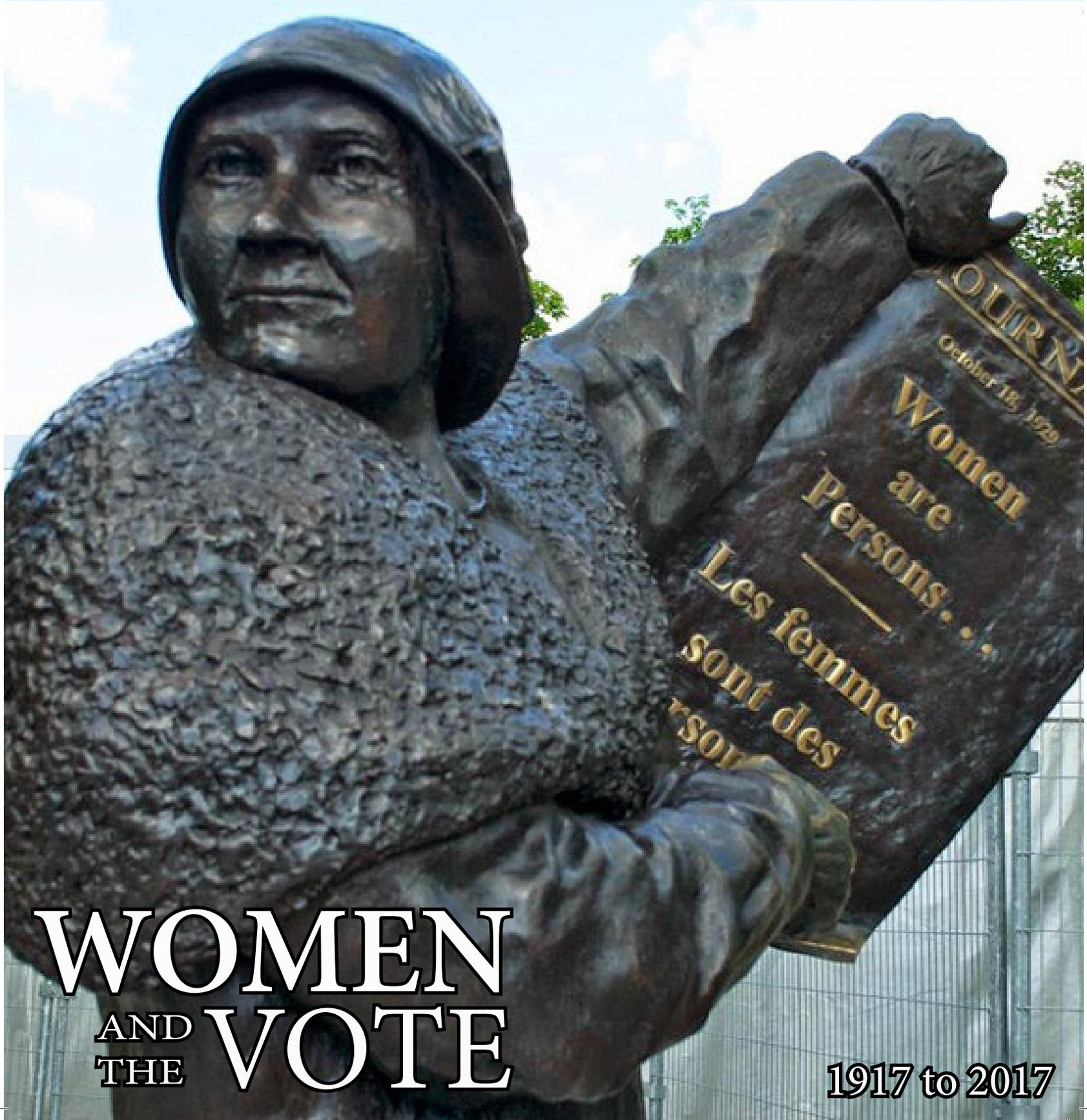




The *InFormer*



ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PARLIAMENTARIANS



# WOMEN AND THE VOTE

1917 to 2017

# Spring 2017

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## Women's Right To Vote

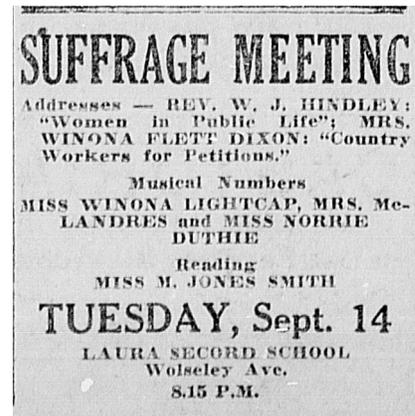


British suffragette, Emily Pankhurst, centre left, photographed in 1916 alongside Nellie McClung, bottom centre, in Edmonton.

The women's suffrage movement was a decades-long struggle in Canada. It was met with resistance as women tried to gain basic human rights alongside issues of equity and justice to improve their lives, as well as the right to vote. Activists were looking for improvements in education, healthcare and employment, and an end to violence against women and children. Their struggle came to a head in 1917, when it is commonly assumed that women won the right to vote. This, however, isn't exactly true.

At the time, Prime Minister Robert Borden was not keen on the idea of women voting, but an election was coming up and he required extra votes as a significant number of men were fighting in the war. Borden's government passed the Wartime Elections Act later that year that allowed women who were British subjects and the wives, mothers and sisters of soldiers to vote on behalf of their male family members. As a result of that Act, it is said that some 500,000 women voted in the federal election on Dec. 17, 1917. Thus, some women were granted the right to vote, but not all of them.

The suffrage movement was not only a struggle for women to gain the right to vote and express themselves as full political citizens, but also a struggle to unite women of all classes. While the majority of the suffragists were typically white, middle-class women, who saw the movement as a means to influence their class and result in a better country, the suffrage movement was also supported by Black abolitionists like Mary Ann Shadd, along with unionists, socialists and temperance activists. Following Borden's reelection, the government expanded the right to vote to include women 21 years of age or older.



“Women had first to convince the world that they had souls and then that they had minds and then it came on to this matter of political entity and the end is not yet....” -*Nellie McClung*

The quest for women's right to vote took place when Canada still had racist, exclusionary laws. Canada, as a colony, required an oath of loyalty to the Crown. That oath included renouncing Papal authority and being Christian. So, Catholics, Jews, Quakers, Asians, Indians were all excluded from voting. Progressive changes were made from time to time, notably in the 1940's, when various groups were allowed to vote, but it wasn't until 1960 that every Canadian over the age of 21 was allowed to vote.

Provincially, women first won the right to vote in 1916 in the four Western provinces. Ontario followed in 1917. Women in Nova Scotia were next in 1918, New Brunswick in 1919, PEI in 1922 and Quebec in 1940. Manitoba was the first to grant women voting rights. Activist Nellie McClung, who was a driving force in the provinces' fight for these rights, rented the Walker Theatre in Winnipeg in 1914 and staged a mock parliament where she cast herself as the premier and put men in the role of having to beg her for voting rights. The event was wildly successful, both financially and politically, and served as a catalyst for the larger suffrage movement.

## Interview: Janet Ecker

M.P.P. 1995 – 2003

Durham West, Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, Progressive Conservative  
Cabinet Minister, Order of Canada

A small group of journalism students, at the University of Western Ontario, would occasionally meet for an informal chat with a veteran reporter. Janet was one of those students and Frank Drea was one of the invited reporters. He of “Action is My Line” fame for the Toronto Telegram, later to be an MPP, was the spark that ignited a passion for journalism.

Opportunity knocked and Janet Ecker accepted a position in communications with the Bill Davis government. Working with Premier Davis, John Clement, Sidney Handleman, and Larry Grossman provided all the encouragement needed for Janet to seek elected office.



“They were great role models; intelligent, determined to bring in progressive legislation in the area of consumer protection etc. In 1995, I was impressed by the political strategy of the ‘Common Sense Revolution’, that it came from the grassroots of the (Conservative) Party, was comprehensive and doable. I wanted to see if I could do it!”

**Did you face any gender barriers, either in getting the nomination or in getting elected?**

“I can honestly say no. For the nomination, there were 5 candidates and we went to a second ballot. When it came to the general election, I won against two men, one from each of the Liberals and New Democrats.”

This is the 100th year of women achieving the vote. Besides being able to cast a ballot, what other doors do you think were opened because of the change in electoral law?

“Suddenly, women mattered. Their vote could drive issues.”

### **What doors remain to be opened?**

“It is sad that we even have to ask that question. Sexism remains in our society. We still have a challenge of changing attitudes.”

### **You received the Order of Canada, for your contributions to both public policy and Canada’s financial services industry. Would you provide details for both?**

“The highlights for me when I was in government included making major changes to the Ontario Disability Program to provide more support for disabled adults in the workplace, revamping the child welfare system to bring in higher standards (add details) and legislation to protect students against sexual abuse.”

“On the business side, I helped establish Financial Services Alliance, an organisation which brings the public and private sector together in a collaborative effort to continually strengthen our financial services industry in Canada. Following the economic situation in 2008 and realising that we in Canada did not suffer as badly as the United States or other countries, mostly because of some good luck and good timing, the Global Risk Institute was set up to do research into how we can bring regulators, policy makers and the industry together. We are bringing together the major stakeholders and focusing on a common goal. I am proud to be playing a major role in this important endeavour.”

### **Would you describe a couple of memorable moments from your time at Queen’s Park?**

“I am proud of the fact that I was the first woman to bring in an Ontario budget. In delivering that budget, I quoted from an earlier budget, delivered by Charlie MacNaughton, who, like me, was also from the Town of Exeter. Elizabeth Witmer and Helen John are also from Exeter. When I was House Leader it was a special moment when all three Parties came together to pass the Oak Ridges Moraine Act.”

“Locally, I was able to help save the Ajax waterfront through a swap of land with a developer. Winning the 1999 election was especially satisfying. I am also proud of being one of the founders of Equal Voice, a multi-partisan organisation dedicated to electing more women in Canada.”

### **Do you have any advice for women who might consider a life in politics?**

“Take your time. It is helpful to have career experience before entering politics. Develop a network of supporters and build a community profile.”

*A footnote to Janet Ecker’s remarkable career is that her love of journalism became a love of a journalist. She married Derek Nelson, Queen’s Park reporter.*

**Editor’s note:** *Dr. Bette Stephenson was the first woman Finance Minister, but did not have the opportunity to bring in a budget. (1985)*



Women marching in a suffragette parade.

## The Person's Case



Unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Famous Five, 11 June 1938. (Front row, L-R): Muir Edwards, daughter-in-law of Henrietta Muir Edwards; J.C. Kenwood, daughter of Judge Emily Murphy; Mackenzie King; Nellie McClung. (Rear row, L-R): Senators Iva Campbell Fallis, Cairine Wilson

In the Person's case, the right of women to be appointed to the Senate was officially established.

The case was brought forward by five prominent women activists, known as the Famous 5, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Louise McKinney, Henrietta Muir Edwards and Emily Murphy. They took offence to the Supreme Court of Canada's 1928 ruling that women were not "persons" under the British North America Act and therefore were not eligible for appointment to the Senate.

The British North America Act of 1867, now known as the Constitution Act, 1867, created and governed the foundations of the Dominion of Canada.





Statues of the Famous Five in Ottawa.

It states that only 'qualified persons' could be appointed to the Senate: "The Governor General shall from time to time, in the Queen's name, by instrument under the Great Seal of Canada, summon qualified persons to the Senate; and, subject to the provisions of this Act, every person so summoned shall become and be a member of the Senate and a Senator."

At the time it was thought that qualified persons included only those at least 30 years of age who owned property that was worth at least \$4,000. The Act did not, however, specify whether "persons" included women. It was understood socially and legally to only include men because only men could own property worth at least \$4,000. The Government responded by saying that it "would like nothing better than to have women in the Senate [...] the British North America Act made no provision for women."

In 1923, Prime Minister Mackenzie King asked Senator Archibald McCoig to propose amendments to right this issue. He never made the proposal.

It was not until August of 1927 that the process of expanding the identity of a "person" commenced.

The Famous Five gathered in Edmonton to create and send a petition to the Canadian government regarding the interpretation of the British North America Act. They asked, in short, whether the word 'person' in section 24 of the British North America Act included women.

The court, which was comprised of Chief Justice Francis Alexander Anglin, Justice Lyman Duff, Justice Pierre-Basile Mignault, Justice John Lamont and Justice Robert Smith, ruled that women were not 'persons' under the provision in the BNA and were not eligible to be appointed to the Senate. They stated that the Act must be interpreted in the same way it was written in 1867. And since women could not hold political office at the time, it was assumed that the Act did not refer to women as 'persons.' They argued that the Act would have specifically referred to women if an exception were to be made.



Cairine Wilson became Canada's first female senator in 1930.

The Famous Five, however, could not be defeated. They appealed the Supreme Court's decision to the Privy Council of England. The Privy Council eventually reversed the decision in October 1929, stating: "the word 'persons' in sec. 24 does include women, and that women are eligible to be summoned to and become members of the Senate of Canada."

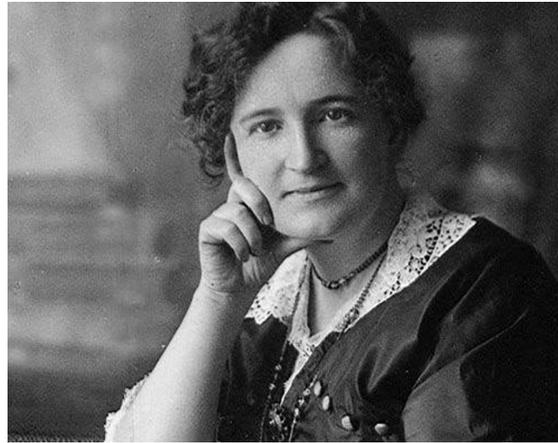
On Feb. 15, 1930, Cairine Wilson was sworn in as Canada's first female senator.

*"[Women's suffrage] is a matter of evolution and evolution is only a working out of God's laws. For this reason we must not attempt to hurry it on."*  
 – Premier James P. Whitney

## Who were the Famous Five?



**Emily Murphy** was a women's rights activist, jurist and author. She became the first female magistrate in Canada and the British Empire.



**Nellie McClung** was an activist and politician who acted as a catalyst for social reform in Western Canada in the early 1900s.



**Irene Parlby** was a women's rights activist and the first woman in Alberta and the second in the British Empire to be appointed a cabinet position.



**Louise McKinney** was a women's rights activist and lay preacher. She was the first woman elected to a legislature in Canada and the British empire.



**Henrietta Muir Edwards** was a women's rights activist and author. Edwards founded several organizations aimed at improving the lives of women.

# Order of Canada

Women MPPs who've received the distinction



**Frances Lankin**  
**Restoule, Ontario**

Former MPP for Beaches-Woodbine (later renamed Beaches-East York) Toronto. Frances Lankin is a strong advocate for social justice and human rights. In her early career as a union leader, she fought for the rights of women in the workplace by promoting pay equity, paid maternity leave and better access to childcare. After serving as a provincial cabinet minister, she steered United Way Toronto, where she introduced strategic measures to improve social conditions in at-risk neighbourhoods. She is highly regarded for bringing together social service agencies, governments and the private sector to build stronger, healthier communities. She currently is a Senator in the Senate of Canada.

# Order of Ontario

Women MPPs who've received the distinction

## **Dr. Bette Stephenson, Toronto**

Physician, a founding member of the College of Family Physicians Canada, former MPP for the Riding of York Mills and cabinet minister. She was also the first female member of the board of directors of the Ontario Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association and served as the first female president of both organisations.



## **Lyn McLeod, Thunder Bay**

The first woman to be elected as a leader of a major political party subsequently became Leader of the Official Opposition. She was MPP for Fort William (later re-named Thunder Bay-Atikokan) and a Cabinet Minister. She was Trustee on the Lakehead Board of Education for seventeen years and its chair for seven. McLeod was also appointed to the Board of Governors of Lakehead University in 1986.



## **Isabel Bassett, Toronto**

Former Cabinet Minister and MPP for St. Paul's. She has served the people of Ontario throughout her career, first as high school teacher, and then as a journalist, writer, broadcaster and member of the Ontario Legislature--all of which made her well-suited for the role of Chair and CEO of TVOntario.

Mary Anne Chambers, Thornhill - former Cabinet Minister and MPP for Scarborough East. She has served the people of Ontario with a profound dedication. She personally funds scholarships and sponsors an academic mentorship program at the University of Toronto.



## The First Women Elected in Ontario



Agnes Macphail and Rae Luckock stake their claim in Canadian history as the first and second women to be sworn in as Ontario MPPs.

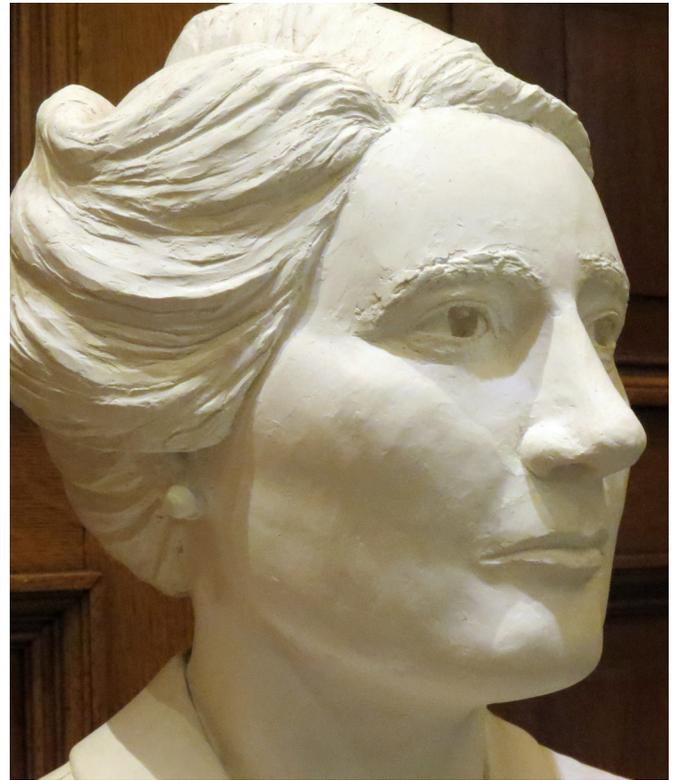
Agnes Campbell Macphail was no lady, as she once said.

But that's exactly what she'll be remembered for. As one of the first women to be elected to the Ontario Legislature, Macphail, alongside Rae Luckock, blazed a trail for today's female parliamentarians.

Macphail was born to Dougald Mcphail and Henrietta Campbell in Grey Country, Ont., on March 24, 1890. She was first elected to the House of Commons as a Progressive Party MP in the 1921 federal election after amendments made to the Elections Act in 1919 by the Conservative government gave women the right to vote. She served there until 1940.

In 1943, Macphail was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and represented the Toronto riding of York East. Agnes Macphail became one of the drivers of Ontario's first equal-pay legislation, passed in 1951, but could not continue with that portfolio because she was defeated in the upcoming election.

Rae Luckock was elected alongside Macphail in 1943 to the Ontario Legislature as a member of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, and she represented the riding of Bracondale. She was defeated in an election two years later but went on to become the founding president of the Canadian Congress of Women.



Agnes Macphail by M. Leslie Drysdale  
at Queen's Park

Luckock was supposed to be the first woman sworn in as an MPP in Ontario since new MPPS were usually sworn in alphabetically. But she deferred to Macphail in recognition of Macphail's long tenure as a federal MP. So she became the second woman to be sworn in as a member of the Ontario Legislature. Luckock was diagnosed with Parkinson's some time after her election defeat and spent the last few years of her life in a hospital.



Richard and Rae Luckock at their wedding.

## Women elected in 2014



*41st Parliament – Women at Queen's Park  
41e Législature – Les Femmes de Queen's Park*

Marie-France Lalonde, Ann Hoggarth, Cheri DiNovo, Hon. Deborah Matthews, Lisa Thompson, Teresa Armstrong, Jennifer French, Hon. Mitzie Hunter, Hon. Tracy MacCharles, Laura Albanese, Lisa MacLeod, France Gélinas, Christine Elliott, Peggy Sattler, Monique Taylor, Sarah Campbell, Hon. Liz Sandals, Harinder Malhi, Eleanor McMahon, Soo Wong, Hon. Helena Jaczek, Amrit Mangat, Hon. Dipika Damerla, Catherine Fife, Sylvia Jones, Laurie Scott, Daiene Vernile, Indira Naidoo-Harris, Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, Kathryn McGarry, Cristina Martins, Andrea Horwath, Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Sophie Kiwala, Julia Munro, Gila Martow, Cindy Forster, Lisa Gretzky

The general election of 2014 resulted in the largest number of women elected in the history of Ontario!

## Are there issues women MPPs still face?



Sheila Copps

Sheila Copps, former MPP, 1981-84, former MP, 1984-2004 and Cabinet Minister on the importance of women achieving the right to vote in 1917:

“Gaining the right to vote in 1917 was the beginning of a process. It remains a work in progress. Having an opportunity to vote meant that there would be an opportunity to shape policies.”

“Have a solid belief in change, but don’t be afraid to fail. Believe in your own abilities. Remember that power is never given, only taken.”

### **What barriers do women still face today?**

“Progress is evident in Canada, especially when compared with a lot of countries around the world. However, sexism remains a serious challenge, particularly in the areas of education, finance, politics and media. It seems that quite a few women today think that the battle has been won. It hasn’t. Sexist attitudes persist and those attitudes mean corporate boards without women, important areas of policy development without gender balance.”

## Interview: Laurel Broten

M. P. P. Liberal, Cabinet Minister  
Etobicoke-Lakeshore 2003-13



*“Women bring a unique perspective to issues, particularly those issues which affect children, education, mental health, and the environment.”*

Laurel Broten uses that statement as a way to help explain why she left a prestigious law firm to enter the world of politics. “I had always been an active feminist, but I wanted to be at the heart of the decision-making process, to impact government and to influence decisions that affect our lives every day.”

Laurel Broten has an impressive background; Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Law Degree, followed by being a law clerk at the Supreme Court of Canada.

**It is 100 years ago that Ontario women achieved the right to vote. Besides being able to cast a vote, what did that change in the law mean?**

“Very importantly, it meant that Parties needed to develop policies which would appeal to women, and respond to the issues women care about. As well, women would have a voice in developing and advancing those policies.”

**You were Minister Responsible for Women’s Affairs. What challenges remain in the quest for gender equality?**

“Progress on a range of issues affecting women has been made over the past 50 to 60 years, however, serious challenges remain. Sadly, too many women still face domestic violence and sexual violence. While there are more women on corporate boards, unfortunately, there are still some boards with few or no women.”

**It appears that you have consciously set out to have at least three distinctive careers, law, politics, and business. Why is that important to you?**

"I have always wanted to make a contribution to society in a variety of ways. I had 10 years in a law practice and 10 years in politics. I felt it was time to move on to another adventure, to contribute to society in a different way, as well as to have a bit more family time with my twin boys, who are now 11 years old."

**What were some memorable moments at Queen's Park?**

"First, I truly enjoyed my time at Queen's Park. I am very proud of the child welfare reforms I was able to advance through The Building Families and Supporting Youth To Be Successful Act of 2011, including removing the legal barriers that prevented approximately 7,000 crown wards from being eligible for adoption; and providing more support to help crown wards complete high school and attend college or university."

"I was also privileged to develop strategies to tackle climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the aftermath of Walkerton, I introduced the Clean Water Act designed to better safeguard Ontario's drinking water. Another memorable file that I was able to drive ahead was an all-day kindergarten and early years initiative."

"On the more personal side, I was the first cabinet member to be pregnant and have children during my term, which in turn meant a number of other firsts. Our family celebrated the boys' first birthday in the Legislative Dining Room. I think the occasion also meant that the Dining Room had to purchase new high chairs."

***Editor's Note:*** *Laurel Broten and her family are living in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Laurel is President and CEO of Nova Scotia Business Incorporated.*

## Women Of Distinction

These are the women who, while not holding elected office, have held or are still holding positions which are important in the development of our society. Their contributions are part of the framework of an evolving civil society.



### **Hon. Pauline McGibbon, Lieutenant Governor from 1974-1980**

Pauline McGibbon has the honour of being Ontario's first female Lieutenant Governor and was the first female to hold a vice-regal position anywhere in the Commonwealth. Remembered as a warm and down-to-earth individual, Ms. McGibbon is credited with expanding the office's role by reaching out to communities and opening her doors to all Ontarians. As a lifelong volunteer in the arts and education sectors, Ms. McGibbon emphasised the promotion of the arts in Ontario while in office. She was honoured as a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1980 and invested with the Order of Ontario in 1988.



### **Roberta Jamieson, Ombudsman from 1989-1999**

In addition to serving as Ontario's first female Ombudsman, Ms. Jamieson was the first First Nations woman to earn a law degree in Canada and the first woman elected Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory in southern Ontario. As Ombudsman, Ms. Jamieson advocated on behalf of Ontarians who brought forward complaints about Ontario government services.

Ms. Jamieson was invested as a Member of the Order of Canada in 1995.

Eva Ligeti, Environmental Commissioner from 1994-1999

The province's first Environmental Commissioner, Ms. Ligeti was tasked with reviewing and reporting on the government's compliance with the Environmental Bill of Rights.

Her passion for the environment went beyond her role as Commissioner, as Ms. Ligeti has served as legal counsel to the Canadian Environmental Law Association and the Executive Director of the Clean Air Partnership.



**Deborah Deller**

**Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 2007-2016.**

The first female Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Ms. Deller has had a long career in the Legislature. Starting as a summer tour guide prior to entering university, Ms. Deller worked her way up to become a Committee Clerk and then Deputy Clerk before taking on the role of Clerk. As Clerk, Ms. Deller is the principal authority on the practices and privileges of Ontario's Parliament. She provides advice on procedural matters to the Speaker and all MPPs, assisting them with their role in the House. As chief administrative officer of the Office of the Assembly, she swears in newly elected MPPs.



**Dr. Ann Cavoukian**

**Information and Privacy Commissioner from 1997-2014**

Dr. Cavoukian is the first Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario to be re-appointed for a third term, and the first female to serve in this role. She is recognised as one of the leading privacy experts in the world. Throughout her career, Dr. Cavoukian has overseen the development of many technology-based tools and procedures to ensure that privacy is protected. She is best known for pioneering the Privacy by Design concept which encourages organisations to use privacy measures in their everyday operations.



**Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General from 2013-present**

Before accepting the role of Ontario's Auditor General, Ms. Lysyk served as the Auditor General for Saskatchewan and as the Deputy Auditor General & Chief Operating Officer for the Office of the Auditor General of Manitoba. While in Saskatchewan, Ms. Lysyk received praise for her well-written performance audits. She teaches courses on auditing both in Canada and abroad.



### **Hon. Hilary Weston, Lieutenant Governor from 1997-2002**

While in office as Lieutenant Governor, Ms. Weston focused on supporting causes and groups related to women's issues, volunteerism and youth. Shortly after her installation, she established the Hilary M. Weston Foundation for Youth to which she donated her entire salary. She also created the Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award to honour unsung heroes in community groups and secondary schools. Ms. Weston was the first Lieutenant Governor to celebrate key events such as Canada Day and the annual New Year's Levee away from Queen's Park in communities throughout the province. She was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2003.



### **Lynn Morrison, Integrity Commissioner from 2010-2015**

Lynn Morrison has worked with the Office of the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario since its creation in 1988. Ontario was the first province to enact conflict of interest legislation which created this office. Ms. Morrison's work as Integrity Commissioner included encouraging high ethical standards in provincial public life, providing advice to Cabinet Ministers' staff and promoting public confidence in government institutions.



A Women's Army Corps poster from the Second World War.

# Interview: Anne Swarbrick

Minister for Women's Issues  
and Minister of Culture, Tourism and Recreation 1990-1995

*“There were only two choices and I don't think I could have lived with myself to not choose that advocacy role when in that position.”*

**When you found out about your cancer, did you ever think about quitting?**

“No. As I pondered how to deal with this challenge in my fourth month in the job, I realised the irony of being the 39-year old Minister of Women's Issues diagnosed with breast cancer. At that time there was a stigma around having breast cancer, and I was not aware of any other public figure in Canada who had spoken up about the issue. It seemed that I was meant to help open the shutters on this disease by being public about it.”



“While recovering from surgery and going through treatments, chemotherapy and then radiation, I initially reduced my 80 hour week to 40 hours. But I was having to cancel some meetings that I had committed to, and I couldn't live with that. So I called Premier Rae in order to resign from Cabinet. Bob Rae was wonderfully supportive and told me that I did not need to resign, but I'm not capable of accepting money and title for work that I don't do. And I needed to focus on getting my health back while doing what I could in my riding.”

**Did you ever think that maybe you shouldn't speak up about this?**

“I had to deal with the issue very quickly as to whether to be public with my diagnosis because people know when a Cabinet Minister is not in the Legislature or Ministry office. So I did wrestle with it. But it seemed like the time had come to be open about breast cancer, especially as the Minister of Women's Issues.”



“The calls that I received each time that I spoke publicly about it affirmed the value of having done so; other women told me how important it was to them to hear a public figure speak about what they were experiencing.”

**Would you like to share any memorable moments from your time at Queen’s Park?**

“We achieved a lot during our term from 1990-1995. For example, this was the era when then-Prime Minister Mulroney’s government attempted to re-criminalize abortion. Needless to say, the women’s movement was advocating very strongly against the proposed federal legislation, which had been approved by Parliament and was being debated in the Senate. Our Ontario government assigned me as Minister of Women’s Issues and Evelyn Gigantes, then Ontario’s Minister of Health, to appear jointly before the relevant Senate Committee to oppose re-criminalizing abortion. A leading Conservative Senator informed us that it was our deputation on behalf of the Ontario government that had tipped the fine balance and prevented passage of the legislation through the Senate.”

“Another memorable moment involved the cross-party support demonstrated by Bob Nixon, who was then serving as Leader of the Liberal opposition. I had responded to heartfelt advocacy from women’s organisations that had sought my support to prevent a doctor from continuing to practice medicine who had been convicted, not charged but convicted, of five counts of sexually assaulting young patients: something that I don’t believe would be tolerated today.”

“I was being pressured to resign, along with another of our Ministers, as some considered it to have been inappropriate for us to have written to the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons calling on them to take action. It has remained memorable to me that Bob Nixon demonstrated truly non-partisan humanity when he stood up in the Legislature and stated that he did not believe that we should have to resign over the matter.”

**Going back to the letter, is there something you would have said or done differently in it?**

“With the hindsight and perspective of 26 years, I am proud to have responded to the excellent leadership of the women who brought that unacceptable situation to my attention with the expectation that Ontario’s Minister for Women’s Issues would act upon it.”

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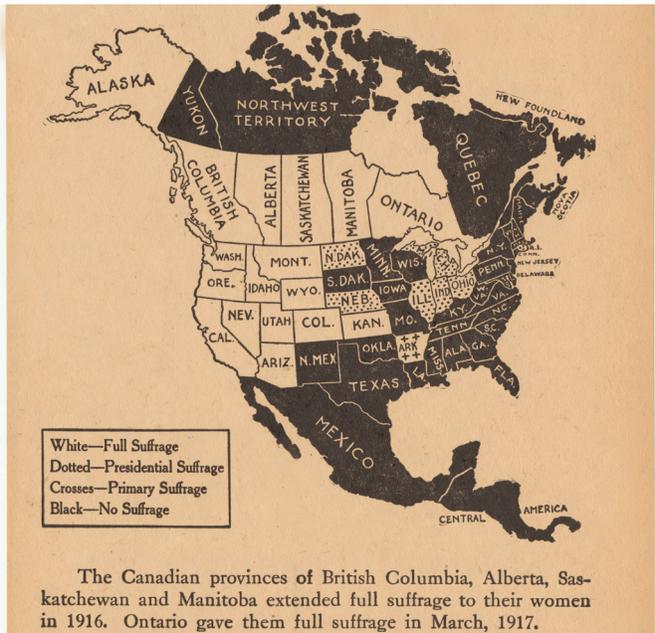
Lyn McLeod is the recipient of the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarian’s 2017 Distinguished Service Award!

The award ceremony will be held in the Fall of 2017.

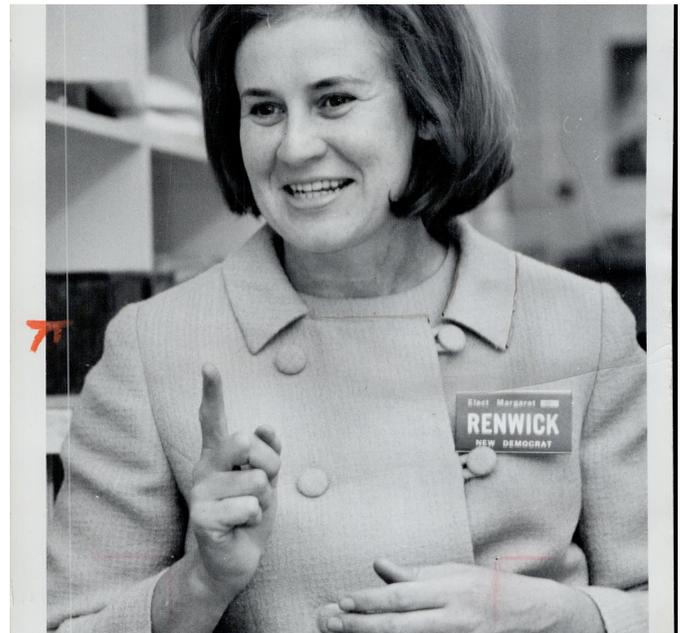
Bill 65, passed on May 10, 2000 during the 37th Session, founded the Ontario Association of Former Parliamentarians. It was the first bill in Ontario history to be introduced by a Legislative Committee.



Left, Premier Davis watches Margaret Scrivener operating heavy equipment. Right, Margaret Scrivener and Margaret Birch at Queen's Park 1971.



The Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba extended full suffrage to their women in 1916. Ontario gave them full suffrage in March, 1917.



Left, a map outlining various suffrage movements. Right, Margaret Renwick campaigning 1967



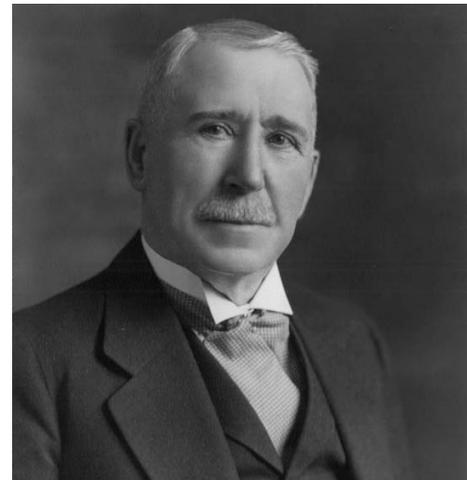
**MOCK PARLIAMENT.**  
 Promenade Concert. The Pavilion.  
**TUESDAY EVE'G, FEB. 18TH,**  
 For the benefit of the W.C.T.U. Building Fund. Doors open at 7:15. Programme 7:45.  
 Admission 25c. Reserved seats 50c. Box plan now ready, Gourlay, Winter & Leeming.

From top-left: A recruitment poster for the Canadian Women's Army Corps, a portrait of the American suffrage movement, Agnes Macphail and Rae Luckock with others and a flyer for a mock parliament performance.

# Editorial: Our approach to women's issues must change

A tea-totalling, Methodist lawyer from Sault Ste. Marie led the Ontario government that allowed women the right to vote.

Sir William Hearst, the seventh premier of the province, introduced a bill in February 1917 giving women the franchise – if, like men, they were over 21 years, born or naturalised British subjects, and resident for 12 months in Canada. Indigenous women living on reserves were not allowed the vote. Ethnicity continued to matter both for male and female electors, even in a province where new immigrants of different ethnic origins were reshaping society. The bill was proclaimed in April 1917.



While granting the right to vote, Hearst did not extend the right of women to sit in the Legislature. (In 1902, Margaret Haile, representing the Ontario Socialist League, ran as a candidate for the provincial house, but if elected, she would not have been allowed to serve.) It was not until 1919 that Ontario women were given the right to hold political office at the provincial and municipal levels.

Opponents of votes for women believed that the right to vote – and to sit in the Legislature - would mean that the divine plan for men and women would be disrupted. Like the ancient tale of the beheading of Medusa, a historic symbol of opposition to women in power, there was the lurking, destructive danger of the possibility of female power in society. With women's increasing authority, the social structure would be in turmoil. It was the duty of men to save civilisation from the rule of women, to retain the decreed role of women as subjects of male responsibility and authority.

Elections Canada describes early supporters of votes for women as having “a

broad social reform agenda, one that embraced workplace safety, public health, child labour, prohibition of the production and sale of alcohol, prostitution, the “Canadianization” of immigrants as well as votes for women.

The Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), for example, became a force in the suffrage movement, convinced that if women had the vote, temperance would be assured.” Pressure from victories of suffragettes in western provinces and the support of the Ontario women’s temperance movement helped to convince Hearst’s government to acknowledge women’s right to vote.



At the same time as the debate raged, women — spouses, widows, mothers, sisters, and daughters — replaced men in factories, farms, public services, and businesses while men served in the First World War trenches of Europe, and in 1917, the same year that women’s suffrage was allowed at Queen’s Park, at Vimy Ridge, 3600 Canadians were killed and 7,000 injured. For many women, this war-time experience was liberating – giving them wages and freedom only men had enjoyed previously. However, most often, wages were less than those of men, and the need to combine “traditional” female work with new job responsibilities limited their freedom.

In 100 years, change has indeed been “a matter of evolution” in Ontario. Hon. Ian Scott’s “equal pay for work of equal value” statute, establishing comparable worth in employment, passed in 1987; the denial of violence against women through “unfounded” police case files – reaching front pages across the nation today; and the still unequal number of women serving in our Legislative bodies, on corporate boards of directors and in executive suites, tell us that there is much more to do. Our approaches need to change.

The sequestering of women’s issues - into “women’s” directorates, ministries, departments, committees, and commissions - leads us to accept that matters that women champion can be set aside in a separate place that can be tolerated, but

avoided — isolated, analysed, but dealt with apart from the mainstream. It is time for those matters to be on the front burner of government policy making — integrated into every piece of legislation and regulation.

Whether health issues, environmental matters, or those associated with justice, agriculture or natural resource protection, the impact on women and their point of view needs not only to be heard but must shape the way we govern our province.

For women, a new challenge and responsibility follows: ensuring that our sons, spouses, and other male friends know that women have an equal right to fulfil their own ambitions, to be safe from physical violence, to achieve in all fields of endeavour, to respect their own faith and moral codes - free of hateful, disparaging and bitter words that demean them simply because they are women.

When that is achieved, we will truly see women as people.



Three newly elected Margarets meet. (left to right) Margaret Birch, Margaret Scrivener, Margaret Renwick

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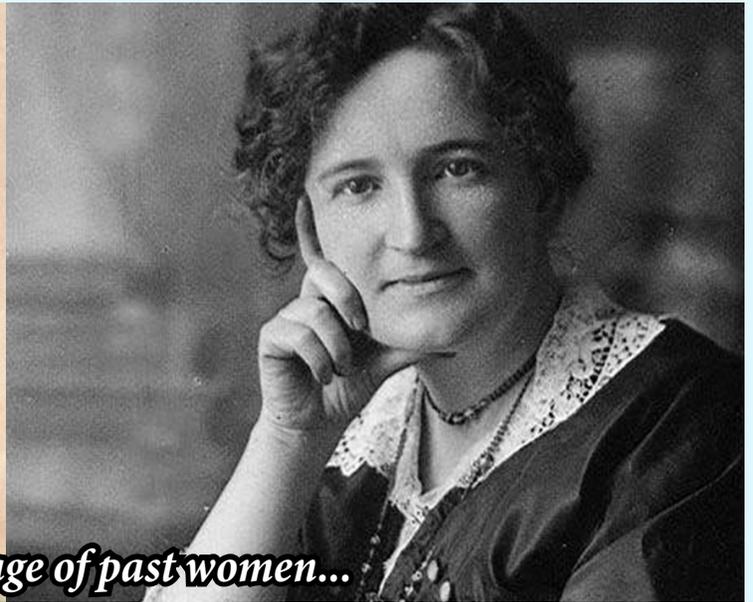
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**Those whose effort and talent made this publication a reality!**

**Ramisha Farooq, Lauren Malyk, Sebastian Smith, David Warner, Helen Breslauer, Mobina Bhimani** (Administrator, O.A.F.P), **Nokomis O'Brien** (Photographer, Legislative Assembly of Ontario), **Louise Lebeau** (Broadcast/Recording, Legislative Assembly of Ontario)

Photos on the back:

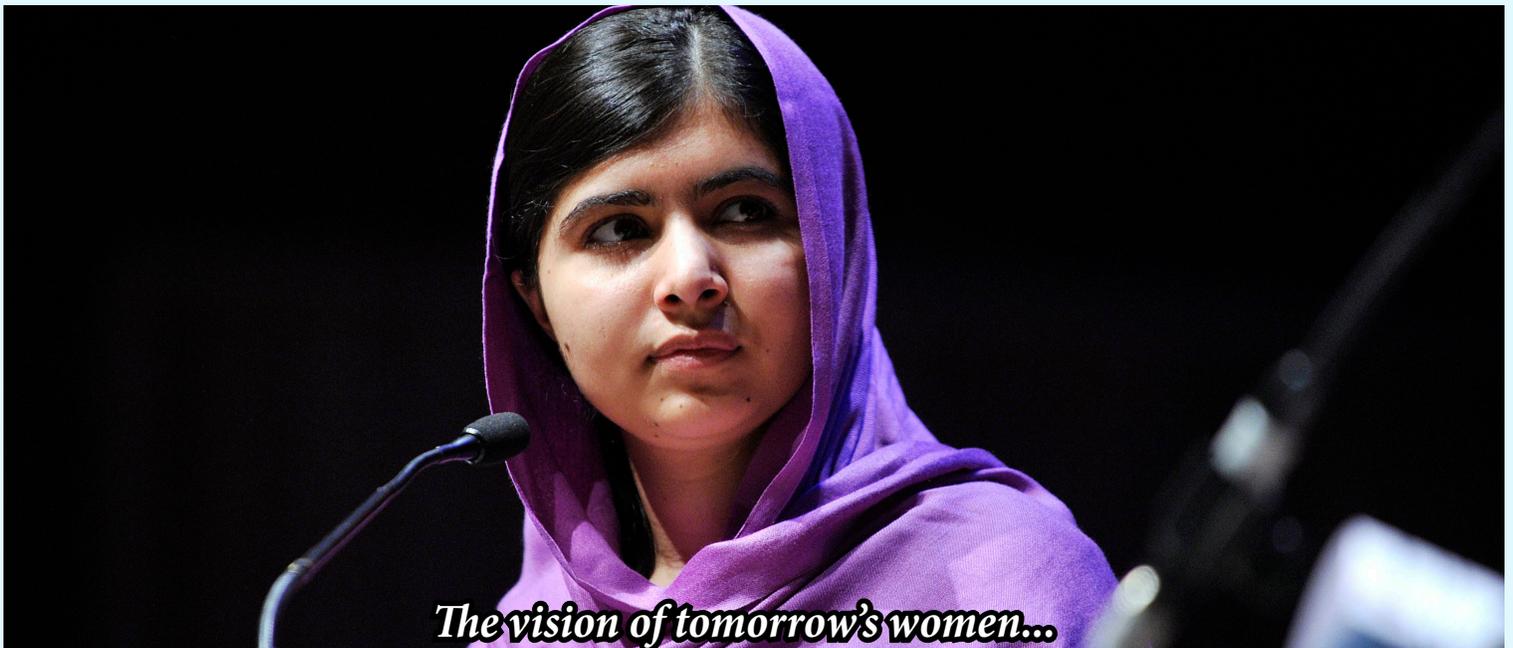
From top-left: Businesswoman Viola Desmond, activist Nellie McClung, researcher Perri Tutelman, The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin and honorary Canadian citizen Malala Yousafzai.



*We celebrate the courage of past women...*



*The Accomplishments of Today's Women...*



*The vision of tomorrow's women...*