

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Leaders in Action: A Nova Scotia Story



1758 Elections to the first Nova Scotia House of Assembly, the oldest in Canada.



Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.



Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.

1825 Black Loyalist Rose Fortune starts her own business and acts as the Town of Annapolis Royal's waterfront police officer. Many consider her the first police woman in Canada.

1894 Halifax Local Council of Women, a coalition of local groups, is founded. Suffragist Edith Jessie Archibald leads the campaign for women's right to vote, and is elected president of the Council in 1896. The Women's Council House is still at its original location in Halifax.



Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.

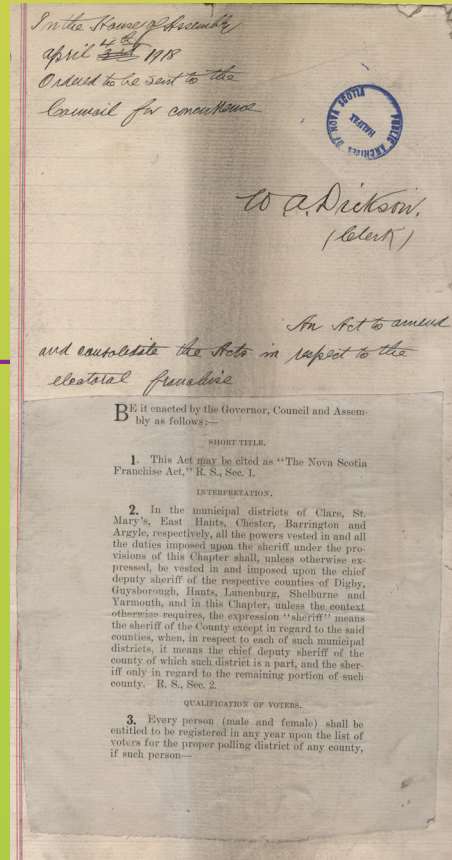
1917 During the First World War, military nurses and close female relatives of military men can vote in the December federal election.



Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.

1918 Women are eligible to vote across Canada, if not excluded by race or Indian Status.

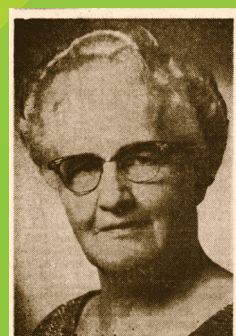
April 26, 1918 Nova Scotia women are eligible to vote provincially, if they own property. Property qualification removed in 1920.



Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.

1960 Women and men with Indian Status are enfranchised in all elections.

1960 Progressive Conservative Gladys Porter, former Mayor of Kentville, is the first female MLA.



GLADYS M. PORTER
... first woman member
Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.

1962 Mary Helen Pierro is the first female elected Chief under the Indian Act, in Wagmatcook First Nation.



Courtesy of Molly Pierro.

1974 Liberal Coline Campbell is the first female MP from Nova Scotia.



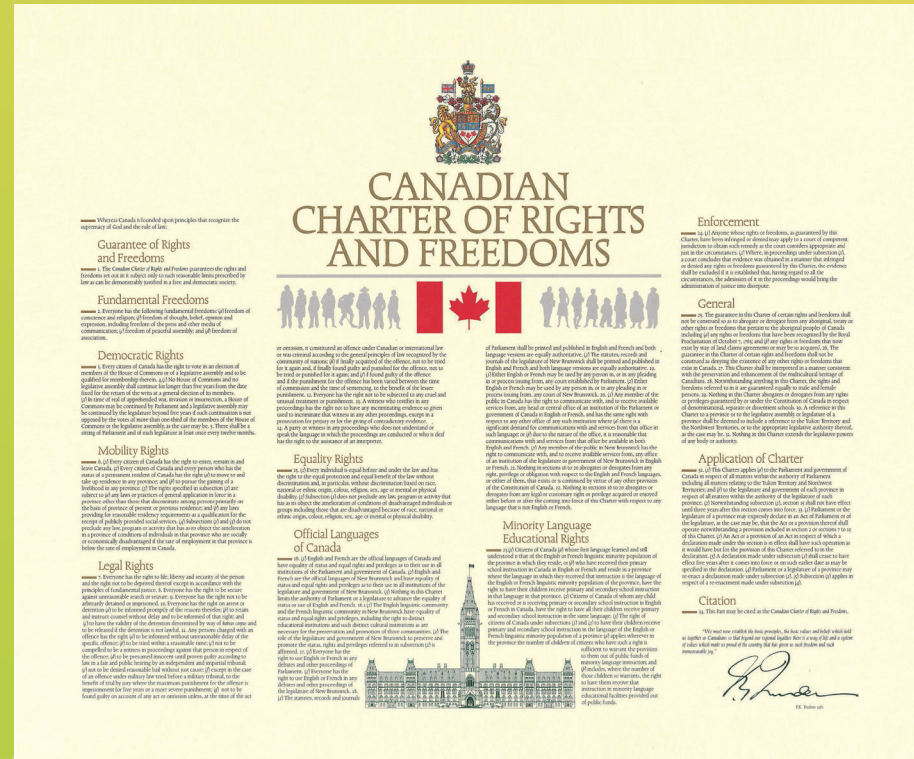
Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.

1979 New Democrat Alexa McDonough is elected MLA. Over the next two decades, she is provincial and federal party leader.



Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.

1982 The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the vote to citizens over the age of eighteen.



Courtesy of Library Archives Canada.

The campaign to achieve inclusion and equity in politics continues.

What can you do?

✓ Vote ✓ Support women ✓ Run for office

1984 Daurene Lewis, a descendant of Rose Fortune, is elected mayor of Annapolis Royal and is Canada's first female African Canadian mayor.



Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.

If I could teach one thing to the next generation, it would be that no one should accept the status quo. Daurene Lewis

1998 New Democrat Yvonne Atwell is elected, and is the first female African Nova Scotian MLA.



Courtesy of Nova Scotia Archives.

Image citations

House of Assembly: Nova Scotia Archives: Richard Short, “The Governor’s house and St Mather’s”, courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives.

Rose Fortune: Nova Scotia Archives Documentary Art Collection.

Edith Jessie Archibald: Nova Scotia Archives Photo Collection: People: Edith Jessie Archibald.

Nurses: Nova Scotia Archives Photo Collection: Army – General – Hospitals No. 4.

Franchise Act: Nova Scotia House of Assembly fonds: RG 5 Series S (Statutes) 1918, courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives.

Gladys Porter: *The Advertiser* June 9, 1960, courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives.

Mary Helen Pierro: family photo, courtesy of Molly Pierro.

Coline Campbell: *Le Petit Courier* July 11, 1974, courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives.

Alexa McDonough: MG 2 Volume 1613 number 2 (Nova Scotia New Democratic Party fonds), courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives.

Daurene Lewis: *The Spectator* January 8, 1985, courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives.

Yvonne Atwell: Nova Scotia Archives NDP Collection box 2 1998 campaign, courtesy of the Nova Scotia Archives.

Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms: Courtesy of Library Archives Canada.



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