


In 1925

The federal Divorce Act is amended
to entitle both men and women to
divorce for the same reasons¹.

¹Canadian Red Cross, Over 100 years of victories, large and small,
of women in Canada - Canadian Red Cross Blog

The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of several overlapping geometric shapes. A large orange shape occupies the top-left corner. A large pink shape covers the middle and right portions. A blue shape is visible in the top-right corner. A green shape is at the bottom-right. A dark blue curved line sweeps across the lower-middle part of the image.


HISTORICAL FACT

1

In 1928

Eileen Vollick of Ontario becomes
the first Canadian woman to earn
her pilot's license¹.

¹Canada's History, Unacquainted With Fear -
Canada's History (canadashistory.ca)

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HISTORICAL FACT

2

In 1938

Canada's Elsie MacGill
becomes the first woman in
the world to earn a degree in
aeronautical engineering¹.

¹Historica Canada, Elsie MacGill | Historica Canada

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HISTORICAL FACT

3

In 1939 - 1945

More than 50,000 Canadian women
serve in the Second World War¹.

¹Veterans Affairs Canada, Women at War - Historical Sheet -
Second World War - History - Veterans Affairs Canada

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HISTORICAL FACT


4

In 1957

Olivia Poole of Vancouver receives a patent for her invention of the Jolly Jumper for babies¹. This makes her one of the first Indigenous women in Canada to hold a registered patent².

¹Museum and Archives of North Vancouver,
Innovating On The North Shore: The Jolly Jumper - MONOVA

²Ibid

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HISTORICAL FACT

5

In 1959

Women are permitted entry to Saskatchewan bars – known at the time as “beverage rooms” – for the first time¹.

¹Saskatchewan Today, ‘Ladies and escorts:’
Women allowed in bars in the 1960s - SaskToday.ca

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HISTORICAL FACT

6

By 1960

All women in Canada can vote
both federally and provincially
for the first time¹.

¹Diefenbaker Canada Centre, The Enfranchisement of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada -
Diefenbaker Canada Centre | University of Saskatchewan (usask.ca), accessed April 30, 2024

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HISTORICAL FACT

7

By 1964

Women can open a bank
account without needing their
husband's signature¹.

¹Canadian Red Cross Blog, Over 100 years of victories, large and small,
of women in Canada - Canadian Red Cross Blog, accessed April 30, 2024

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HISTORICAL FACT

8

In 1971

Maternity benefits are added to
federal unemployment
insurance for the first time¹.

¹Government of Canada, Evaluation of the Employment Insurance
Maternity and Parental Benefits - [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca), accessed April 30, 2024

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HISTORICAL FACT

9

In 1972

Rosemary Brown is elected to the provincial legislature of British Columbia, making her the first racialized woman in Canada to become an MLA¹ (*Member of the Legislative Assembly*).

¹Legislative Assembly of British Columbia, 1972 - Rosemary Brown Becomes the First Black Woman Elected in Canada (leg.bc.ca), accessed April 30, 2024

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HISTORICAL FACT

10

In 1978

The federal Labour Code is amended to eliminate pregnancy as a basis for lay-off or dismissal by employers¹.

¹Public Service Alliance of Canada, Canadian Women's History – PSAC NCR (psac-ncr.com)

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HISTORICAL FACT

11

THROUGHOUT THE 1970s + 1980s

Women including Jeannette Corbière Lavell and Sandra Lovelace Nicholas battle gender discrimination in the Indian Act¹.

¹University of British Columbia, Bill C-31 (ubc.ca)

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HISTORICAL FACT

12

In 1982

Women's equality before and
under the law is enshrined in
the Canadian Charter of Rights
and Freedoms¹.

¹Government of Canada, Charterpedia - Section 28 –
Gender equality rights (justice.gc.ca), accessed April 30, 2024

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HISTORICAL FACT


13

In 1983

A man attacks Toronto doctor Henry Morgentaler with garden shears outside of his clinic. This is the man's way of voicing his opposition to the abortions that Morgentaler's clinic provided¹. In 1988, the Supreme Court strikes down the provisions of the Criminal Code pertaining to abortion, declaring them unconstitutional and in violation of the Charter².

¹CBC, Morgentaler attacked at abortion clinic opening | CBC.ca

²Supreme Court of Canada, R. v. Morgentaler - SCC Cases (lexum.com)

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HISTORICAL FACT

14

In 1985

DAWN (*Disabled Women's Network of Canada*) is founded¹.

¹The Canadian Encyclopedia,
Women's Movements in Canada: 1985–present | The Canadian Encyclopedia

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HISTORICAL FACT

15

In 1986

The first Raging Grannies chapter is founded in Victoria, BC¹. This group of women, all old enough to be grandmothers, uses the stereotypical dress and behaviour of senior women to their advantage to effectively stage protests in support of human rights, peace, and equality.

¹Raging Grannies official website, Herstory –
Raging Grannies International

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HISTORICAL FACT

16

In 1992

Dr. Roberta Bondar becomes
the first Canadian woman
astronaut¹.

¹Encyclopedia Britannica, Roberta Bondar | Biography & Facts | Britannica

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HISTORICAL FACT

17

In 1998

Vivienne Poy becomes the first
Asian Canadian appointed to
the Senate¹.

¹The Canadian Encyclopedia, Vivienne Poy |
The Canadian Encyclopedia, accessed April 30, 2024

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HISTORICAL FACT

18

In 2000

Beverley McLachlin becomes the first woman to serve as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada¹.

¹Supreme Court of Canada, Supreme Court of Canada - Biography - Beverley McLachlin (scc-csc.ca), accessed April 30, 2024

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HISTORICAL FACT

19

Overall

The percentage of women in the workforce has leapt from 40.5% in 1976 to almost 82% in 2021¹.

¹Statistics Canada, Employment rate of mothers and fathers, 1976 to 2021 ([statcan.gc.ca](https://www.statcan.gc.ca))

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HISTORICAL FACT

20