

Womens History Month 2021
The Theme for this Year is:
‘Women Making History Now’

October has been designated as Women’s History Month in Canada since 1992 when the Government of Canada declared that month to mark and celebrate the many achievements of women throughout Canada’s history. Much of the traditional history taught and recognized were accomplishments of men. Although it is important to recognize their contributions, those made by women seemed to be invisible and so it was fitting that a month was set aside to acknowledge the many achievements and the lasting impact made by women.

October 18, 1929 was the day when the legal definition of “persons” was changed to include women by the Privy Council in England under the British North American Act. This was a turning point in the quest for equal rights in Canada allowing women the right to be appointed to the Senate and paving their way for increased participation in public and political life.

It was also in 2012 that Canada lead a successful international campaign at the United Nations to establish the International Day of the Girl which is also recognized in October. This day (October 11th) is dedicated to promoting girls’ rights around the world, including freedom from violence and abuse and equal opportunities in health care, nutrition, education and the law.

For a look at ‘Women in Canadian History: :A Timeline’ here is a link
<https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/commemorations-celebrations/womens-history-month/women-history-canada-timeline.html>

All of these woman firsts probably came with some self sacrifice and living on the fringe of society. During the last number of months dealing with COVID 19 and the restrictions from the pandemic, women have been disproportionately disadvantaged. With the increased demand to work from home along with home schooled children, isolation and many of the essential services done primarily by women the theme of “Women Making History Now” is certainly relevant. As the term ‘new normal’ arises women are and will again be making sacrifices of themselves and pioneering new territory in order to move forward. With increased policies and restrictions coming into play everyday we are seeing the erosion of choices and some of these are after long fought battles by women who have come before. So for ‘Women Making History Now’ the stage is going to be difficult and more important than ever to push forward preserving our rights and addressing those that are being eroded. This new made history may be very much like the suffragette's fight to vote, forging forward and not collapsing

to public and social pressure. It may be difficult to hold fast to feminist philosophy when judged from social pressure.

Let's continue the struggle forward for women's voices to be heard and women's rights and opportunities to increase. We want to make sure all women and girls have economic empowerment and access to education, increased political participation and leadership, health care, accommodations and food security. In a country like Canada nothing less should be expected. The Women's community must stand together in solidarity, without any discrimination, to move forward with one voice, one purpose and one goal – TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH RESPECT AND EQUALITY. This would be the ultimate "Women Making History Now"!!

Now for some fun!! Below is a quiz on Canadian Heroines, created by Merna Forster. See if you can answer the questions and recognize the Women Who Made History Then!!

Written by Joy Warner

Program Coordinator

Women's Place Resource Centre

Canadian Heroines Quiz

QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. Which author wrote the first Canadian book that sold more than a million copies?

- A. Margaret Atwood
- B. Mazo de la Roche
- C. Lucy Maud Montgomery
- D. Margaret Marshall Saunders

2. Who was the first woman in Canada to be elected as a federal member of parliament?



(National Archives of Canada/C-006908)

- A. Nellie McClung
- B. Cairine Wilson
- C. Martha Black
- D. Agnes Macphail

3. Who was the Black woman charged in 1734 with setting a major fire in Montreal to escape her life as a slave?

- A. Harriet Tubman
- B. Rose Fortune
- C. Marie-Joseph Angélique
- D. Mary Ann Shadd

4. Who is known as the Heroine of Acadia?

- A. Evangeline
- B. Françoise-Marie Jacquin
- C. Marie-Henriette Lejeune-Ross
- D. Pélagie la Charette

5. Which of the following famous women grew up in Toronto as Gladys Smith?

- A. Marie Dressler
- B. Elizabeth Arden
- C. Mary Pickford
- D. Beatrice Lillie

6. What was the name of the talented Canadian Olympian (Amsterdam 1928) who was said to be the world's greatest woman athlete?



(National Archives of Canada/PA-151007)

- A. Fanny Rosenfeld

- B. Ethel Catherwood
- C. Marilyn Bell
- D. Myrtle Cook

7. After the outbreak of World War II this woman played an important role in organizing a school system for Japanese Canadian children sent to detention camps in the British Columbia interior. Who was she?

- A. Irene Ayako Uchida
- B. Joy Kogawa
- C. Maryka Omatsu
- D. Hide Hyodo Shimizu

8. Who was the first Canadian doctor to serve in China?

- A. Dr. Norman Bethune
- B. Dr. Norma Bethune
- C. Dr. Leonora Howard King
- D. Dr. Isabelle McTavish

9. This artist painted some of Canada's most well-known paintings of voyageurs. Who was she?



Canoe Manned by Voyageurs Passing a Waterfall
(National Archives of Canada/C-002771)

- A. Emily Carr
- B. Laura Muntz Lyall
- C. Charlotte Schreiber

- D. Frances Anne Hopkins

10. Who was the first Canadian woman to become a nuclear physicist?

- A. Harriet Brooks
- B. Maude Abbott
- C. Maud Menten
- D. Margaret Newton

11. Who was the Mohawk stateswoman who helped the British gain support of the Iroquois during the American Revolutionary War?

- A. Pauline Johnson
- B. Molly Brant
- C. Thanadelthur
- D. Shanawdithit

12. Anna Leonowens, the onetime governess in the court of the King of Siam, became a prominent feminist in what Canadian city?



- A. Halifax
- B. Winnipeg
- C. Toronto
- D. Victoria

13. Who was the woman involved in the discovery of gold that resulted in the Klondike gold rush?

- A. Kate Carmack
- B. Klondike Kate
- C. Martha Black
- D. Nellie Cashman

14. Who was the Nova Scotia woman sentenced to death after helping people escape from the Nazis while she lived in the Netherlands?

- A. Edith Jessie Archibald
- B. Helen Creighton
- C. Mona Parsons
- D. Margaret C. Macdonald

15. On October 18, 1929 the Privy Council in England declared that under the British North America Act women were recognized as persons, who were eligible to be appointed to the Canadian Senate. The battle to gain this important right was waged by a group of Alberta women now known as The Famous Five. Which of the following women did not belong to The Famous Five?

- A. Emily Murphy
- B. Cairine Wilson
- C. Irene Parlby
- D. Louise McKinney

16. Who was the first Canadian woman to be named a saint?



(Portrait by Pierre Le Ber)

- A. Marguerite Bourgeoys
- B. Jeanne Mance
- C. Kateri Tekakwitha

- D. Marie de l'Incarnation

17. Mrs. Kwong Lee became the first female Chinese immigrant to Canada when she arrived in Victoria in what year?

- A. 1867
- B. 1795
- C. 1900
- D. 1860

18. Who was Taqulittuq, also known as Tookoolito?

- A. a famous artist
- B. a guide and interpreter for Arctic explorers
- C. an Inuit storyteller
- D. a sculptor from Baffin Island

19. This famous Canadian singer was a favourite of Queen Victoria and sang at her funeral. Who was she?

- A. Emma Albani
- B. Mary Travers Bolduc ("La Bolduc")
- C. May Irwin
- D. Pauline Donalda

20. What was the name of the adventurous woman who managed to become the first female geologist in Canada?

- A. Helen Belyea
- B. Moira Dunbar
- C. Alice Wilson
- D. Helen Hogg

21. Who was the first woman to climb Mt. Robson - the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies?



*Crossing a creek with her third sixty-pound load.
(The Unknown Mountain, 1948)*

- A. Mary Schaffer Warren
- B. Georgina Engelhard Cromwell
- C. Phyllis Munday
- D. Caroline Hinman

22. Who was known as “Lily of the Mohawks”?

- A. Madame Montour
- B. Kateri Tekakwitha
- C. Shaaw Tlaa
- D. Pauline Johnson

23. Who was the first woman in the world to design an airplane?

- A. Amelia Earhart
- B. Monique Frize
- C. Olive Stark
- D. Elsie MacGill

24. Who was the woman that was one of the primary founders of Montreal?

- A. Jeanne Mance
- B. Madame Hébert
- C. Marguerite Bourgeoys

- D. Marguerite d'Youville

25. Who was renowned as “the funniest woman in the world”?



(Yousuf Karsh/Library and Archives Canada/PA-165928)

- A. Phyllis Diller
- B. Beatrice Lillie
- C. Marie Dressler
- D. Lynn Johnston

Score =

Answers

- | | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1) – D | 9) – D | 17) – D | 25) - B |
| 2) – D | 10) – A | 18) - B | |
| 3) – C | 11) – B | 19) - A | |
| 4) – B | 12) – A | 20) - C | |
| 5) – C | 13) – A | 21) - C | |
| 6) – A | 14) – C | 22) - B | |
| 7) – D | 15) – B | 23) - D | |
| 8) – C | 16) – A | 24) - A | |