

2025

Women's History Month Poster Curriculum Companion

October is Women's History Month in Canada. This year's poster is dedicated to trailblazing Canadian women in politics.

Les femmes en politique celebrates their advocacy for equality and human rights regardless of their political affiliation.

The impact of their leadership is a reminder for us to build on this legacy for a better world.



Poster Concept

This poster celebrates Women's History Month by centering women's voices, leadership, and collective strength. At the heart of the design a woman stands up delivering a passionate public service announcement through a megaphone. She amplifies the call for equality and increased representation of women in politics. Radiating behind her are sun-inspired rays that also resemble sound waves, visually connecting warmth, hope, and energy with the power of voice and advocacy.

A symbolic scale is balanced behind the speaker with purpose—held steady by three diverse women on each side. They are captured in dynamic, action-oriented poses, and together, they embody teamwork, equity, and the ongoing work of maintaining social balance. In the foreground, a flowing wave carries the poster's message forward—its expanding text reflecting how change begins with small, consistent steps that build into impactful movements. The poster speaks to the ongoing journey toward justice and the importance of women uplifting one another to create lasting, systemic change.

Artist Bio

Jamera is a Toronto-born digital and traditional multidisciplinary artist of Jamaican heritage. She's a Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) graduate, with a Bachelor of Technology. Every brushstroke in her work uses a treatment of bold colors, and layers of organic shapes. Exploring stories with messages of new perspectives, light, and love.



Classroom Activities

The following activities have been developed to support using the poster as a teaching tool. Themes such as equality, social justice, and leadership are integrated into the activities in recognition of Women's History. The activities align with specific expectations within Ontario's language curriculum.

Specific Expectations	Grade							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A3.2: Applications, Connections, and Contributions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B1: Oral and Non-Verbal Communication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B2: Language Foundations for Reading and Writing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
B3: Language Conventions for Reading and Writing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Activity 1: The Leaders We Know

Division: Primary

1. Begin with a discussion about leadership using the following questions:
 - What is a leader?
 - What are some words you can use to describe a leader you know?
 - Share all the ways you are a leader within our learning community.
2. Record student responses and create a word wall of leadership qualities that students have and leadership roles within their learning community.
3. Share the poster with students, ask them to observe how the women on the poster can be leaders. Record additional words and add to the word wall.
4. Ask students to think about women they know who they view as leaders. Record responses and add new words to the word wall.
5. Have students write a letter of appreciation to the women leaders they know and appreciate. Encourage students to use the word wall which consists of vocabulary that was co-created together.

Activity 2: Explore Symbols within the Poster

Division: Junior

1. Discuss how some items are used as symbols which have deeper meanings. Ask students to think about a thumbs up and the meaning behind that symbol. In the discussion, let students know that some colours, such as the colour red, have multiple meanings.
2. As a group, brainstorm symbols and colours that have multiple meanings. Some examples include a red heart for love and a white dove for peace.
3. As a class, observe the poster and identify different items on it which could have various meanings. The chart below can be used to guide students with identifying items, symbols, and colours.
4. Once items or symbols are identified, have students share the message behind the items.
5. The chart below identifies items or symbols and some possible messages.

Items or Symbols	Message
Megaphone	Used to amplify voices
Placard	Used to communicate a message for social change
Purple	Colour associated with women's equality
Raised fist	Solidarity, showing support for a cause
Scale	Equality
Steps	Progress
Yellow	Colour associated with hope, optimism, friendship, and joy.
Radiating Circles	Soundwaves

- Have students brainstorm ideas about something which can make their school community better. Have students design their own poster which includes colours, items, and symbols to communicate a message of change to improve their learning community.

Activity 3: Find the Leader

Division: Junior and Intermediate

- Refer to the Women of Impact in Politics website. Pre-select or present all 31 bios for students to explore.
- Provide students with the following themes:
 - Firsts
 - Accomplishments
 - Social Issues
 - Impact
- Create four groups and assign one theme per group of students. Have students find the women of impact in politics who match the theme they were assigned and have them record details.

- As a class, have students share the theme and women of impact they would like the class to know more about.
- After students share, lead a discussion with the discussion questions below.

Discussions Questions:

- How did the women of impact in politics change Canadian society?
- Why is it important for people in leadership roles to be concerned about social issues?
- Why is it important to reflect on the impact of women in leadership roles?
- What work still needs to be done?

Themes	Some Examples
Firsts	Jean Augustine, Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Rosemary Brown, Catherine Callbeck, Kim Campbell, Thérèse Casgrain, Ione Jean Christensen, Adrienne Clarkson, Nellie Cournoyea, Judy Erola, Ellen Fairclough, Muriel McQueen Fergusson, Barbara Hanley, Rita Johnston, Agnes Macphail, Pauline Marois, Audrey McLaughlin, Sarah Ramsland, Marion Reid, Brenda Mary Robertson, Jeanne Sauvé, and Cairine Wilson
Accomplishments	All of them have accomplishments which contributed provincially or federally.
Social Issues	Women's equality, human rights, social justice
Impact	All of them have had an impact which contributed to local, provincial, or federal politics.

Activity 4: Explore the Quotes

Division: Intermediate

1. Refer to the Women of Impact in Politics website.
2. Each of the 31 bios contains a quote, pre-select a few and present them to students.
3. Some examples include:
 - "We must open the doors and we must see to it that they remain open, so that others can pass through." -Rosemary Brown
 - "As a country we have so much to work with to better ourselves. We have the land, people, and abundance of wildlife. We also have a deep sense of caring, a sense of fair play, and right-mindedness that predominates on most fronts. But even then, we have so much to do – and undo." -Ethel Blondin-Andrew
 - "Each of us is carving a stone, erecting a column, or cutting a piece of stained glass in the construction of something much bigger than ourselves." - Adrienne Clarkson
 - "Because women do not perceive of themselves in the role of the leader, therefore they find it difficult to perceive of another woman in the role of a leader. The more that that position is tried for by women, the more it explodes that myth."- Flora MacDonald
4. Another way to deliver this activity is to have students explore the different quotes and choose one that they would like to analyze.
5. Using the following discussion questions to facilitate an analysis of the quotes:
 - What is the purpose of quoting leaders?
 - What message is the quote conveying?
 - Does the quote communicate any leadership qualities? If so, what qualities?
6. Have students create a poster which conveys a message of hope, inspiration, or motivation to create a better world.
7. Display student posters.