

A Short Timeline of Women's Rights in Canada

with additional notes.

For a more complete Timeline, see A History of Women's Rights

<http://www.ournellie.com/womens-suffrage/history-ofwomens-rights>

Before 1900 – examples of “Women’s Rights in Canada”	
1867	Dr. Emily Stowe (1831-1903) who will become a path-breaking Canadian woman physician and suffragist graduates in medicine from New York State University; she is not legally allowed to practice in Canada until 1880
1867-1884	Canadian Confederation. In all provinces, there are three basic conditions for becoming an elector: being male, having reached the age of 21 and being a British subject by birth or naturalization.
1875	Grace Annie Lockhart is the first woman to receive a university degree in Canada. (Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick). Grace Annie Lockhart, pioneer of women's university education (b at Saint John 22 Feb 1855; d at Charlottetown 18 May 1916). On 25 May 1875, Lockhart received a bachelor of science and English literature from Mt Allison College, Sackville, NB, and thus became the first woman in the British Empire to receive a bachelor's degree. Canadian Encyclopedia http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0004741
1885	The Dominion Franchise Act is established and remains in effect until 1898. An eligible voter is identified as a male person, which includes any person of Aboriginal descent and excludes any person of Asian descent. A man can vote if he or his wife own property; she is responsible for the property tax.

1887	Women in Manitoba gain the right to vote in municipal elections, but are not eligible for municipal office until 1917.
1890	<p>Canadian Icelandic women, who had the right to vote in Iceland, are led Margaret Benedictsson, to begin one of the first suffrage movements in the west.</p> <p>As early as 1892, Mrs. Annie McClung is going from door to door asking women to sign a petition that they be allowed to vote. Few signed it.</p>
1900 - 1960	
1900	<p><i>The Married Women's Property Act</i> gives married women in Manitoba the same legal rights to their property and to control her own wages and profits as men. Previously, a woman living in Manitoba lost most of her legal rights respecting property when she married. All her property, for example, became legally vested in her husband #3 #9</p>
1912	<p>The Political Equality League is formed in Manitoba to campaign for the vote for women.</p> <p>A group of Manitoba women including Nellie McClung E. Cora Hind, Lillian Beynon Thomas, Frances Beynon, and Dr. Mary Crawford founded the Political Equality League to fight for the vote for women. Before the election in 1915, the leader of the Opposition, T.S. Norris, promised that if he were elected, women would receive the vote. He added that they would need to gather 17,000 names on a petition asking for the vote for women.</p>
1914	<p>The Mock Parliament Members of the Political Equality League present a Women's or Mock Parliament at the Walker Theatre. The now famous show, features Nellie McClung taking the role of Premier. As men come to her asking for rights such as the right to vote, she replies with the same words and gestures that the Premier had used when women asked him to consider the vote for women.</p>
1916	Manitoba women become the first in Canada to win the rights to vote and to hold provincial office.
1917	The Dower Act is passed in Alberta providing that a homestead in which a wife has a life interest cannot be disposed of without her consent.

1918	<p>Women aged 21 and over became eligible to vote in federal elections in Canada.</p> <p>This does not, however, include Aboriginal peoples, Inuit or anyone barred from a provincial voters' list including Asians and Hindus.</p>
1921	<p>Agnes MacPhail is the first woman elected to the House of Commons.</p> <p>MacPhail wins as an independent from Ontario. She serves for nineteen years and is the only woman in the House of Commons until 1935</p>
1929	<p>Women in Canada gain the right to hold a seat in the Senate after the Persons' Case finds that women are persons under the Canadian Constitution.</p> <p>The Famous Five, as Emily Murphy, Irene Parlby, Nellie McClung, Henrietta Muir Edwards and Louise Crummy McKinney have become known, ask the Canadian Supreme Court to rule on whether or not women in Canada are considered to be Person's under Canadian Law. When the Supreme Court decides that women are not persons, the group takes the case to The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England (Canada's final Court of Appeal at the time) which overturns the decision of the Canadian Supreme Court. It recognizes Canadian women as persons under the law. As a result, women are "eligible to be summoned to and become members of the Senate of Canada".</p>
1930	<p>Montreal's Cairine Wilson is the first woman appointed to the Senate.</p> <p>Mrs. Wilson (1885-1962) is appointed as the country's first woman Senator in 1930 by Prime Minister King only four months after the ruling in the "Persons Case" . As a Senator, Mrs. Wilson champions issues such as divorce, immigration, refugees and anti-semitism. She is Canada's first woman delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1949. Library and Archives of Canada. http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/women/030001-1317-e.html</p>
1940	<p>Women in Québec obtain the vote in Provincial elections.</p> <p>Québec becomes the last existing province to make it legal for women, excluding those from a racial minority already banned from voting in other provinces to vote and run for office.</p>

1948	The Federal Elections Act is changed so that race is no longer a ground for exclusion from voting in federal elections. Japanese Canadians, including women, are granted the vote in Canadian Elections.
1960	Aboriginal people receive the unrestricted right to vote in federal elections. Beginning in 1960, aboriginal Canadians including women were no longer required to give up their treaty rights and renounce their status under the Indian Act in order to qualify for the vote.