

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

October is Women's History Month. As we celebrate, we must also remember the hard-fought battles for social, cultural, legal, and economic rights now guaranteed to all Canadians who self-identify as women.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

- 1929 Women are now considered "persons" by law.
- 1946 Viola Desmond challenges racial segregation at a cinema in Nova Scotia and helps spark the civil rights movement in Canada.
- 1960 First Nations gain the right to vote without losing their status; all women are now able to vote in Canada.
- 1971 *Canadian Labour Code* is amended to prohibit discrimination based on sex or marital status.
- 1977 *Canadian Human Rights Act* is passed, making discrimination based on sex forbidden and addressing equal pay for equal work for women.
- 1981 *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees equal rights for women.
- 1996 *Canadian Human Rights Act* is amended to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- 2005 Same-sex marriage legalized in Canada.
- 2015 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls begins.
- 2017 *Canadian Human Rights Act* is amended to prohibit discrimination based on gender expression and identity.
- 2017 Canada develops national strategy to address gender-based violence.
- 2019 *Reclaiming Power and Place* is released. This final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls includes 231 calls for justice.
- 2021 *Pay Equity Act* comes into force.
- 2023 Ontario becomes the final province (excluding Quebec) to sign on to the federal Early Learning and Child Care system, which aims to reduce child-care fees to \$10 per day across the country by 2026.

CALL TO ACTION

As we look back on significant gains, we must use our collective efforts to create a truly equal world!

