I'm not a robot



Women in Ontario won the right to vote on April 12th, 1917 and the right to hold office in 1919. Agnes Macphail a school teacher from Grey County, Ontario, was elected Canadas first woman Member of Parliament in 1921. After her career in federal politics, she ran provincially in 1943, winning a seat as one of Ontarios first two women MPPs. Emily Howard Stowe, from The Women's Suffrage Movement in Canada (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/C-9480). Ontario became the right to vote on 12 April 1917, after more than half a century of activism by suffragists. Beginning in the 1870s, Ontarios suffrage movement emerged from the vibrant nation-wide mobilization of middle class women who sought political reform. The first Ontario suffragists were a cohort of predominantly White, Anglo-Protestant, educated women led by Dr. Emily Stowe (18311903) and later her daughter, Dr. Augusta Stowe-Gullen (18571943). Suffrage was also of interest to Black women abolitionists, supporters of temperance, and socialists. Although there was a range of political ideology among suffragists, the two most dominant views either emphasized womens equality with men or idealized womens maternal nature as justification for the vote. Ontario suffragists largely pursued change by working within the established legal and political system, and did not exhibit the militancy found in parts of the American and British movements. Collaborating with their counterparts in Western Canada, the United States and British movements. formation of organizations, participation in national and international meetings, petitions and lobbying at the municipal and provincial levels, political theatre and political writing. Much of the suffrage activism occurred in urban and rural Southern Ontario, with Toronto being the headquarters of provincial suffrage organizations. Suffragists efforts were ridiculed by male and female opponents who countered that women neither needed, nor wanted the vote. Amid suffrage victories in Western Canada in 1916, the Ontario received the provincial franchise in 1917. As with men, voting eligibility was restricted to women over 21 years of age, who were born or naturalized British subjects and who had lived in the country for 12 months. Other women originally excluded from the vote were Indigenous women living on reserves, female prison inmates, and residents of asylums and charitable institutions. Early Rights Several traditional Indigenous societies living on or near Lake Ontario had strong matrilineal structures in which women held positions of power. Among the Haudenosaunee, clan mothersfemale elders who carried the hereditary rights to represent different nations of the confederacywere tasked with using their knowledge of the Great Law to responsibly appoint, observe or remove the authority of (male) chiefs and faith keepers. Under centuries of colonization, however, the influence of patriarchal European settlers eroded many of Indigenous womens traditional rights. The non-Indigenous women residing in Upper Canada, including British settlers, White American Loyalists, Free Blacks and slaves of African origins, lived in a highly patriarchal society which offered women limited political rights, legal protection or opportunities for economic independence. Most significantly, under British common law a married woman had no right to own or sell property, or have control over how her own wages were spent. Until the mid- to late-19th century, most women were barred from higher education and professional careers. Initially the governance structure of Upper Canada did not explicitly prohibit women from voting; the Constitutional Act of 1791 defined voters as persons who owned property of a certain value, with no mention of eligibility by sex. Technically this should have allowed unmarried women and widows with property to vote, yet the absence of womens voting records in Upper Canada suggests that women with property qualifications were not expected or allowed to claim voting privileges. Like its predecessor, the 1840 Act of Union did not include any restrictions of voter eligibility based on sex. Nevertheless, the first piece of evidence that propertied women voted in Canada West (formerly Upper Canada) appears in 1844a complaint raised by a defeated Reform party came to power in 1849 they added the first clause in Canadas electoral laws that specifically excluded women from voting. One exception was made in 1850, to allow women who met property qualifications, be they married or single, to vote for and be elected as school trustees, though few women availed themselves of this opportunity until the 20th century. Between 1859 and 1873, petitions and letters to editors written by women cited cases of abuse and abandonment of wives as reasons to improve womens property rights. These campaigns resulted in moderate amendments allowing married women the right to own, but not dispose of, any property inherited before marriage. In 1867, with Confederation, the British North America Act (now the Constitution Act, 1867) made voter eligibility a provincial matter. Womens exclusion from voting in municipal, provincial and federal elections continued in the newly formed province of Ontario until the formation of a womens Literary Club (TWLC) in 1876, an organization dedicated to womens education, was the launching pad of the suffrage movement in Canada. Founded by Dr. Emily Stowe, the first woman physician to practise medicine in Canada, the TWLC provided a weekly meeting space and community for educated womena radical concept, considering clubs were traditionally the domain of men Stowe was inspired to start the TWLC after attending the American Association for the Advancement of Women, a conference bringing together different womens study groups. TWLC members pursued intellectual growth through the study of literature, science, music, theatrical performance and guest lectures, which often prompted discussions on the status of women, among other social and civic reform issues. In 1881, Canada Citizen, a Toronto weekly paper, showed its support to the club by devoting a column to womens reform issues written by TWLC member, Sarah Anne Curzon. Also in 1881, the TWLC sent the first delegation to the provincial legislature asking for womens suffrage. The clubs efforts resulted in a new law that allowed all women with property qualifications the right to vote on bylaws and minor municipal level, the TWLC disbanded in 1883 and reconstituted as the Canadian Womens Suffrage Association (CWSA) to openly foster its members pursuit of womens suffrage Unlike the TWLC, the CWSA also included men as members. In 1884 a further amendment granted unmarried women and widows the right to vote in municipal elections. While the development of the CWSA was a significant landmark in suffrage history, two earlier examples of womens collective action are equally important: Black women abolitionists and the Womans Christian Temperance Union. Both demonstrate early mobilization for social change and electoral reform. Black Women Activists in Canada to organize and advocate for civil rights. Mary Bibb and Amelia Freeman Shadd organized literary and social clubs for women in Windsor and Chatham in the 1850s, predating the TWLC by two decades. In 1853, prominent abolitionist Mary Ann Shadd was the first female publisher and editor of a North American newspaper, The Provincial Freeman, which reported on Black mens voting rights and the origins of the womens suffragemovement in the United States. Although Black women would remain on the periphery of the mainstream suffrage movement in Canada, Shadd would return to the United States to found the Colored Womens Progressive Franchise Association in 1880. Womans, Christian Temperance Union Founded in Owen Sound in 1874 by Sunday school teacher Letitia Youmans, the Canadian branch of the Womans Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) grew out of late-19th century evangelical social Gospel). Spreading quickly across the province and country, the WCTU framed temperance as a middle class womens issue, arguing that prohibition and personal sobriety would alleviate domestic violence, sex work and poverty, thus improving the standard of living for working class and poor women. Despite common interests, the WCTU was initially reluctant to support suffrage, as they believed that womens influence was more beneficial at home than at the polling station. Ontario branches of the WCTU broke ranks to become a strong ally of the CWSA in 1891, rationalizing that women voters were critical to getting temperance legislation passed. The Dominion WCTU followed with support of suffrage five years later. Activism in the Late-19th Century, often with overlapping membership, helped raise awareness in the press and legislature about the ways Ontarios laws failed to protect women. Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, the CWSA and its allied organizations focused on gaining the municipal vote for married women and the provincial government were made between 1884 and 1888. Liberal Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) John Waters (Middlesex North) diligently supported the cause, introducing nine bills in favour of womens suffrage between 1885 and 1893. Interrelated crusades were opening more universities to women and improving married womens property rights. Finally, in 1884, Ontario granted married women the right to own property and manage it without consulting their husbands. Dominion Womens Enfranchisement Association in 1889, the Dominion Womens Enfranchisement Association (DWEA), where she served as president until her death in 1903. The DWEA hoped to establish itself as a national network and federated with the newly formed National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) in 1893, though much of its activity remained in Ontario. It continued to make links internationally and nationally with visits from American suffragist Susan B. Antony in 1889 and a national convention in 1890. Although no progress was made at the provincial or municipal levels, in 1894, 150 delegates from the DWEA and WCTU made a joint visit to Premier Oliver Mowat. Although the premier expressed sympathy for their cause, this visit was followed by a period in which no new bills were introduced on womens suffrage between 1893 and 1905. Opponents to Womens suffrage in principle. They did, however, argue that they could not amend the franchise when it appeared to be only of interest to a minority, and thus not representative of most womens suffrage with the complete upheaval of social and family values or viewed suffrage in opposition to Gods divine plan for men and women. Meanwhile, female opponents of womens suffrage, such as home economics matron and founder of the Womens Institute, Adelaide Hoodless, objected to enfranchisement on the grounds that women already could effect change by asserting their influence within the family and community, thus avoiding the corruption of politics. Even the NCWC did not support suffrage until 1910 because they deemed it too controversial. The variety of opposition rhetoric was satirized by the DWEA in their 1896 mock parliament, an act of political theatre that featured women pretending to be members of parliament voicing objections to a delegation of men demanding the vote. Oil painting by Marion Long, after J.W. Forster. Ontario Socialist League A new century brought renewed energy and new participants into Ontarios suffrage movement. Socialist groups emerged in Canada at the turn of the 20th century and offered support to the Woman Question, arguing that a socialist revolution would emancipate women from patriarchy. Much like the WCTU, they recognized that female voters could help their cause; thus, the Ontario Socialist League (OSL) put universal suffrage on their platform in 1902. The OSL supported the efforts of their member, Margaret Haile, to run for a seat in the Ontario provincial election as the first female candidate, an act endorsed by Stowe-Gullen. Haile, a teacher and journalist, lost the election, receiving just over 70 votes. At a time when most socialist women worked within their organizations behind the scenes, Haile was an exceptional public figure. Canadian Suffrage Association (CSA) in 1906. Continuing her mothers legacy, Stowe-Gullen was its first president. Despite its national name, the CSA operated predominantly in Ontario, focusing on achieving provincial suffrage association worked with new proponents of womens suffrage, including Toronto Mayor Emerson Coatsworth, Liberal MPP John Smith (Peel) and Labour MPP Allan Studholme (Hamilton East), all of whom introduced resolutions and bills, despite a frosty reception from Conservative Premier James P. Whitney. Of particular note was the 1909 petition by the CSA working in conjunction with 13 other reform groups and womens organizations, the CSA presented Whitney with 100,000 signatures supporting suffrage. The considerable efforts received praise in the Toronto Globe, but Whitney offered no commitment. The same year, Toronto hosted the International Council of Women meeting, which drew together women activists from Europe and North America. Later in the year, British suffragettes Emmeline Pankhurst and Ethel Snowden visited Toronto, offering support and inspiration to their Canadian counterparts. In 1911, Flora MacDonald Merrill Denison, a dressmaker and writer, became CSA president. While Denison represented Canada at two meetings of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Europe, her socialist leanings, support for birth control and divorce, and her defence of the militancy of British suffragettes were ultimately deemed too contentious for her to remain CSA president of the Toronto Suffrage Association, Gordon contacted approximately 850 Ontario town and city councils about enfranchising women. In response, 161 communities sent petitions in favour of extending the municipal franchise to women and 33 held favourable referenda on the subject. Although the majority of the legislature remained antagonistic towards suffrage, more and more Ontarians appeared open to extending women more political rights. Winning the Vote The urgency of the First World War (191418) both stunted and invigorated the provincial suffrage crusade. Many suffrage crusade work, while a minority turned to peace work. Others used womens wartime volunteer efforts to patriotic war work, while a minority turned to peace work. citizenship rights. With new Premier William Hearst in office, the CSA and their handful of allied Liberal MPPs rallied support for a succession of delegations and Alberta in 1916, followed by British Columbia in early 1917, forced change in Ontario. The Liberal Party of Ontario officially endorsed womens suffrage just before the legislature opened in 1917. With Conservatives at the federal level seeing womens suffrage in February 1917. On 12 April 1917, both The Ontario Franchise Act and The Election Law Amendment Act received royal assent. Fifty-one years after the TWLC was founded, Ontario women finally had the vote. Women in Political Office Ontario women finally had the vote. Women in Political Office Ontario women finally had the vote. was elected in 1921 as a Member of Parliament (MP) first for the United Farmers of Ontario, and later for the Progressive Party and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. As a federal MP between 1921 and 1940, Macphail advocated for the rights of farmers and rural issues, as well as the rights of workers, seniors, children and women. Canadas first female senator also hailed from Ontario: Carine Wilson, a Liberal from Ottawa with extensive volunteer experience in women and refugee issues, was appointed to the House of Commons in 1921, the first year in which women had the vote. It was not until 1919 that a bill was passed giving Ontario women the right to hold political office at the provincial and municipal level include Constance Hamilton, elected to Toronto City Council in 1920, and Barbara Hanley, elected mayor of Webbwood in 1936. It was not until 1943, when Macphail was elected to the provincial legislative assembly, joined by fellow CCF MPP Margaret Rae Lucock (Bracondale), that women held office provincially. In 1972 Margaret Birch, a Progressive Conservative MPP from Scarborough East, was the first woman appointed to an Ontario cabinet position. In 1954, Status Indians in Ontario were granted the right to vote in provincial elections; this included women. Federally, Indigenous women living on reserves did not gain suffrage until federal amendments were made in 1960, but Indigenous women could hold office on reserve beginning in 1951. In 1954, Elsie Knott became the first female chief in Canada, leading the Anishinaabe Curve Lake First Nation, northeast of Peterborough. Legacy The womens suffrage movement in Ontario was critical to raising awareness and legislative changes that would improve womens political, legal and economic rights. Furthermore, suffrage activism resulted in a more comprehensive vision of democracy in Ontario. After achieving the vote, Ontario women continued to be active in political causes, exercising their right to vote, standing for office and forming organizations dedicated to social change and equality. Ontariobecame the fifth province to grant women the right to vote on April 12,1917, after more than half a century of activism bythe suffrage movement. My grandmother was part of this movement and so I have a particular interest in this part of our history. I fear that most women today do not fully appreciate the efforts and sacrifices made by these historic women. I would like to bring some of the facts to their attention with this series of articles. Dating back to the early 1870s, Ontarios suffrage movement would emerge from a vibrant nationwide mobilization of middle-class women who were seeking political reform. The first Ontario suffragists were made up of a group of predominantly white, Anglo-Protestant, educated women led by Dr. Emily Stowe (18311903) and later her daughter, Dr. Augusta Stowe-Gullen (18571943). Suffrage was also of interest toour Blackwomen abolitionists, supporters of the time emphasized either womens equality with men or pointed to womens maternal nature as full justification for the vote. Ontarios suffragists largely pursued change by working within the established legal and political system and did not exhibit the militancy found in parts of the American and British movements. That said, my grandma would speak of rallies where stones were thrown at them, or sticks used to break up their marches or meetings locally. Ontarios suffragists, collaborating with their counterparts in Western Canada, the United States and Britain, were dedicated to raising awareness and support for their cause through the formation of organizations, participation in national and international meetings, petitions and lobbying at the municipal and provincial levels, political theatre and through political writing. Much of the suffrage activism would occur in urban and rural southern Ontario, withTorontobeing the headquarters of the provincial suffrage activism would occur in urban and rural southern Ontario, withTorontobeing the headquarters of the provincial suffrage in principle. They did, however, argue that they could not amend the franchise when it appeared to be only of interest to a minority, and thus not representative of most womens wishes. Those more antagonistic to the movement equated womens suffrage with the complete upheaval of social and family values or viewed suffrage in opposition to Gods divine plan for men and women. One would think that the suffragists efforts would have been universally supported by our female opponents who argued that women neither needed, nor wanted the vote. After the suffrage victories that would occur in Western Canada in 1916, the Ontario legislature would eventually concede to the provincial franchise in 1917. As with men, voting eligibility was strictly restricted to women over 21 years of age, who were born or naturalized British subjects and who had lived in the country for 12 months. Women originally excluded from the vote were our Indigenous societies living on rearLake Ontariohad strong matrilineal structures in which women held positions of power. Among the Haudenosaunee, clan mothers, female elders who carried the hereditary rights to represent different nations of the confederacy, were tasked with using their knowledge of the Great Law to responsibly appoint, observe or remove the authority of (male) chiefs and faith keepers. Under centuries of colonization, however, the influence of patriarchal European settlers eroded many of the Indigenous women residing inwhat was Upper Canada, including British settlers, White AmericanLoyalists, Freed Blacks and slaves of African origins, generally lived in a highly patriarchal society which offered woman had no right to own or sell property or have control over how her own wages were spent. Until the mid to late -19th century, have allowed unmarried women and widows with property to vote, yet the absence of womens voting records in Upper Canada suggests that women with property qualifications were not expected or allowed to claim voting privileges. Similarly, the Act of Union in 1840 did not include any restrictions of voter eligibility based on sex. Nevertheless, the first piece of evidence we have that propertied woman voted in Upper Canada appears in 1844 when a formal complaint was raised by a defeated candidate stating that seven women had voted for his Tory opponent. Then when the Reform party came to power in 1849, they would add the first clause in Canadas electoral laws that specifically excluded women from voting. One exception was made in 1850, to allow women who met property qualifications, be they married or single, to vote for and be elected as school trustees, though few women availed themselves of this opportunity until the 20th century. Between 1859 and 1873, petitions and letters to editors written by women cited cases of abuse and abandonment of wives as reasons to improve womens property rights. These campaigns resulted in moderate amendments allowing married women the right to own, but not dispose of, any property inherited before marriage. In 1867, with Confederation, theBritish North America Act(now theConstitution Act, 1867) made voter eligibility a Women, a conference bringing together different womens study groups., the TWLC provided a weekly meeting space and community for educated womena radical concept, considering clubs were traditionally the domain of men. TWLC members pursued intellectual growth through the study of literature, science, music, theatrical performance and provincial legislature asking for womens suffrage. The clubs efforts resulted in a new law that allowed all women with property qualifications the right to vote on bylaws and minor municipal matters. Inspired by this success at the municipal level, the TWLC disbanded in 1883 and reconstituted as the Canadian Womens Suffrage Association (CWSA) to openly foster its members pursuit of womens suffrage. Unlike the TWLC, the CWSA also included men as members. In 1884 a further amendment granted unmarried women and widows the right to vote in municipal elections. While the development of the CWSA was a significant landmark in suffrage history, two earlier examples of womens collective action are equally important: Black women abolitionists and the Womans Christian Temperance Union. Both demonstrate early mobilization for social change and electoral reform. Black women in southwestern Ontario were among the first women activists in Canada to organize and advocate for civil rights. Mary Bibb and Amelia Freeman Shadd organized literary and social clubs for women in Windsorand Chathamin the 1850s, predating the TWLC by two decades. In 1853, prominent abolitionist Mary Ann Shaddwas the first female publisher and editor of a North American newspaper, The Provincial Freeman, which reported on Black mens voting rights and the origins of the womens suffrage movement in the United States. Although Black women would remain on the periphery of the mainstreamsuffragemovement in Canada, Shadd would return to the United States, founding the Colored Womens Progressive Franchise Association in 1880. You will remember from my article on Prohibition in Newmarket and area, the Womans Christian thus improving the standard of living for working class and poor women. Despite common interests, the WCTU was initially reluctant to support suffrage, as they believed that womens influence was more beneficial at home than at the polling station. Ontario branches of the WCTU broke ranks to become a strong ally of the CWSA in 1891, rationalizing that women voters were critical to getting temperance legislation passed. The Dominion WCTU followed with support of suffrage five years later. The womens suffrage movement in Ontario was critical to the raising of awareness and legislative changes that would eventually improve womens political, legal and economic rights. were instrumental in the advancement of womens rights in more detail as it is incumbent on all of us to know their individual stories and to appreciate the vital part they played in the evolution of thought and practise in this province and within our area at large. Here is the timeline of women obtaining the vote: 1916: Manitoba passes an act to amend The Manitoba Election Act, Statutes of Manitoba 1916 giving full voting equality 1916: Saskatchewan passes an act to amend the Statutes of Alberta passes Equal Suffrage Statutory Law Amendment Act, Statutes of Alberta 1916 giving full voting equality 1917: British Columbia passes the Provincial Elections Act, Amendment Act, 1917, Statutes of British Columbia 1917 giving full voting equality 1917: Federal passes the War-time Elections Act, Statutes of Canada 1917 giving the vote to women who were the wives, widows, mothers, sisters or daughters of men who were serving with the Canadian or British military, until the men were demobilized 1917: Federal passes the Military Voters Act, Statutes of Canada 1917 giving the vote to women who were on active service for Canada or British, until demobilized 1918: Nova Scotia passes the Nova Scotia Franchise Act, Statutes of Nova Scotia 1918, giving full voting equality with men, only property owners could vote 1918: Federal passes An Act to confer the Electoral Franchise upon Women, Statutes of Canada 1918, giving full voting equality for men and women, in effect January 1, 1919 1919: New Brunswick passes An Act to extend the electoral franchise to women, and to amend the New Brunswick Electors Act, Statutes of New Brunswick 1919, giving full voting equality, but women not eligible for elections, Ordinances of the Yukon Territory 1919 granting full voting equality 1922: Prince Edward Island passes the Election Act, 1922, Statutes of Prince Edward Island 1925 giving full voting equality 1925: Newfoundland and Labrador pass the House of Assembly Amendment Act, Statutes of Prince Edward Island 1925 giving full voting equality 1925: Newfoundland and crown colony separate from Canada until 1949 1940: Quebec pass An Act granting to women the right to vote and to be eligible as candidates, Statutes of Quebec 1940, granting full voting equality of voting status since Council members were first elected in 1951 1999: Nunavut passes the Nunavut Elections Act, Statutes of Nunavut 2002, which repealed and replaced the Elections Act, Revised Statutes of Nunavut passes the Nunavut. Prior to the creation of Nunavut, women held full voting rights in the Northwest Territories since Council members were first elected in 1951. From early trailblazers to todays powerful agents of change, from the long journey for womens suffrage towards equality of rights and opportunities for all, women have and continue to blaze a trail to create a better, more equal world for everyone. Take a look at this timeline to discover notable events in Canadian womens history and learn more about the powerful women who created change. 1645: Jeanne Mance, founder of Canadas first hospital Title: Jeanne Mance, a French nurse and settler of New France, opened Htel-Dieu in Montreal which was one of the first hospitals in Canada. 1813: Laura Secord, Canadian heroine of the War of 1812 Laura Secord walked 32 kilometres to warn Lieutenant James Fitzgibbon of impending danger of attack by the Americans during the War of 1812. 1853: Mary Ann Shadd Cary, first Black newspaperwoman in North America Mary Ann Shadd Cary became the first Black newspaper that gave a voice to Black people in Canadian woman physician to practice in Canadian woman physician to practice in Canada Dr. Emily Stowe became the first Canadian woman physician to practice in Canada, although she was not licensed until 1880. 1875: Grace Annie Lockhart, pioneer of women's university education Title: Grace Annie Lockhart received a bachelors degree in Science and English Literature from Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. It was the first degree awarded to a woman in Canada. 1897: Clara Brett Martin, Canadas first woman lawyer. 1903: Emma Baker, first woman to receive a Ph.D. from a Canadian university Title: Emma BakerSource/credit: University of Toronto Archives, 2007-47-1MSEmma Baker became the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from a Canadian university. She earned the degree in psychology at the University of Toronto. 1914-1918: First female officers served with the Canadian Army Medical Corps Title: Canadian nurses, CWM in Manitoba became the first in Canada to win the right to vote Title: Nellie McClungSource/credit: Cyril Jessop, Library and Archives Canada Manitoba women were the first in Canada to gain the right to vote in provincial elections, thanks to the efforts of Nellie McClung and the Political Equality League. 1917: Louise McKinney and Roberta MacAdams Price, first women elected to a legislature in the British Empire Title: Roberta MacAdams Price of Alberta became the first two women in the British Empire to be elected to a provincial legislature. 1918: Some women were granted the right to elected to the House of Commons Agnes Macphail, activist and founder of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Canada, became the first woman to represent Canada in an Olympic Games Title: Cecile Eustace SmithSource/credit: City of Toronto Archives, Globe and Mail fonds, Fonds 1266, Item 9842.Cecile Eustace Smith, a 15-year-old figure skater, became the first Canadian woman to represent Canada in the Olympic Games. She competed in the first official winter Olympics in Chamonix, France. 1927: The Famous Five, petitioners in the groundbreaking Persons Case Title: The Famous Five, 1930.Description: Rt. Hon. W.L. Mackenzie King and guests unveiling a plaque commemorating the 5 Alberta women whose efforts resulted in the Persons Case, which established the rights of women to hold public office in CanadaSource/credit: Library and Archives Canada/National Film Board of Canada fonds/a1954325 women who have since become known as the Famous Five launched a legal challenge that would mark a turning point for equality rights in Canada. Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby and Henrietta Muir Edwards were journalists, politicians, reformers and activists from Alberta who asked the Supreme Court of Canada to answer the following question: does the word person in Section 24 of the British North America Act include female persons? After 5 weeks of debate, the Supreme Court decided that the word person did not include women. 1929: Women were declared as persons Title: "Now That We Are Persons" article by Nellie McClung. Description: Photo of an article from Farm and Ranch Review, 2 January 1930 (Vol XXV!, No. 1, pp.16), titled "Now That We Are Persons" written by Nellie McClung. Source/credit: Provincial Archives of Alberta, A17201The British Privy Council declared that women are persons and the Royal Canadian Navy Title: Canadian Women's Army Corps (C.W.A.C.) Pipe and Brass Bands preparing to take part in C.W.A.C. anniversary march past Apeldoorn, Netherlands, 13 August 1945Source/credit: Library and Archives Canada/Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development fonds/a123915The Canadian Women's Army Corps and the Royal Canadian Navy, Women's Division, were formed and over 45,000 women volunteers were recruited for full-time military service other than nursing. 1954: Elsie Knott, first woman elected chief of a First Nation community Elsie Knott, first woman elected chief of a First Nation in Ontario, became the first woman elected chief of a First Nation community in Canada. 1960: All Canadian women were given the right to vote Title: In Hiawatha Council Hall on occasion of federal by-elections. Until the Canada Elections Act was enacted in 1960, First Nations women could not vote unless they had lost or given up their treaty rights and Indian status. 1967: The Royal Commission on the Status of Women, Ottawa, Ont.: 1969 / PA-135131The Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada was established and was the first Commissions mandate was to inquire into and report upon the status of women in Canada, and to recommend what steps might be taken by the federal government to ensure for women equal opportunities with men in all aspects of Canadian society. 1969: Rjane Laberge-Colas was a judge to a superior court. Title: Rjane Laberge-Colas was a judge to a superior court. 1970: Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada / e010858739Source/credit: W. H. "Bill" Olson, Dominion-Wide Photographs LimitedThe report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada was tabled in Parliament. It included recommendations on updating the legislative system and addressing such critical issues for women as poverty, family law, the Indian Act and the need for a federal representative for women. 1971: The Canadian Labour Code was amended Source/credit: Canadian Labour Congress websiteDescription: A woman in the street with a sign in her hands during a protest. On the sign, you can read "Working women have a right to paid maternity leave". Amendments were made to the Canadian Labour Code to include the provision of 17 weeks of maternity leave. 1977: The Canadian Human Rights Act was created The Canadian Human Rights Act was passed, forbidding discrimination on the basis of sex and ensuring equal pay for work of equal value for woman, was elected to the Legislature of the Northwest Territories, becoming the first Indigenous woman to lead a provincial or territorial government in Canada. 1981: Womens rights were enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms Title: Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Government of Canada. 1981: Womens rights were enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms Title: Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Government of Canada. Archives Canada/Robert Stacey fonds/e010758222Womens rights, ensuring equality before and under the law, were enshrined in the new Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. 1983: Jeanne Sauv, first woman to serve as Governor General of Canada, the first woman to hold this post. 1987 Combat roles in the Royal Canadian Air Force are opened to women Title: On June 20, 1989, Captain Jane Foster (left) and Captain Deanna Dee Brasseur stand atop a CF-188 Hornet fighter aircraft, were opened to women for the first Thauberger/e008299388Jean Augustine became the first Black Canadian woman elected to the House of Canada Adopted the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action was adopted Canada adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action where we committed to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women and girls. 1996: Sexual orientation was added to the Canadian Human Rights Act was amended to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. 2001: Canadian Human Rights Act was amended to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. Rights Commission recommends a pay equity system be established so that employees proactively get equal pay, without needing to file a complaint to receive it. 2001: A task force to address pay equity was appointed The Government of Canada appointed the Bilson Task Force to improve the federal pay equity web page for more information. 2004: The Standing Committee on the Status of Women was established The Standing Committee on the Status of Women was established in the House of Commons for keeping Parliament informed on issues pertaining to women's participation in society and promoting government action on equality for women. 2005: Same-sex marriage became legal nationwide same leg command a major Canadian warship Title: Jose KurtzSource/credit: Royal Canadian NavyCommander Jose Kurtz became the first woman in Canadian history to assume command of a major warship when she took control of the frigate HMCS Halifax. 2012: Canadian history to assume command of a major warship when she took control of the frigate HMCS Halifax. International Day of the Girl The United Nations formally adopted a resolution designating the International Day of the Girl under Canada announced The Prime Minister of Cana Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was launched 2017: Gender expression and gender identity were added to the Canadian Human Rights Act The Canadian Human ever Canadas Pay Equity Commissioner Source: Canadian Human Rights CommissionKaren Jensen was appointed as Canadas first Pay Equity Commissioner. 2019: Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was released Reclaiming Power and Place, the two-volume Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, was released on June 3, 2019. It called for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous Women and Girls, was released on June 3, 2019. It called for transformative legal and social changes to resolve the crisis that has devastated Indigenous Women and Girls, was released Violence - a significant step towards genders. equality On November 9, 2022, the Government of Canada announced a historic milestone, the endorsement of a 10-year National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Related link Date modified: 2024-10-23Canadian women were given the right to vote in elections. Some Canada announced a historic milestone, the endorsement of a 10-year National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. Related link Date modified: 2024-10-23Canadian women were given the right to vote in elections. and some Canadian men women and children were dying ofthe Spanish Flu. 1902: Margaret Haile became the first female candidate to run for legislative office in Canada, being nominated for the 1902 Ontario provincial election. 1911: Flora MacDonald Denison, known for her radical views on birth control and womens reproductive rights, became the president of the Canadian Suffrage Association.1917: Ontario was the fifth province in Canada to allow women to vote. (The first province was Manitoba).1918: Canada granted the vote to property-owning women over the age of 21 who were born or naturalized British subjects and who had lived in the country for 12 months.1918: A limited right to vote in the United Kingdom is extended to women over the age of 30 who owned property.1920: Constance Hamilton became the first woman in Ontario to hold elected office 1921: Agnes Macphail became the first woman elected in Canada as a Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP). Ontario is the first province to elect a woman to the House of Commons.1929: The Imperial Privy Council of England ruled that women are legally persons. This reversed a Supreme Court of Canada ruling. Women could now hold seats in the Canadian Senate.1930: Cairine Wilson of Ontario became the first female senator in Canada.1934: The Dominion Franchise Act disqualified Inuit and Status Indians from voting federally, but made an exception for Status Indian veterans (previously excluded in 1924).1936: Barbara Hanley elected as mayor in a general election.1947: The Citizenship Act extended the right to vote federally elected as the first female mayor of a major city in Canada (Ottawa).1951: Indigenous women acquired the right to hold office on reserves.1954: Elsie Knott became the first elected female chief of a First Nation (Curve Lake, Ontario).1957: Eller Fairclough was the first woman to serve in the Canadian cabinet as the Secretary of State. 1960: All Indigenous women could vote federally, but were still excluded from voting in some provinces. 1969: All Canadians of age have the right to vote (regardless of gender or race). 1972: Margaret Birch, a Progressive Conservative MPP from Scarborough East, was the first woman appointed to an Ontario cabinet position. 1974: Pauline McGibbon became the first female Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. 1982: The Canadian citizens, including the right to vote. 1993-2006: Jean Augustine became the first African-Canadian female Member of Parliament (MP) in Canada, and the first Jewish woman in federal cabinet from 2002-04.2004: Rosalie Abella became the first Jewish woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. 2013: Kathleen Wynne took office as the first female Premier of Ontario. 2016: Jasmine Akbarali was appointed as judge of the Superior Court of Justice in Toronto. She was the first South Asian woman appointed to a provincial superior court in Canada.Compiled by Shruthi Dhananjaya, Communications and Social Media Intern with the Ontario Heritage Trust, with assistance from Beth Anne Mendes, the Trusts Plaque Program Coordinator.Check out this chart from Statistics Canada [PDF | 3 MB]Sources: Archives of Ontario | Black History Canada | Canadian Board Diversity Council | Canadian Medical Hall of Fame | CBC | Heritage Matters | South Asian Bar Association of Toronto | Wisegeek.orgIt has been said that those who show up make decisions, but for 50 years after Canadas confederation, more than half of Canadians were barred from showing up to cast their votes. On April 12, 1917, women in Untario gained the right to vote, and voting is as important now as it was then. From April 12, 1917, women in Untario gained the right to vote, and voting is as important now as it was then. Chatham branch of the Chatham-Kent Public Library (120 Queen St., Chatham), with a pop-up exhibit from the Chatham-Kent Museum and Buxton National Historic Site & Museum. How did women in Chatham-Kent work for suffrage? Where in Canada did women first get to vote? Who was the first woman to sit in Canadas parliament? Meet the

When did females get the right to vote in canada. When did females get the right to vote in canada federal. When did females get the right to vote. When did females get the right to vote in america.

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