

Milestones for Women in Canada (1900 - 1945)

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1900	The Married Women's Property Act allows a wife to own her own property separately from her husband and to control her own wages and profits. She is also jointly responsible for the support of their children.
1900	Teaching is the only profession open to women that leads to a pension.
1911	The Saskatchewan Deserted Wives' Maintenance Act requires husbands to pay support if they deserted their wives or forced them to leave.
1912	The Manitoba Illegitimate Children's Act allows an unwed mother to bring court action to require the child's father to pay child support and expenses.
1912	Carie Derick is the first woman in Canada to become a full professor at McGill University in Montreal.
1913	On July 31, Alys McKey Bryant is the first woman to pilot an airplane in Canada.
1914	On January 28, Nellie McClung stages a mock "Women's Parliament" in the Walker Theatre in Winnipeg to debate the question of whether men should be allowed to vote. The mock parliament uses humour to point out the unfairness of not allowing women to vote.
1915	Nurse Elizabeth Smellie is the first woman to be appointed Colonel in the Canadian Army, becoming head of the Canadian Army Nursing Corps.
1916	On January 29, Manitoba is the first province in Canada to extend to women the right to vote and to run in provincial elections (except for Aboriginal women and some minority groups).
1917	On September 20, the Military Voters Act extends the federal vote, until the end of the war, to women in the services and to those women who had close relatives in the armed services of Canada or Great Britain.
1917	Robert MacAdams and Louise McKinney are the first women elected to a provincial legislature, being elected to the Alberta Legislature on June 7.
1917	In April, British Columbia women are given the provincial vote.
1917	Alberta is the first province to adopt a minimum wage law for women.
1917	Under the Military Voters Act, nurses in the armed forces are given the vote.
1918	On April 26, Nova Scotia women are given the right to vote and hold public office.
1918	On May 24, The Women's Franchise Act is passed, allowing women the right to vote in federal elections.

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1919	On April 17, the women of New Brunswick are given the right to vote in provincial elections.
1920	In the Dominion Elections Act, the right to vote is established for all women, and the right for women to be elected to Parliament is made permanent.
1921	Agnes MacPhail is the first woman elected to the House of Commons.
1921	In British Columbia, the first maternity leave legislation is passed (six weeks leave).
1925	In Newfoundland, women over 25 are given the right to vote.
1925	Federal Divorce Law allows women to obtain a divorce on the same grounds as men.
1928	Canada's Olympic team includes women for the first time.
1929	On October 18, as a result of the "Persons' Case" of the Famous Five, the British government recognizes Canadian women as persons under the law. Up to this date, according to the British North America Act, women were not considered persons "in matters of rights and privileges," and could not be appointed to the Senate.
1939	To encourage women to join the workforce during World War II, child care centres and tax benefits are provided for the duration of the war only.
1939-1945	Record numbers of women are employed in traditionally male work as part of the war effort.
1940	On April 25, Quebec women are granted the right to vote.

Sources: Timeline of Canadian Women's History: from Moira Armour and Pat Stanton .
Canadian Women in History: A Chronology, 2nd ed.

Manitoba Women's Directorate, Celebrating Women's History:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/wd/publications/whm/cwh_time.html>

National Library of Canada, Celebrating Womens' Achievements:
<<http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/women/h12-309-e.html>>