

# Women's History

## Where Are We Now? How Did We Get Here?

### 1875

Grace Annie Lockhart becomes the first woman to graduate with a university degree in the British Empire. She earned her degree at Mount Allison University, New Brunswick.

### Early 1900s

The suffragettes fight for women's right to vote.

### 1916

After years of struggle, Manitoba women become the first permitted to vote. Quebec was the last province to follow suit in 1940.

### 1918

The Women's Franchise Act is passed, white women can now vote federally.

### 1921

Agnes MacPhail becomes the first woman to be elected to the House of Commons.

### 1929

Under the British North American Act, women are declared persons.

### 1940s

Many women go to work during the Second World War. Most are forced to give up their jobs after the war.

### 1960

Aboriginal people, living on reserves are allowed to vote in federal elections.

### 1966

The declaration of Elimination of Discrimination Against Women is adopted by the United Nations.

**1967**

Women's income is 43% of the average man's income.

**1969**

Birth control is legally available.

**1969**

The criminal code is amended so that same sex sexual acts between consenting adult are no longer criminal.

**1970s**

Grassroots women's organizations open transition houses and rape crisis centres across Canada.

**1972**

Rosemary Brown becomes the first black female politician elected in Canada.

**1974**

Women are accepted into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy.

**1975**

Women's income is 60% of the average men's income.

**1977**

March 8th is declared International Women's Day.

**1977**

The National Association of Indian Rights for Indian Women is formed to challenge discriminatory sections of the Indian Act.

**1983**

Canadian Human Rights Act prohibits sexual harassment.

**1983**

Bill C-127 becomes a law stating that it is illegal for a man to sexually assault his wife.

**1983**

Rape law is changed in Canada, to define three levels of sexual assault.

**1985**

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms legally gives women equal rights.

**1985**

Bill C-31 is passed, eliminating sexual discrimination from the Indian Act for First Nations women.

**1988**

Ethel Blondin-Andrew becomes the first Aboriginal woman elected to the House of Commons.

**1988**

The Supreme Court strikes down the provisions of the Criminal Code pertaining to abortion, thereby making abortion legal.

**1989**

December 6, Montreal Massacre, fourteen female engineering students are murdered at L'Ecole Polytechnique.

**1992**

The concept of consent is legally defined for the first time in the Criminal Code Provisions on Sexual Assault.

**1993**

Kim Campbell becomes Canada's first female prime minister.

**1995**

Bill C-72 changes the Criminal Code so that intoxication is no longer accepted as a defence in sexual assault cases.

**1995**

56% of students enrolled in university are women.

**1995**

The average women's salary is 72% of men's.

**1996**

Canadian Human Rights Act is amended to include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

**1999**

Bill C-46 is upheld which restricts access to medical and psychiatric files of victims of sexual abuse.

**2000**

Thousands of women descend upon the United Nations in New York for the World March of Women, demanding equality and the end of violence against women.