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!