



**THE 150
MANITOBA
WOMEN**

Trailblazers

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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FOREWORD

The Nellie McClung Foundation is located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We are honoured to present The 150 Manitoba Women Trailblazer Awards, a Manitoba150 project celebrating Manitoba trailblazing women who have left their footprint on our province's history over the past 150 years and beyond. These women were nominated by members of their communities because they were first in their field or had a significant impact in their profession or community. There is no doubt that many of these women in our past have, at different times, held views that do not accord with today's views. Learning the history of these trailblazing women helps us gain a greater understanding of the challenges they faced to risk and defy the status quo at the time, yet inspire greater love, compassion and learning for misunderstandings and imperfections for future generations.

Nonetheless, the purpose of this project was to acknowledge the contribution of women, many of whom are unknown, to the development of our province.

Over 350 women were nominated and 150 were chosen by an independent panel based on the following criteria:

- Worked or volunteered or played a role that was first in their field or had significant impact or outcome on society in Manitoba;
- Demonstrated leadership and acted as a role model;
- Reflected the spirit of Nellie McClung;
- Worked/lived for a significant part of their lives in the territory that is now called Manitoba.

The Trailblazers come from various backgrounds and unique experiences. They are a product of the era in which they lived. We can be astounded by their fortitude and endurance and/or critical of their actions and choices. They were, however, trailblazers: persons who made new tracks through 'wild country' – be it guiding the voyageurs, growing families and communities, cracking glass ceilings or establishing their presence in political decision making. They are our history – and they are an important part of who we are as a province.

Their contributions are to events in history and to contemporary society in social justice, arts, sports, politics, community activities and promoting democracy and which are woven through the fabric of this province.

These Trailblazers leave a legacy for future generations. They were the steppingstones that have contributed to women today being better able to gain full equality. It is our hope that they provide inspiration and courage to other women and girls to know that they too can make a difference. It is the goal of the Nellie McClung Foundation to listen, learn, value the work of past trailblazers and work together for positive change.

THE *Nellie* McCLUNG FOUNDATION

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Adele Wiseman

(1928-1992)

Adele Wiseman was a literary trailblazer, telling the stories of Jews in Winnipeg and Canada: their lives, their sacrifices, their humour and their tragedies. Wiseman was born in 1928, and grew up on Burrows Avenue in Winnipeg. Her parents were Jewish immigrants from Ukraine and Poland. The Jewish Women's Archive says in the multi-ethnic and deeply prejudiced Winnipeg of Wiseman's youth, "the future author found that admitting to being Jewish turned her 'into an instant monster' in the eyes of other children," and so, for her, "solace was to be found in the family and in the world of books."

Wiseman formed a lifelong friendship with writer Margaret Laurence. Laurence, a newlywed, had moved across the street from Wiseman, and the two women, both in their early 20s, shared their literary hopes. Wiseman always knew she would be a writer. She attended the University of Manitoba, graduating in 1949 with a bachelor of arts in psychology and English literature.

Laurence helped Wiseman secure employment in England as a social worker, and it was at that time her first novel, *The Sacrifice* (for which she won the Governor General's Award for fiction), was published in 1956. The novel was remarkable in that it was one of the first written in English to deal with the Holocaust. Its themes expressed a harsh critique of Jewish theology. The *Winnipeg Tribune* called *The Sacrifice* "the best novel ever written by a Canadian."

However, those looking for another novel to quickly follow were sorely disappointed. Wiseman left England and travelled, teaching in Rome, going to China to do research for a non-fiction book, returning to Winnipeg and then moving to Montreal in 1964, where she taught at MacDonald College and Sir George Williams University.

Eighteen years later, her second novel, *Crackpot*, landed with a thud. *Crackpot* was rejected close to 50 times before Laurence stepped in to push for its publication. The reviews were muted and, unlike *The Sacrifice*, it received limited international attention. Wiseman was disappointed by the cold reception *Crackpot* received both within the literary and the Jewish community. She held hopes it would eventually be accepted, feeling it was avant-garde, written ahead of its time. (In 1984, writer Michael Greenstein wrote a reassessment of *Crackpot*, considering it a work that was both feminist and post-colonial.)

Wiseman went beyond the novel, writing two plays: *The Lovebound* and *Testimonial Dinner*. She also produced two children's books: *Kenji and the Cricket* in 1988, and *Puccini and the Prowlers* in 1992. She had three works of non-fiction (*Old Woman at Play*, 1978, examined her mother's life as a doll maker). The friendship between Wiseman and Laurence is memorialized in *Selected Letters of Margaret Laurence and Adele Wiseman* (1997).

Wiseman died in 1992, but her voice remains forever etched in Winnipeg's history — the voice of the North End Jew, with a message about the Holocaust for Canadians. A trailblazer slightly ahead of her time, who held friendships with other women who also told stories.



Image Source: Winnipeg Free Press

Agnès Roy

Agnès Roy (née Gosselin) was a community activist and one of the first women to work for the Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba (UNMSJM), the oldest Métis and Francophone organization in Manitoba, in operation since 1887. She was born in 1934 in Saint-Malo, Manitoba, the second child of 11 children.

Soon after the Second World War, Roy started accompanying her husband, Pascal Roy, to meetings of Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba. Roy was taken under the wing of Métis elder Ida Carrière, Union nationale's long-time secretary, after her first meeting. As of 1965, Agnès Roy started helping Carrière regularly, and in 1970, she was overseeing all the organization's publicity.

Roy officially became the organization's secretary in 1977. She was involved from the very outset with Chalet Louis-Riel, an important low-income housing project piloted by UNMSJM in the 1960s.

During her time as secretary, she meticulously hand-typed all the minutes of meetings – ensuring the French-language diacritics were added in by hand. She was always the first to volunteer to cook or to craft whatever the organization needed for its festivities, meetings or ceremonies.

Roy was very connected to her community, ready and willing to help other organizations throughout the Franco-Manitoban community. She would reach out to other organizations when they needed help or money and, as Bernard Bocquel points out in his book *Les Fidèles à Riel*, she would recruit Union nationale members to help with these various causes.



Though she was not the first woman on the board of UNMSJM, it can be said that she paved the way for women in the organization. As a result, most of those who sit on the board of directors of UNMSJM are women.

Angelique and Marguerite Nolin

(1787-1869)

(1780-1878)

Angelique and Marguerite Nolin were pioneers, well-educated Métis women who created the first Catholic school for Aboriginal girls in Manitoba.

Their mother was Métis and their father was a fur trader and merchant. They were educated in Montreal by the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame. The family came to the Red River Settlement in 1819, from Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Bishop Provencher asked the sisters to run the first formal Catholic school for Aboriginal girls in the area. At first the sisters refused but, in 1826, after the death of their father, Provencher asked again, and they opened the school in 1829. The school, the first of its kind for girls in Western Canada, educated Métis, French, Cree, Ojibwa and Scottish girls. The Nolin sisters ran the school until 1834, when they travelled with Father Belcourt to Baie St. Paul (St. Eustache) to start a school there that would integrate the Aboriginal and Métis way of life with a Catholic education.

Angélique and Marguerite were fluent in French, English, Ojibway and Cree. Their major achievement during the 10 years they worked with Belcourt was to help him write an Ojibwa dictionary and several other textbooks into Aboriginal languages.

In the 1840s, the sisters quit teaching and began farming, which they did until their deaths.

Marguerite died in September, 1878, and Angélique, on March 30, 1869, at St. Boniface.



Image Source: The Nellie McClung Foundation

Ann Callahan

Ann Thomas Callahan (born 1935) is a Cree Canadian nurse. She was one of the first Indigenous graduates of the Winnipeg General Hospital's nursing school. Callahan was born on the Peepeekisis Cree Nation in Saskatchewan to Nora and John Thomas, and was granted the spirit name "Wapiskisiw Piyésis" (meaning White Birdwoman) by an elder at age four. She attended the File Hills Residential School, and went to Manitoba for secondary school at Birtle Indian Residential.

Callahan was one of the first Indigenous graduates of the Winnipeg General Hospital's nursing school, convocating in 1958. She was head nurse of a gynecology ward before joining a new organization, Continuing Care for People in Need, founded in 1973 to support the health needs of those in Winnipeg's core area. She also taught in the nursing program at Red River College, retiring in 1996. After retirement she attended university, achieving a bachelor's degree focused on psychology and a masters in interdisciplinary studies. She wrote her masters thesis on "the reclamation and retention of Aboriginal spirituality of Indian Residential School Survivors," specifically considering alumni of her own former school, File Hills.



Callahan's name graces the new critical services building at the Health Sciences Centre, which at the time of its opening in 2007 was the "largest health capital project in Manitoba history." She also was involved in the creation of the Registered Nurses of Canadian Indian Ancestry, now called the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association, considered the country's first professional organization for Indigenous peoples. The association presented her with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

Anna Pazdzierski

Anna Pazdzierski is the retired executive director of Nova House, a women's shelter where she was in leadership for 20 years.

The work of the executive director goes well beyond a typical business day. She is active on numerous boards and committees where she represents the interest of women and girls, whether it be advocating for services for mental health, victims of violence/sexual assault, or in business leadership. Pazdzierski advocated for better working conditions for women working in the field of domestic violence, including fair and equal wages and benefits such as a pension plan. Her team admired and respected her.

Pazdzierski has been a mentor and support to all of the executive directors across the province, providing a listening ear, but also wisdom and guidance in how to advocate effectively. In her leadership role with the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters, Pazdzierski instilled in each member the importance of their roles in the communities, the value of being the voice of the women and girls in matters of violence and equality; inequality allows violence to be perpetrated.

Pazdzierski has worked tirelessly with great compassion for decades to advance equality for women and girls in Canada. Her collaborative approach to recognizing that women's issues are issues for everyone – if women thrive so will the community – resonated with every board she served.

Pazdzierski represented the voice of rural and Indigenous women at many committees and boards, explaining the issue of equality can be even more complicated for rural and Indigenous women, who often face a lack of access to resources. She used every opportunity to remind policy makers and leaders across the province of those additional barriers to women and girls, and that access is essential for there to be equality.



Pazdzierski, who now serves as mayor of Teulon, seizes on opportunity for collaboration and growth, and is a driving force for change. Her engaging and persistent personality helps bring people together to see a vision of what could be. She works hard with the team to make that a reality, as she did in 2017, with the opening of a new women's shelter in Selkirk, drawing in community support and all levels of government to get it done.

Most recently, Pazdzierski has been a driving force with the Teulon United Church to open Madeline's Closet, which invites marginalized women to select clothing items at no charge.

Pazdzierski is a motivator, a dreamer, an advocate, and compassionate in all things she does.

Anne Bannatyne

(c.1830-1908)

Anne Bannatyne was one of the Métis “First Ladies” of the Red River. She was born around 1830 at Fort Garry, to Andrew McDermot and Sarah McNab, the fifth daughter of nine girls and six boys who survived infancy. Her father was born in 1791 in Ireland; her mother Sarah was the daughter of Thomas McNab and a Saulteau woman. Bannatyne married prominent businessman A.G.B. Bannatyne.

Highly educated, she became a leading force in early philanthropy at Red River. Her Ladies’ Association did extensive fundraising for causes such as the Winnipeg General Hospital, built on land donated by her father and husband (now the Health Sciences Centre), which she was instrumental in establishing. The Ladies’ Association evolved into the Women’s Hospital Aid Society, which helped to raise money and donations of goods for many years.

Although Bannatyne was involved in many charitable causes, what is remembered most about her was her horse-whipping of Charles Mair, an anti-Métis member of the Canada First Party, a bigot and rabblouser in the Red River Settlement. Mair had written a letter, published in the Toronto Globe, making disparaging remarks about “half-breed” women and Red River society. Bannatyne read the letter and vowed to herself to humiliate the man.

She accomplished this in a spectacular fashion. As Father George Dugas, a St. Boniface priest, described it: “She ordered the clerk of (her husband’s) store, where the post office was located, to come and warn her when Mair arrived to collect his letters and newspapers, as he did every Saturday. Therefore, one Saturday, at four in the afternoon, while the store was full of people, Daniel Mullegan, the clerk, having seen Mair’s arrival, ran to tell Mrs. Bannatyne. She burst into the post office, holding a large whip in her hand. Without hesitating, she advanced on Mair, seized his nose between her fingers and gives him five or six strokes of the whip on different parts of his body: “Look,” she said, “this is how the women of Red River treat those who insult them. The scene lasted for only half a minute, but by evening, the incident was known all across the countryside.”

There is much speculation on how much Bannatyne’s assault on Mair, the arrogant Canadian, became a symbolic catalyst for Louis Riel. On February 25, 1869, *Le Nouveau Monde* printed a letter from a “half-breed” signed “L.R.” Riel takes Mair to task for his observances on Red River life and especially its women: “You speak of a great many things that you have not had time to see or know; that would be worth as much as the remainder of your letter; as much as the scarcely courteous terms, I will even say barely civilized, which you use in speaking of the ladies of the country...”



Image Source: Photograph. Mrs. Bannatyne, Montreal, QC, 1882. Notman & Sandham. August 31, 1882. © McCord Museum.

Anne Ross, C.M.

(1911-1998)

Anne Ross stepped out into the world at the tender age of 11. Born in Ukraine on September 25, 1911, she emigrated to Winnipeg's North End in 1922. And in this city, she began her career in nursing at the Winnipeg General Hospital, following education at United College and the University of Manitoba. Finally, she studied psychiatric nursing in New York City.

Ross was first employed by Mount Carmel Clinic in Winnipeg in 1948 as its only full-time staff member, building up the clinic through her personal efforts.

She distinguished herself as a foremost counsellor and executive director of Mount Carmel Clinic, of one of North America's oldest community medico-social and birth control clinics for almost 50 years. With post-graduate work in psychiatry, she taught both psychiatry and psychology in nursing programs.

In 1995, she established AGR Health Services for seniors. She was the author of several books, including *Pregnant and Alone* (1978), to impart the facts of birth control to help women avoid unwanted pregnancy, presenting all the alternatives available at that time, in clear-sighted, level-headed terms. Her other books included *Teenage Mothers Teenage Fathers* (1982) and a history of the Mount Carmel Clinic entitled *Clinic with a Heart* (1998).



Ross sought to empower women in providing them with the necessary knowledge to make their own decisions.

Her efforts were covered in articles appearing in print media, such as *Reader's Digest*, local and national newspapers, she was in constant demand for public speaking, media interviews and radio call-in shows, as an expert in the area of family planning and sexual education.

Ross became a Member of the Order of Canada (1985) and the Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt (1987).

Married died in Winnipeg on August 14, 1998. The Mount Carmel Clinic daycare is named the Anne Ross Day Nursery in her honour.

Barbara Bruce, O.M.

Barbara Bruce is an entrepreneur and Elder who has spent her life working with and for the Métis Nation and First Nations communities. Early in her career, Bruce worked for several years with the Manitoba Metis Federation, including a term as executive director. In 2009, she launched her own planning and consulting firm, All My Relations Inc., focused on curriculum development, facilitation and events coordination for Indigenous cultural awareness and community-building. Bruce has served on more than two dozen boards of directors and was directly involved in planning national events for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Bruce is a two-spirit Elder who follows her traditional spiritual way of life.

Bruce understands that colonization in Canada has affected how Indigenous people communicate about sexuality and sexual health. Canada, and various churches, imposed Euro-Christian values on Indigenous communities throughout the Indian Residential School era, resulting in a lack of factual sexual health information free of bias and discrimination. This disruption has led to the lack of autonomy in women's reproductive health, sterilization, homophobia and transphobia, the loss of traditional sexual education and language, and higher rates of sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies.



Bruce became involved in the advocacy and fight for human rights for two-spirit/ Indigenous LGBTQ people in 1986, with the founding of the Nichiwakan Native Gay Society (now known as the Two-Spirited People of Manitoba Inc.). She has been involved in organizing four of the Annual International Two-Spirit Gatherings, in 1990, 1998, 2010 and 2018.

Bruce continues to advocate for two-spirit rights and recently led the founding of the first two-spirit Metis local in Canada. On August 12, 2019, the Manitoba Metis Federation announced the launch of the 2Spirit Michif Local. Her work aligns with the TRC's 94 Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit 231 Calls to Justice.

Beatrice Watson

Beatrice Watson has devoted both her working and personal life to ensuring peace, equality and justice for all, especially for immigrant and refugee women.

As a human rights officer with the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, Watson has spoken to hundreds of Manitoba newcomers, primarily women, about their rights and responsibilities under the Human Rights Code. As part of the Immigrant Women's Association of Manitoba, she has worked to see that the needs of immigrant and refugee women are recognized today, to ensure a better quality of life for them and their families.

Watson is the community town crier, keeping the community informed of matters of interest to the Black and Caribbean communities, in particular. She is the founder of Global Eyes Magazine, a quarterly publication carrying news of the activities, contributions and concerns of Manitoba's African and Caribbean communities. It also highlights activities of other community organizations, especially women's organizations, in the campaign for peace and equality for all. In 1990, the first Global Eyes was published. Watson has now taken to social media to share useful and inspiring insights with her readers.



The author of the novel *Poison of my Hate*, Watson's writings can be found in numerous newspapers, including the Winnipeg Free Press, London Free Press, and the Toronto Sun. She is a storyteller at heart.

Originally from Guyana, Watson has called Manitoba home for more than 30 years. She continues to be a strong advocate in the African and Caribbean communities and her community work illustrates her ability to make strong linkages to other communities, in outstanding ways.

Watson has a Bachelor's degree in anthropology and women's studies from the University of Manitoba; Radio, TV and Journalism Diploma from Lambton College in Sarnia, Ontario; Management Certificate for Women from University of Manitoba; Mediator Diploma from Mediation Services and certificates in areas such as workshop facilitation in anti-racism, self-empowerment and was an original facilitators in Circles for Reconciliation. Watson is an inspiring public speaker.

Among the honours bestowed upon her, she was the 2013 recipient of the Manitoba Women Advisory Council and the YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg Eira Babs Friesen Lifetime Achievement Award; the Black History Month Human Rights Award and Community Award; and, The Guyanese Cultural Organization Community Involvement Award.

Watson's long-standing volunteer involvement in the community has also included the Congress of Black Women, the Legal Education Action Fund for Women (LEAF), and the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre and Mediation Services (Winnipeg). She has supported, mentored and guided many young women in the community, encouraging them to follow their dreams. She believes in a community where we all live in harmony, as equals, respectful of all other cultures and beliefs.

The motto that guides her life comes from the Baha'i Faith: "We are flowers of one garden and leaves of one tree." Watson vows to continue working for the unity of all people, equality and justice for all. Watson believes we have to work to ensure that our human rights are respected.

Bernadette Smith, O.M., MLA

NDP MLA Bernadette Smith (Point Douglas) accomplished a rarity in politics – the passage of a private member’s bill into law. The caucus chair for the official Opposition and critic for mental health and addictions, Smith is credited for the fact the Child and Family Services Act now states that poverty cannot be used as grounds for the apprehension of children.

As well, Smith has opposed cuts to the Rent Assist program, Employment and Income Assistance and Manitoba Housing. She has presented on a variety of women’s and indigenous issues on Parliament Hill.

Smith holds Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Winnipeg and is on leave from the University of Saskatchewan, where she is pursuing a Master’s degree in land-based research on Indigenous knowledge.

Born and raised in Winnipeg’s North End, she is a fierce advocate for the area’s families, having lived their challenges, and is a dedicated community-builder. She is a proud Indigenous mother and grandmother.

In 2008, Smith’s sister, Claudette Osborne-Tyo, went missing. She has tirelessly sought answers to Osborne-Tyo’s disappearance, and has supported others who have suffered similar losses. Smith developed the Missing Persons and Persons-at-Risk Toolkit which is housed within Ki Ni Kanichihk. Smith is a workbook contributor for the Orange Daisy Project, which supports the mental health of young women and was head researcher for Taken, a television series that seeks to find answers in the cases of Canada’s missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Smith is the co-founder of both the Coalition of Families of Missing & Murdered Women in Manitoba, and the Drag the Red Initiative. As a MMIWG family member, she knows the importance of strong political activism and has been a powerful voice for Indigenous people.

Smith delivers keynote addresses, organizes events, holds presentations to foster discussion and action, raises awareness of Indigenous contributions to the history and development of Canada, as well as the issues surrounding MMIWG.

She spearheads the annual No Stone Unturned Awareness Concert for Missing & Murdered Persons and Drag the Red. Her community organizing brings together thousands of people and has drawn international attention to the issues surrounding MMIWG, resulting in her being invited to deliver presentations on MMIWG at international women’s conferences.

Smith is the recipient of several scholarships, bursaries and awards for her activism including the Order of Manitoba, Ka Ni Kanichihk’s Oscar Lathlin Memorial Award, and the Aboriginal Circle of Education Young Leaders Award.

Smith is proud to have served on numerous boards including the executive board of directors of the Native Women’s Association of Canada, and Manitoba Moon Voices.

Smith, Anishinaabe from Duck Bay and Pine Creek, is a strong, proud indigenous woman helping to inspire and uplift others, and is amongst the strongest voices demanding action for the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.



Bonnie Korzeniowski, B.S.W., MSc.A

(1941-2019)

Bonnie Korzeniowski was a trailblazer, leader, and role model in many ways. Korzeniowski's exemplary life cut across a variety of fields, from her education and leadership in social work, including her volunteerism with Alzheimer's Society, to her career in the Manitoba legislature as the MLA for St. James, and the province's first special envoy for military affairs.

Born in Winnipeg to a military family, Korzeniowski attended Daniel Macintyre High School, marrying her high-school sweetheart who, like her father, also had a military career. They moved through a variety of postings, mostly in Ontario.

Korzeniowski graduated with a social service work diploma from Ottawa's Algonquin College, in 1974.

After returning to Winnipeg, she worked at the Manitoba Youth Centre before earning a bachelor of social work at the University of Manitoba. She worked at Brandon General Hospital Social Work Department, where she received her MIRS. She returned to Winnipeg where she was a social worker at St. Boniface Hospital and then Deer Lodge Centre.

Korzeniowski earned her master of science in administration (1995) from the University of Michigan and became chair of Health Care Professionals for the Deer Lodge Centre.

In 1999, Korzeniowski became the NDP MLA for St. James, serving until 2011 serving as deputy speaker before being named special military envoy in 2008.



A strong supporter of the Military Family Resource Centre at 17 Wing, she was the first female board member of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, official "godmother" to the "Liga Dos Combantentes" (Portuguese War Veterans), a proud member of the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba, the Royal Commonwealth Association and the Intrepid Society. Her proudest achievement was to save and restore the Women's Tribute Memorial Lodge, a heritage building at Deer Lodge Centre.

Korzeniowski's greatest accomplishment was as a leader, role model and supporter of other women. Throughout her service to others, her family played a central role in her life and vision. Korzeniowski made sure that she was present for her family and was empathetic to the family needs of others she worked with and served. She saw the family in all of her work: whether in support of the families of her community or her maternal presence for new and junior MLAs.

Korzeniowski's sense of family made the creation of her role as military envoy, and her establishment of the precedents and practices of that office, so important. Coming from a military family, she knew that families serve, not just the enlisted individuals. She bridged civilian and military life and community in a unique manner and one that began a long-overlooked aspect of provincial service and recognition. No matter how long a military family was posted in Manitoba, Korzeniowski, and the role she established, made everyone feel like a lifelong Manitoban.

Korzeniowski was a unique, spirited and determined woman, and definitely a trailblazer in the spirit of Nellie McClung.

Carol Shields, C.C., O.M., F.R.S.C.

(1935-2003)

Pulitzer Prize winner Carol Shields was an internationally acclaimed author, poet and playwright renowned for her compassion and ability to “create intimate worlds of great beauty” (Order of Canada) and characters that reveal the depths of our own lives.

Carol Ann Warner grew up in Oak Park, Illinois. She came to Canada in her early 20s when she married Don Shields, a Canadian engineer. Her talent was first recognized when she won the CBC Young Writers Competition for poetry in 1965. She went on to publish three collections of poetry, *Others* (1972), *Intersect* (1974) and *Coming to Canada* (1992). While raising five young children, she completed a master’s thesis, published as *Susanna Moodie: Voice and Vision* (1975).

Shields’s first novel, *Small Ceremonies* (1976), won the Canadian Authors Association Award. She published eight more novels, three short story collections, plays for radio and stage, and a biography of Jane Austen. She also had a career as a mentor, teaching creative writing at Humber College in Toronto, Queen’s University in Kingston, the University of Ottawa and the University of Manitoba. In 1980, Shields moved to Winnipeg with her husband and two children. She became a champion of the arts community, as Manitoba representative for the Canada Council, and taught at the U. of M. for 16 years, where she was made professor emerita.

In 1988, she was awarded the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Canadian Mystery for *Swann: A Mystery* (1987). That same year, she was writer-in-residence at the University of Winnipeg.



Her novel *The Republic of Love* (1992) made Winnipeg “an engaging character,” wrote a *New York Times* book reviewer. “Ms. Shields makes me want to fly there, to drink cappuccino in a Winnipeg café.”

Shields also wrote *The Stone Diaries* (1993) in Winnipeg. The “stone” refers to Manitoba’s Tyndall stone. The novel was nominated for the Man Booker Prize. It won the Pulitzer Prize, the Governor General’s Literary Award for fiction, McNally-Robinson Award for Manitoba Book of the Year, Canadian Booksellers Association Prize, and National Book Critics Circle Award. “*The Stone Diaries* is intensely imagined, humanely generous, beautifully sustained and impeccably detailed,” wrote *Publishers Weekly*.

Shields went on to win the Orange Prize for Fiction for her novel *Larry’s Party* (1997), about a Winnipeg florist turned landscape designer who specializes in mazes. The Carol Shields Memorial Labyrinth in south Winnipeg honours that novel especially.

Shields’s final novel, *Unless* (2002), was nominated for the Giller Prize, Governor General’s Literary Award for fiction, Man Booker Prize, Orange Prize for Fiction, and won the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize.

As University of Winnipeg Chancellor (1996-2000), Shields took part in countless classes, committees, readings and symposia. She was a tireless advocate for the university.

Shields was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1998, elevated to Companion of the Order in 2002, a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a member of the Order of Manitoba. Shields died in 2003, in Victoria, BC.

Catherine (Kate) McPherson

(c.1787-1867)

In 1813, Catherine McPherson and her younger brother John left their home in Northern Scotland with a group of emigrants known as the Selkirk Settlers. They left behind the infamous Highland Clearances for a more promising future in the Red River Settlement (now Winnipeg). After crossing the Atlantic, the settlers landed in Fort Churchill, Hudson's Bay, where a typhoid outbreak forced them to spend the winter in make-shift dwellings. When the ship's surgeon died from typhoid, Kate, as she was known, selflessly stepped in to help nurse the sick.

The following spring, the settlers faced a grueling 240-kilometre trek on snowshoes along the Hayes River to York Factory. Throughout the journey, McPherson's efforts to keep up morale and assist the more vulnerable settlers during the long trek became well known. After another 1,100 kilometres by boat, they finally arrived at the Red River Settlement in the summer of 1814, a full year after leaving Scotland.

In 1815, John McPherson left the colony and his sister for Upper Canada with other settlers who were weary of the ongoing conflict between feuding fur trading companies. Despite being a young unmarried woman on her own in the early 1800s, McPherson held fast to the Red River settlement. She and the remaining settlers would endure severe winters and continual harassment by the Northwest Fur Trading Company and its allies.



In 1817, she married Alexander Sutherland, a veteran of the Napoleonic Wars, who arrived in 1815 with the last group of Selkirk Settlers. They settled on land at Point Douglas and continued to experience harsh weather, floods and locusts. Still, they refused to leave their Red River home, despite the encouragement of her brothers and sister, who had settled in Upper Canada.

Kate and Alexander had only one child, John, born in 1821. He would go on to participate in the complex politics of the colony as a delegate of the Council of the Assiniboia, The Convention of Forty, Collector of Customs under Louis Riel's provisional government, the first appointed high sheriff of Manitoba and the first Senator appointed to represent Manitoba in Ottawa. McPherson's descendants would continue to play prominent roles in the development of the province, well into the 1900s. She has hundreds of living descendants, some who still reside in Manitoba and many others throughout North America.

Catherine McPherson is often referred to as the Florence Nightingale of the Selkirk Settlers. Her tenacity and perseverance as a pioneer woman in the early 1800s has inspired many to this day. She passed away in 1867 and is buried with her husband in the Kildonan Presbyterian Cemetery in Winnipeg, alongside numerous family members.

Catherine Mulaire

(1843-1922)

Catherine Mulaire was the first métis French teacher in the Red River Settlement.

Born in Fort Cumberland in Ile-à-la-Cross, Saskatchewan, her parents were Louis Lacerte III, voyageur for the Northwest Company and Joseph Vandal.

Around 1848-1850, her family moved to the Red River Settlement, around Pembina, North Dakota in the US. In 1852, at eight years old, she attended school at Fathers Belcourt and Lacombe's presbytery. In 1854, when her teacher became sick, she took over to teach religion and prayers to the Indigenous kids in Sauteaux (Ojibway).

Father Belcourt noticed her natural talent in teaching and with the support of her parents, sent her to further her education in 1855 in Longueuil, Lower-Canada.

Mother Veronica of the Crucifix, second Superior General of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Marie Congregation, welcomed her and provided her with a specific curriculum that enabled her to reach her goals. Mulaire returned to the Red River Settlement in 1858, and taught at Walhalla, St. Joseph in North Dakota.

On November 24 1862, she married Joseph Miller, alias Mulaire. In 1863, they moved to Pointe Coupée (St.Adolphe) where their family grew. Mulaire taught at the school led by Bishop Alexandre-Taché and Father Noël-Joseph Ritchot in St.Adolphe until 1882. Then she taught at the Pointe à Grouette (Ste.Agathe) school until 1884.

On April 25, 1871, her husband died of pneumonia. Widowed at 30, Mulaire became the sole supporter of five children, all younger than eight years old.

From 1884 to 1893, she taught out of her Ste.Agathe home. In 1887, a colonial exhibit put together in London, England. Mr. Thomas Bernier, the Manitoba Catholic Schools superintendent, sent some work done by pupils in his jurisdiction. They are very well received by the press and judges. Mulaire's school was the only secular school selected among eight. Her students received medals and diplomas.

Mulaire eventually moved in with her sons who lived in Otterburne. Although she wasn't involved in the school system anymore, or the Church, she still taught the neighboring kids and her grandkids. She also erected a cross at the junction between her sons' parcels of land, so they could gather and pray.

She then moved in with her daughter in St.Jean.Baptiste, where she dies, on April 22, 1922. She is buried in the Parish cemetery. Mulaire is known for her dedication to French education during more than 40 years in the Red River Valley.



Chief Betsy Kennedy, O.M.

Betsy Kennedy has been chief of War Lake First Nation since 2006 and is the longest-serving female chief in Manitoba. During her time in office, the First Nation has seen the development of a new nursing station, a new store, a garage, a water treatment plant, a youth centre and a community fish facility. Prior to becoming chief, she served as a councillor for eight years.

She was one of the four Northern Manitoba chiefs who signed the Joint Keeyask Development Agreement with Manitoba Hydro and the provincial government, at Split Lake in 2009 and addressed the House of Commons committee on the status of women in 2014 about the need for better service from the federal government for women and children living in First Nations.

Kennedy was part of a delegation from Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, which represents 30 Northern Manitoba First Nations, that travelled to London, England, in October, 2013, to mark the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

Kennedy serves on the board of the Arctic Gateway Group, and was a key part of the negotiations that brought the Hudson Bay Railway and the Port of Churchill into the Arctic Gateway Group, perhaps appropriate for someone born at a railroad work camp, in Herchmer, (Mile Marker 412 of the Hudson Bay Railway), south of Churchill.



Kennedy received the Order of Manitoba in 2016, for health, environmental and economic contributions to her community. In marking the event, the CBC reported: "She fought for the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous girls and women to be recognized as valuable long before Canada allowed for the conversation."

Christine (Chris) Burrows

(1940-2019)

Chris Burrows was a builder and an activist, dedicating much of her work to her inner-city community of North Point Douglas. She demonstrated that an impoverished community can mobilize and develop a healthy neighbourhood. She served on the Board of Directors of the Point Douglas Residents Committee and she was a founding board member of the North Point Douglas Seniors Association. As a board member of SISTARS, she was the catalyst for the building of the Eagle Wing Early Childhood Centre and the redevelopment of Barber House, on Euclid Avenue, one of Winnipeg's oldest houses. A founder of the Point Community News, she served on its board and wrote numerous articles. Burrows was one of the driving forces behind Point Douglas's Powerline, the crime-fighting, community-development organization that showed volunteers residents can take on the gangs and dealers and win.

Like all trailblazers, she excelled in other areas.

A victim of childhood sexual assault, she was an early advocate for prevention of sexual assault. When it was not popular to discuss family abuse, she was on CBC's Peter Gzowski talking openly about her experience and successful survival of assault by her father.

As a lover of nature, Burrows was a master gardener even in the difficult soils of Thompson. There are nine beautiful cedar trees, some twenty feet tall, surrounding her home and in the yard, some on boulevards (without permission) and in neighbours' yards, as well.



As an educator, she helped develop three early childhood centres. She was recognized as an exemplary primary school teacher, teaching Grade 1 and Kindergarten in Seven Oaks School Division.

As an artist, she painted large acrylic paintings of social issues and the human figure. She was twice censored for the strong images she used in her paintings on the issue of childhood sexual abuse.

Burrows was not one for making speeches, preferring to work behind the scenes. However, when making a presentation to city council on an issue important to her beloved Point Douglas, she noticed mayor and councillors were busy on their computers and cell phones. In her best Kindergarten-teacher voice she said: "Please put away your electronic devices." A little shocked, they stopped looking at their cell phones and computers.

"Now sit up straight and pay attention," she demanded. And they did. At the end of her presentation, Mayor Sam Katz asked if they would get a gold star.

Burrows always said her greatest achievement was her family. In this she was not a Trailblazer, but the type of foundation woman that makes Manitoba and Canada a nurturing society. Burrows had a 49-year love affair with her husband and partner, Sel Burrows. She had three wonderful children, seven grandchildren, three who have followed her lead and become teachers, and three great-grandchildren.

Burrows died in 2019.

Clara Hughes, O.C., O.M., M.S.C., OLY

Clara Hughes, a dual-season Olympian, is the only athlete in history to win multiple medals at both the summer and winter Olympic Games. Her six career medals tie her as Canada's most decorated Olympian.

Hughes started speed skating at the age of 16, and then took up the sport of cycling at the age of 17. She would eventually return to the ice at the age of 28, after achieving success in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. With her experience and endurance from cycling, Hughes went on to a successful winter Olympic career, earning medals in speed skating.. She then returned to cycling, at the age of 38, and her last race at the 2012 London Olympics.

She is the Founding Spokesperson for the Bell 'Let's Talk Mental Health' initiative, including Bell 'Let's Talk Day'. Hughes uses her past struggles with depression to relate to others and to help combat issues including the stigma involved with mental health issues. "Hughes battled deep depression, which threatened to derail her life, after winning two bronze medals in cycling at the 1996 Olympics." [24] In 2014, she completed 'Clara's Big Ride', a cross Canada bike tour covering 11,100 kilometres in 110 days, hosting 235 events and over 75 school visits in order to raise awareness about mental health. In 2015, a CTV-produced documentary Clara's Big Ride premiered on the fifth annual Bell Let's Talk Day, showcasing the ride. Her memoir, "Open Heart, Open Mind", was published in 2015.



Clara Hughes was made an Officer of the Order of Canada (2007) and a Member of the Order of Manitoba (2006). She also holds honorary doctorates from several Canadian universities and was given a star on Canada's Walk of Fame. In 2006 the IOC awarded her the "Sport and Community" award for her commitment to promoting the values of sport and play around the world. She was inducted to Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 2010.

On January 16, 2012, The Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS) announced Hughes as one of twenty women selected to the Most Influential Women in Sport and Physical Activity list (MIW) for 2011. The objective of the list is to focus on women who are leaders and role models making a difference on the Canadian or international scene. The women on the MIW are influential women who contributed in a significant way to sport and physical activity in the year 2011.

On April 27, 2013, the steep hill on Sydenham Road in Dundas, Ontario on which she trained for seven years was officially renamed 'Clara's Climb'. There is a plaque there in her honour describing her training and accomplishments.

In 2014, Hughes received the Loyola Medal from Concordia University.

On June 30, 2014, Hughes was honoured with the Meritorious Service Cross (Civil Division).

On January 29, 2015, the official opening ceremony was held for a school named after Hughes. Open since September 2014, the Clara Hughes Public School is located in Oshawa, Ontario. At the ceremony, Hughes said, "It is without exception the greatest honour that I have in my life, to have my name here."

Hughes, an avid long-distance hiker, has walked over 20,000 kilometres on trails in North America. She's hiked the 'triple crown' of long distance hiking, competing the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide and Appalachian Trails in their entirety.

Clarissa (Chriss) May Joyce Tetlock

(1941-2011)

Chriss Tetlock, a community activist, spearheaded the opening of the North End Women's Centre.

Clarissa (Chriss) May Joyce Tetlock (nee Spencer) was born on April 28, 1941, in Dauphin. She moved to Winnipeg, married and after 11 years of marriage, and four children, she was divorced and a single mother living in assisted low-income housing.

At the age of 38 she applied to the University of Manitoba for adult education and training, completing her degree in 1985 and making the Dean's honor list.

The concept of a women's centre arose from an evening of conversation with Tetlock and two other women discussing the need for services for women and their families in Winnipeg's North End. By 1984, Tetlock along with help from the advisory committee and agency representatives were able to secure funding a two-year grant through the Winnipeg Core Area Initiative. The North End Women's Centre (NEWC) officially opened its doors to the public in April of 1985.

Tetlock served as executive director for over 20 years.

In 1994, the centre relocated to its current home at 394 Selkirk Ave. Core funding for NEWC comes from the United Way of Winnipeg and family violence prevention program of the Province of Manitoba, as well as a variety of other funding.



In 2006, NEWC opened a transitional housing facility in the West End of Winnipeg called the Betty Berg House. The Betty Berg House provides safe and affordable short and long term transitional housing for women struggling with issues of mental health, problematic substance use and homelessness.

Dedicated to community development and mobilization, Tetlock partnered with sister organizations to support the development of the mandates of Wabung Abinoonjiiag, Oyati Tipi Cumini Yape, and North Point Douglas Women's Centre.

NEWC's impact on the community has been tremendous with countless women and their families benefiting from the variety of services and training programs.

Tetlock retired from NEWC at the age of 63. During the 20 years as executive director, she sat on numerous boards, was instrumental in developing other resource centres and received several awards for her community service.

Often referred to as the Queen of Selkirk Avenue, Tetlock was well loved and respected in the community for her leadership, vision, generosity and kindness.

In 2012, Chriss Tetlock Place opened its doors in honour of her vision, commitment and dedication to serving women and their families living within the core area of Winnipeg.

Chriss Tetlock Place hosts women in supportive transitional housing in a safe and welcoming environment.

Chriss Tetlock died in 2011. Her legacy lives on through the countless number of women and their families that have received support and development opportunities from the North End Women's Centre.

Connie Magnusson Schimnowski, MSW

Raised in Gimli, Connie Magnusson Schimnowski is a third-generation Icelander whose grandparents arrived in the Gimli area in 1876.

After attaining her master's degree in social work from the University of Manitoba, Magnusson Schimnowski worked as a community services outreach coordinator for seniors and later as a social worker for the Middlechurch Home of Winnipeg. In 2005, she became the first palliative care support coordinator for the northeast Interlake region.

Connie's volunteer activities included sitting on CancerCare Manitoba's board of directors and membership on the CancerCare Advisory Council representing rural cancer concerns. She was a former board member of the Elizabeth Fry Society, working as an advocate for women in conflict with the law.

She is the past chair of The Betel Home palliative care committee.

Magnusson Schimnowski is a recipient of the Nellie McClung Award in 2016 and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Constance (Connie) Eyolfson

(1936 – 2002)

From joining the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1954 to being elected vice-president of Manitoba Métis Federation Southeast Region (which included Winnipeg at the time) in 1970, and subsequently appointed acting president of MMF (1972-74), Connie Eyolfson was a trailblazer.

Constance (Connie) Eyolfson (nee Thomas) was born May 10, 1936, in Traverse Bay, where she was also raised. As a young girl, she watched her father volunteer for the Second World War. His sense of duty to his country inspired her to join the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1954, where she met her husband Gerald of 45 years. They married in 1957 and over the years lived in Fort Whyte, Winnipeg, and Traverse Bay. In 1980, with nine children, Connie attained her bachelor of arts from the University of Manitoba.

Her career, which included work for Children's Home of Winnipeg, the MMF, the Alcoholism Foundation of Manitoba and the Anishinabe School, was more than a series of job titles; indeed, it was a testament to her belief in the Métis and First Nations people. She helped pioneer Indigenous community development before it was a thing, encouraging and supporting many of the province's Indigenous organizations as a project officer with the federal Secretary of State department. She was relentless in using her voice to stand up for Métis and First Nations peoples, including her front-page-worthy protest immediately following the death of J.J. Harper. She went on to open the province's first Indigenous healing lodge in 1992 for Indigenous peoples throughout the province and across Canada, in their quest for healing from the intergenerational impacts of residential schools.



Connie Eyolfson's Strong Earth Woman Lodge, established in 1992, has been used as a model for family healing lodges by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

Prior to her death in 2002, she helped countless people, families and communities to find their own path to healing their spirits. Over the years, she volunteered for her church and for many Aboriginal organizations. Her commitment to the love of life was inspired by, but also inspiring to, everyone who knew her. Her teachings and words of encouragement served as the gentle push for many individuals to achieving greater things for themselves and their communities.

Corrine Scott, O.M., MBA

Corrine Scott entered policing, with the Winnipeg Police Service, as a uniformed officer in 1981, when there were few women in the service. Policing was, and to a large degree remains, a male-dominated field. Female officers were often undervalued in terms of policing abilities and leadership skills and they had to battle resistance to their transfers to specialty areas and promotion through the ranks.

Within four years, Scott began to conquer some of these barriers. She was selected for a position in the drug squad, where she worked in an undercover unit and gained a reputation as a skilled investigator. She was authentic in her work and highly valued as a professional.

Scott rose quickly in the service, leading programs, instituting change and creating policies and practices that assisted all members. She became the first female officer to hold all the ranks, from constable to superintendent.

She invested in herself through higher education, obtaining her master of business administration degree in 2009. She mentored many police officers throughout her career. Scott participated in research and policy development, locally and nationally, through her participation with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. Corrine also helped to lead international change for women through her participation with the International Association of Women Police.



She was the first woman to become a superintendent in the WPS, and for several years, was the highest-ranking female police officer in Manitoba.

In 2002, Scott founded the WPS Policewomen's Network. Its mandate includes recruitment, retention, mentorship and support of female officers.

Scott represented Manitoba as a police executive member on the National Police Service Advisory Committee. She was responsible for the allocation of funding, services and programming for several national police programs, including the national police information system, laboratory services, firearms control, and other items of national interest to police agencies.

From 2006 to December 2009, Scott served as aide-de-camp to the late John Harvard, lieutenant-governor of Manitoba.

She has augmented her professional life with volunteer-board participation serving on the boards of Balmoral Hall School, Commissionaires Manitoba and Snowflake Place for Children & Youth. Her participation was always grounded in enriching the community and improving the lives of Canadians, with a focus on young people and the vulnerable.

Scott's contributions to governance, policy development, programming, and how these fit into the context of law, law enforcement and recovery, will endure for many years.

Her list of awards and accomplishments include: The Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal in 2002, the Manitoba Attorney General's Excellence in Law Enforcement Award in 2007, and a second Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal in 2012.

Scott's commitment to policing for the citizens of this province, and her support for women in policing, was recognized by her induction into the Order of Manitoba in 2009.

Corrine Scott's story is that of a trailblazer in the Winnipeg Police Service – a woman who broke the glass ceiling in her profession.

Daphne Odjig, C.M., O.B.C.

(1919-2016)

Daphne Odjig was a Canadian First Nations artist of Odawa-Potawatomi-English heritage. She was born in 1919, at Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, on Manitoulin Island.

When Odjig was 13, she suffered rheumatic fever, left school and while at home, spent time with her paternal grandfather, Jonas Odjig (a stone carver), and her parents, all of whom encouraged her to explore art. Odjig said her grandfather “played a great role in my life – he nurtured my creative spirit – he was the first one I ever drew with... he was my first mentor.” Odjig was also influenced by her mother, who embroidered, and her father, who liked to draw war scenes.

In 1945, after the Second World War, Odjig moved to British Columbia. In the 1960s she relocated to Manitoba. Her break into the art world happened in the early 1960s when she received critical acclaim for her pen and ink drawings of Cree people from northern Manitoba. She was concerned over the potential loss of traditional ways of life and hoped that by preserving images of the people and their daily life, they could survive. In 1963, she was formally recognized as an artist when she was admitted to the British Columbia Federation of Artists.

In 1971, she opened Odjig Indian Prints of Canada, a craft shop and small press, in Winnipeg. In 1973, Odjig founded the Professional Native Indian Artists Association, along with Alex Janvier and Norval Morrisseau and others. Also known as the Aboriginal Group of Seven, they organized shows and are considered critical pioneers in the development of indigenous art in Canada. It resulted in bringing First Nations art to the Canadian art scene. By 1974, she and husband Chester Beavon had expanded their shop and renamed it New Warehouse Gallery. It was Canada’s first gallery exclusively representing First Nations art and its first Indigenous-owned and operated art gallery.



Her work is included in such public collections as Canada Council’s Art Bank, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Tom Thomson Gallery, the McMichael Canadian Collection, the Sequoyah Research Center and the Government of Israel. She was commissioned to create art for Expo ’70 in Osaka, Japan, the Manitoba Museum, and for El Al, the Israeli airline.

Odjig received a wide range of honours, including an honorary doctorate of letters from Laurentian University in 1982, and an honorary doctor of law from the University of Toronto in 1985, the Order of Canada in 1986, the commemorative medal for the 125th anniversary of the confederation of Canada in 1992, an honorary doctor of education from Nipissing University in 1997, and a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1998. She was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art in 1989. In 2007, Odjig received the Governor General’s Award in Visual and Media Arts.

Canada Post featured three of her paintings on postage stamps in February, 2011. In 2007, she was made a Member of the Order of British Columbia. Odjig also received the Eagle Feather by Chief Wakageshigon for her artistic achievement.

Image Source: Library and Archives Canada / 4318736

Dayna Spiring, LL.B.

Spiring is president and CEO of Economic Development Winnipeg Inc and leads all the corporation's activities including overseeing the business development team, YES! Winnipeg and Tourism Winnipeg. She provides leadership and strategic direction, collaborates with key stakeholders and is a driving force behind making Winnipeg a compelling choice for business and tourism.

Spiring's extensive professional experience includes five years as an associate at Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP in the early 2000s. As the former chief strategy officer and general counsel of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB), Spiring was charged with leading the corporation's privatization.

Spiring is a passionate Winnipegger with a drive to volunteer. Currently the chair of the Winnipeg Football Club's board of directors, she is the first woman to have her name engraved on the coveted Grey Cup, after the Winnipeg Blue Bombers historic win in 2019. She is only the second woman to serve on the Canadian Football League's board of governors.

Spiring is currently on the board of directors for packaging pioneer, Winpak Ltd., sits on the board of Cancecare Manitoba Foundation and was recently named Honourary Colonel for Two Canadian Air Division.



Spiring earned a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Manitoba where she also completed a Bachelor of Arts degree (honours), majoring in political science. In 2015, Spiring participated in the Directors Education Program within the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, obtaining the ICD.D designation.

Debora Durnin-Richards, PHEc, M.Ed.

Debora Durnin-Richards's career as a professional home economist and her able leadership in advancing the profession through the Manitoba Association of Home Economists professional organization makes her a trailblazer.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in home economics, Durnin-Richards joined Manitoba Agriculture in 1979 as the home economist for the Portage, Gladstone and Starbuck areas. In her 37 years of service with the department, she worked in the fields of home economics, 4-H Youth, policy, crop insurance, marketing, farm business management, northern food prices and strategic planning. She retired in 2014 from her final position as the director of boards, commissions and legislation. During her career with agriculture, she was instrumental in the creation of two organizations whose legacies continue to this day: Manitoba Farm Women's Conference (MFWC), and Agriculture in the Classroom Manitoba (AITC-M).

Durnin-Richards was one of the local home economists who not only helped organize the very first MFWC event, but over her career assured its success as a co-planner, departmental representative and a departmental director. The conference supports and promotes farm and rural women and is organized and delivered by them for them. It recently held its 33rd successful conference.



AITC-M has been operating since 1988, delivering curriculum-based programs, activities and resources for teachers and their students to learn more about agriculture and the important role it plays in our province. Durnin-Richards was one of the first government staff to work with AITC-M during those fledgling years, helping with strategic planning, visioning, administrative management and writing curriculum. AITC-M is now a strong, self-sustaining non-profit, charitable organization supported by numerous sponsors, members and paid staff who share the organization's goal of developing and delivering the agricultural educational programs to Manitoba schools.

Another example of Debora Durnin-Richards' legacy is the Northern Food Prices Project. Following an extensive consultation with people and stakeholder organizations, and with input from an advisory group, the project team developed an insightful report describing the food system in Northern Manitoba and why the prices there are often much higher than in southern Manitoba. Despite the controversial recommendations, the report was accepted by the province and has offered substantive guidance to further initiatives over many years.

Durnin-Richards has been a lifelong supporter of the advancement of women in society. As chair of Manitoba Crop Insurance Corporation's eligibility review committee, she helped develop a new policy allowing female farmers to qualify for their own individual crop insurance contract, separate from a male farmer in the family.

She has been an active member of the Manitoba Association of Home Economists since it was first organized. While president, she spearheaded the association's lobbying against the closure of the Faculty of Human Ecology at the University of Manitoba and represented the association's views with the university administration and media. She continues to advocate for the development of a new human ecology program in post-secondary institutions in Manitoba.

Durnin-Richards is an active member of Manitoba Women's Institute and a director on the board of Red River Exhibition.

Delphine Rivard

(1871-1966)

Giving birth on the desolate Canadian prairie at the turn of the twentieth century would have been difficult and lonely if it were not for the caring and courageous ministrations of the local midwife. Many children born in one small Manitoba French-Canadian village owe their safe entry into the world to a quiet, unassuming pioneer woman.

Delphine Duprey began her life on June 9, 1871 in Massachusetts, eldest in a family of four boys and five girls whose parents, Maxime and Delphine, had moved from Quebec to work in the mills and then to homestead in the Dakotas. Little Delphine was only eight years old when the family made its way westward by train, flatboat and ox cart to Pembina. She traded her sewing machine to obtain their first home, a small log shack with a sod roof.

Rivard's recollections of her pioneer experiences include terrifying prairie fires and the hard work of helping her mother garden, raise poultry, tend fifty beehives and care for the younger children. Rivard's basic schooling allowed her to read and write and do simple mathematics.

On April 5, 1888, she married Jean Baptiste (JB) Rivard, also from Quebec. Their first two children were born in a sod house in Neche, but in 1902, the family packed their belongings on a hayrack and moved to a homestead in St. Elizabeth, a rural French-Canadian settlement in southeastern Manitoba.

Rivard cared for her growing family, tended her large garden and beehives, made rugs and quilts and sod butter and eggs. An exceptional cook and homemaker, Rivard was also an excellent seamstress who made her daughter's wedding dresses.

Her extended family also included boarders – most times the local teacher and often foster children from the Children's Aid society. Rivard also had the ability to both recognize and treat illness. Once, she saved her son's arm when the doctor wanted to amputate because of tuberculosis of the bone. This mother of eleven eventually became the "sage-femme" of the district and helped well over two hundred children enter the world.

Dr. Ross, called often, mainly with news of a woman in labour. Calling on J.B. to drive her by horse and buggy. Rivard would head out immediately, often assisting at the birth before the doctor arrived.

Rivard could be gone for a week or more, looking after mother, baby and family. Only when the patient was up on her feet again would Rivard finally consider her job done. Miscarriages and stillbirths were common.

In the early 1950's, Rivard developed diabetes; yet even her illness did not diminish her community activities. Rivard and Jean-Baptiste retired in 1940 to a small, comfortable house in the village of St. Elizabeth. Grandchildren and great grandchildren fondly remember "Memere" and her wonderful, generous cookie jar.

The sage-femme of St. Elizabeth died on February 14, 1966. Her memory lives on in the community she served with such skill and dedication.



Diane Redsky, O.M.

Diane Redsky is an Indigenous advocate in Winnipeg's inner-city and has worked to provide support to the community's families and addressing violence against Indigenous women.

Redsky is a proud mother of three children and a kookum (grandmother). She is a band member of Shoal Lake First Nation #40 and has long worked to address the myriad of issues facing Winnipeg's Indigenous community in all areas of health, justice, education and social services. She has served in both a professional and volunteer capacity with local, national and international agencies and has become a strong advocate for Indigenous children's and women's issues.

Through her leadership in several Indigenous-led, community-based organizations, Redsky has helped to create numerous innovative programs that have helped build healthy communities through promoting the growth and development of the urban Indigenous community, focusing particularly on the safety, protection and well-being of women and girls.

From 2011 until 2015, Redsky was project director for the National Task Force on Human Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada. This role led her to work with experts in Canada and abroad to address the sexual exploitation/trafficking of Canadian women and girls. This meaningful work resulted in the National Task Force Report, with 34 recommendations to end sex trafficking in Canada.



Redsky is the executive director of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata (Ma Mawi) Centre in Winnipeg. Ma Mawi, translated from Ojibway means, 'we all work together to help one another.' It is a community-based, community-led, Indigenous-driven family resource centre and a leader in care for children, youth and families in Winnipeg.

In 2012, Redsky received the YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award and Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work on addressing violence against Indigenous women in Canada. In 2013, Redsky was inducted into the Order of Manitoba for her leadership and significant contributions to improve the lives of women, children and Winnipeg's urban Indigenous peoples.

She was invited to speak twice on the issue of human trafficking of Canadian girls and violence against Indigenous women and girls, before the United Nations in New York City and in Geneva, Switzerland. In 2016, Redsky was awarded the Leadership Award by the Joy Smith Foundation for her work on sex trafficking of women and girls. Redsky was awarded the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case, for her national and local work on equality for Indigenous women and girls and, in 2017, the Senate of Canada Medal, and the Innovator/Visionary Award from the Joy Smith Foundation for her work to end sex trafficking in Canada. In 2018, Redsky was awarded the Paul Harris Award from the Rotary Club of West Winnipeg for her work to promote equality, end violence against women and improving the lives of vulnerable peoples.

Diane Redsky is an exceptional women, known internationally for her tireless work and advocacy for Indigenous women. Her advocacy speaks volumes to her heart for the trailblazing work that too often goes unrecognized.

Diane Roussin

Diane Roussin is Anishinaabe and a proud member of the Skownan First Nation.

Roussin is a community leader in pursuit of *mino bimaadaziwin*. She has worked with organizations and projects that respect the ability and the right of Indigenous families, children and individuals to care for themselves and thrive.

Roussin is the project director of The Winnipeg Boldness Project, an initiative that seeks to create large-scale, systemic change for children and families in Winnipeg's Point Douglas neighbourhood. The project uses tools and processes from social innovation to develop community-driven solutions to create better outcomes for the neighbourhood's residents.



She is passionate about centring Indigenous wisdom, perspectives and values in the work that she does. Roussin has been a leader in the realm of Indigenous social innovation in Canada for several years and presented at TEDx Winnipeg in 2018 on Indigenous social innovation.

In January 2018, Roussin received the Governor General's Award for Outstanding Indigenous Leadership. She holds Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Social Work degrees and spends time serving on several boards, including the Winnipeg Foundation, Winnipeg Art Gallery and North Forge Technology Exchange.

Doreen Brownstone, O.M.

Doreen Brownstone (nee Stein) was a performer and champion swimmer who became a well-known actor in Winnipeg. Her dedication to community and professional theatre won her the title of the Grande Dame of Theatre.

She was born in Leeds, England, on September 28, 1922. As a child she loved performing, often in the streets of her neighbourhood. In addition to acting, she was a champion swimmer, which garnered her a scholarship to attend a private school in her early teens.

At the age of 19, inspired by the words of Winston Churchill, Doreen quit her job and enlisted in the Royal Air Force. The padre of her division asked her to be in a play and "the rest is history." Brownstone was a war bride, married Billy Brownstone, immigrated to Winnipeg in 1946 and had three children. In Winnipeg, she joined the YMHA (Theatre) Players. She was also active in the Winnipeg Little Theatre, and in an amateur theatre group headed by John Hirsch, their drama teacher and director (or as Brownstone says "he was our Theatre School"). During one of the rehearsals with established Canadian actor Gordon Pinsent, they talked about where they would go from here and Brownstone suggested forming their own theatre company. Theatre 77 was born with Hirsch as the artistic director.



In 1957, with Hirsch still as its artistic director and Tom Hendry as business manager, Theatre 77 was renamed the Manitoba Theatre Centre (now the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre). In 1958, Hirsch asked Brownstone to be in MTC's first professional production – "A Hatful of Rain" with Gordon Pinsent – and so began her 60-year career as a professional actor.

In Winnipeg, Brownstone has performed for the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, Theatre Projects Manitoba, Rainbow Stage and independent companies. She has toured our province with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, which included the very popular "Driving Miss Daisy" in the lead role at the age of 83. She also performed for The Belfry Theatre (Victoria); Stage West Theatre (Calgary and Edmonton), The Segal Theatre (Montreal), Magnus Theatre (Thunder Bay, Ontario) and Drayton Festival (Drayton, Ontario).

It is estimated that Brownstone has been in 100+ productions; she played the role of Yenta in "Fiddler on the Roof" seven times, including at the RMTC at the age of 85.

In 2013, when Brownstone received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Winnipeg Arts Council, at the age of 92, Robert Metcalfe cast her in the PTE production of "Vigil" by Morris Panych. She was the oldest working professional stage actor in Canada. Brownstone continues to do staged readings, play-development workshops and performs in short films. Local filmmakers Stefanie Wiens and Angus Kohm of Swak Productions, an independent film company, recently produced: "Doreen Brownstone: Still Working After 90".

Brownstone, who taught swimming for more than 40 years, believes in a healthy body and mind. She attributes her lifelong fitness to swimming and her mental sharpness to her years as an actor.

Doris Mae Oulton, O.M.

Doris Mae Oulton was the first female northern development officer for the Province of Manitoba. Known as the Bayline worker, Oulton lived in Thicket Portage and worked with the communities of Wabowden and Pikwitonei. She helped communities stimulate economic development and form local government.

As an assistant deputy minister of the Women's Directorate, Oulton helped author the first statement opposing violence against women endorsed by federal and provincial ministers of status of women. As CEO of the provincial Children and Youth Secretariat, she championed and implemented Manitoba's first early childhood intervention program, demonstrating the efficacy of interdepartmental cooperation and coordination. It became a model for cross-department coordination and was duplicated in other Canadian jurisdictions. As ADM of Culture Heritage and Citizenship, she negotiated the first federal/provincial immigration agreement for a provincial nominee program.

As a member of the four-person women's initiative team, following an extensive province-wide consultation, she authored the final report, which made recommendations across broad sectors of provincial activities affecting women. She led the implementation team that resulted in stable funding to the women's shelter system, reform of the welfare system to a one-tier system that included province-wide standards and the fair treatment of women, and established the Family Violence Court, which became a national model.



As ADM at the Women's Directorate, she wrote the government's first Aboriginal women's policy. Oulton was part of a small group of senior officials who wrote the first national policy on the prevention of violence against women, endorsed by the Canadian ministers of the status of women in 1990.

Oulton served as president of the University Women's Club of Winnipeg and national president of the Canadian Federation of University Women, leading its delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women for two years. As well, she is the chair of the Charitable Trust Foundation of the Canadian Federation of University Women which, with the CFUW member clubs across Canada, provides annual funding of about \$1 million in scholarships/fellowships for girls and women.

Oulton was a founding member of the Nellie McClung Foundation, which erected the monument on the grounds of the Legislative Building; she now chairs the foundation. She was also a founding member of Women of Winnipeg (WOW).

Her volunteer roles in the community includes: chaired the YM/YWCA Women of Distinction Awards; chaired the LEAF Person's Day Breakfast; board member of the Immigrant Centre and the Manitoba and Recreational Trails Association; and, was a member of the Manitoba Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Doris Mae Oulton worked for years with Health Canada, where she helped establish an oral health program in 265 First Nations communities; she worked on the disability management and performance management programs with the Treasury Board of Canada. Doris Mae Oulton received the Order of Manitoba in 2021.

Dr. Alexandria Wilson, Ed.D.

Alex Wilson gathered her first lessons on leadership in her home community Opaskwayak Cree Nation. "I have always been surrounded by women who lead, most of them leading steadily, some quietly, a few raucously, but always with love in their actions," she once wrote. This understanding – that the most valuable leadership is driven by love for the people – has been borne out in her work as a scholar, educator, community activist, and mentor.

In 2007, Wilson became the first First Nations woman in Canada to receive a doctorate from Harvard University.

Her groundbreaking work on the identity development of two-spirit people is widely cited and has become a touchstone for many LGBTQI Indigenous people. As an associate professor at University of Saskatchewan's College of Education, Wilson co-developed a masters program in land-based education, which combines academic study with teachings from the land, community and traditional knowledge holders. With the success of 40 graduates, she is now creating a doctoral program in land-based education.



Wilson co-facilitated Indigenous cultural awareness training to more than 3,500 employees of Manitoba Hydro and other private and public sector organizations. She is an organizer in Idle No More, integrating radical education with grassroots interventions that honour Indigenous sovereignty and protect the land and water. She is one of many who work to repair the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. She has advised politicians and supported grassroots networks to get out the Indigenous vote.

Wilson has worked to raise awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit and trans people. Wilson's home remains in Opaskwayak Cree Nation, where, in collaboration with her family and community, she has established an award-winning community garden and nutrition program.

Alex Wilson is a knowledge keeper, recognized for her ongoing work to revitalize Cree culture.

Dr. Charlotte W. Ross

(1843-1916)

Charlotte Ross, Western Canada's first female doctor, who lived and practiced medicine in Whitemouth, Manitoba, for most of her adult life.

Ross was born in England in 1843 and came to Canada in 1847, settling in Montreal with her family. She felt compelled to study medicine as a result of her beloved sister Mary Anne's death. With the support of her husband, David Ross, she graduated from the Woman's Medical College in Philadelphia in 1875 - no medical school in Canada was open to women at that time.

After her graduation, Ross began treating women in Montreal in 1876, but she faced much opposition from established doctors - all men - practicing there. In 1881, she moved to Whitemouth, Manitoba with her family. Initially, she did not practice medicine in Whitemouth, but as news of the doctor's presence began to spread, calls for help began, and she felt compelled to help those in need. Regardless of her own personal situation at the time, no calls were refused.

She travelled to her patients by whatever means available - by horse and buggy, railway handcar, sleigh, canoe, ox team, or on foot. Ross helped her patients in their homes with more than medical assistance. After bringing a baby into the world, she would usually scrub floors, do laundry, cook and bake bread for the families before she left. In the warmer months, she would bring roses from her garden for new mothers.



Ross treated settlers and Indigenous patients alike, and often patients would travel great distances for her kind and respectful treatment. She was an early advocate of antiseptic measures that later would become the norm in medicine. Among other things, when any money was brought into the home, the bills would be pressed with a "sad" iron and coins would be boiled, to destroy bacteria and viruses.

She continued to practice for many years, although she was never formally licensed by the Manitoba College of Physicians and Surgeons. In 1912, after the death of her husband, Ross moved to Winnipeg. She died at her home in 1916 and was buried in Brookside Cemetery.

The Charlotte W. Ross Gold Medal for highest marks in obstetrics was given annually in the Manitoba Medical College. Established by her granddaughter, Dr. Edith Ross, it was first awarded in 1917. Now, the Dr. Charlotte W. Ross Memorial Award goes to a graduate in medicine enrolled in postgraduate studies in obstetrics and gynecology.

Ross was posthumously licensed to practice medicine by the Manitoba legislature in 1993. Dr. Charlotte Ross was a mother, a friend and a noble, self-sacrificing physician, who was forged by pioneer conditions. She held it her highest honour that she was a general practitioner.

Dr. Helen Glass O.C., O.M., Ed.D., Hon. LL.D., Hon. D.Sc.

(1917-2015)

The Helen Glass Centre for Nursing, at the University of Manitoba, bears the name of the woman credited with pioneering work as a nurse and teacher.

Born at Regina, Saskatchewan, on Oct. 24, 1917, to Harold Preston and Mildred Landon, Helen Glass received her diploma in nursing (1939) from the Royal Victoria Hospital School of Nursing in Montreal. After working as a nurse for a time, Glass began a career in nursing education in 1953, at the Holy Family School of Nursing, at Prince Albert, Sask.

She moved to Winnipeg in 1955, where she earned a certificate in teaching and supervision from the University of Manitoba in 1958. In 1960, she received a bachelor of science in nursing from Columbia University, and her masters of arts in 1961. She earned a master of education (1970) and a doctorate in education (Nursing) (1971), also from Columbia.

In 1962, Glass started teaching at the University of Manitoba's School of Nursing and served as its Director from 1972 to 1979. She played an important role in establishing a graduate program in nursing and in creating the Manitoba Nursing Research Institute. She was president of the Canadian Nurses Association and the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses. She also contributed to the wording and scope of the Canada Health Act, in 1984.



Glass served as the first vice-president of the International Council of Nurses. She brought an international perspective to her profession through her consultation with the World Health Organization and the Danish Nurses Organization. She was revered and admired by her colleagues and students alike. She set the bar very high and served as an exemplary role model and mentor for many.

In recognition of her contributions to the nursing discipline and the community at large, Glass was inducted into the Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt (1987), Order of Canada (1988) and Order of Manitoba (2008), and she received the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal (1977), Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002), and Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012). She was inducted into the Teacher's College Nursing Hall of Fame at Columbia University. She received honorary degrees from Memorial University (1983), University of Western Ontario (1986), St. Francis Xavier University (1991), Université de Montréal (1993), and McGill University (1995). In 2013, she was presented with the Centennial Award from the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba, effectively making her the "nurse of the century."

Among her many other honours were the Peter D. Curry Chancellor's Award from the University of Manitoba (1993), the Jeanne Mance Award from the Canadian Nurses Association (1992), The Mary Tolle Wright Leadership Founders' Award from the Sigma Theta Tau International Honour Society in Nursing (1989), the Louise McManus Medal for distinguished and meritorious service from Columbia University Nursing Education Alumni (1984), and the YWCA Woman of the Year Award for Education (1979).

Glass died in Winnipeg on Feb. 14, 2015.

Dr. Isabel G. Auld, C.M., LL.D.

(1917-2016)

Dr. Isabel Auld (nee Hutcheson) was the first woman to hold office as the Chancellor of the University of Manitoba, just the second woman at a Canadian university elected to this position.

Auld was born in Winnipeg to Scottish immigrants, C.G. Hutcheson, a seedsman, and Maggie (nee Davidson) Hutcheson, a dressmaker. Her early schooling and university years were in Saskatchewan. Auld earned prize money in the World Grain Fair's judging competitions, a full scholarship that enabled her to pursue the scientific studies and lab work that led to her long, accomplished life. The Second World War, however, cut short her cytogenetic doctoral research at Montreal's McGill University. She returned to Winnipeg in the early 1940s, marrying W. Murray Auld, C.M., in 1942.

When appointed 9th Chancellor in the University of Manitoba's centennial year, Auld became a popular and approachable role model for female students, staff, committee members, faculty and senior administration. A member of the University's Board of Governors and Senate for 14 years and chancellor for nine, in three successive terms, she became the "ambassador-at-large" for the University of Manitoba. Auld gained respect for her balanced judgment and wholesome concern for all university constituents. She was always interested in others.

Of a generation of women where professional employment after marriage was discouraged by society, Auld embraced and found fulfillment in community activism and voluntarism. Her brilliant mind, resolve and humanity positioned her well to see the promise of what could be.



It would be inaccurate to say that things were easy for Auld. Gender barriers at times challenged what she wanted to achieve. Her energy and abilities propelled her and motivated others. She was gifted at assessing people, ideas, implications and opportunities. When a job needed doing, Auld found a way to get it done, alone or by encouraging others to work together to accomplish it.

As a mother of three, Auld began a lifelong career of volunteer work in education, health, medical research, consumer and community outreach. Some emphasized women's causes: Clinic, Hargrave House, the Family Bureau, Child and Family Services, Mt. Carmel Clinic, Health Sciences Centre, Cancercare Manitoba Medical Services Foundation, Middlechurch Home, and the Centre on Aging and Social Planning Council. She also supported women's organizations.

Auld was the first woman to be elected to the Wawanesa Insurance Company Board. Some of Auld's papers, her extensive correspondence, speeches, and briefs are housed at the University of Manitoba, an edifying trove of accomplishment by one of Manitoba's female trailblazers. Dr. Auld's formal portrait is in the Elizabeth Dafoe Library, on the Fort Garry campus, a sculpture by Leo Mol graces Auld Place, and a named entrance scholarship is awarded annually.

Her many honours include honorary doctorates from the universities of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, inclusion in Winnipeg's Citizens Hall of Fame, Order of the Buffalo Hunt, Chancellor Emerita and Member of the Order of Canada.

Dr. Isabel Auld remained active and engaged all her days.

Dr. Jennifer Shay, O.C., Ph.D.

(1930-2018)

Jennifer Shay (nee Walker) blazed a bright trail across botany, landscape architecture, the sciences and humanities. In her no-nonsense manner, she strove tirelessly to protect the environment, becoming a true force of nature.

Born at Hull, England, in 1930, her early outdoor experiences cemented her life-long interest in nature. Despite having been discouraged from pursuing a university career, she completed an undergraduate biology degree at the University of London in 1952. As the sole woman on staff, she spent six years teaching at Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre in Suffolk, an experience that convinced her of the value of fieldwork in training biologists.

She immigrated to Canada in 1957 to work as a research assistant in botany at the University of Manitoba. While bird watching at the Delta Waterfowl Research Station, Shay learned about the catastrophic flooding of the mid-1950s. This inspired her to study the recovery of plants following the flood for her master's and PhD degrees in botany. Thus began a 35-year career at the U of M, where – again – she was the first, and for a long time the only, woman in the botany department (now part of biological sciences).

When the estate of Donald Bain, on the southern shores of Lake Manitoba, was offered to the university, Jennifer eagerly endorsed the idea. Thus, in 1966, she became the founding director of the University Field Station (later renamed Delta Marsh Field Station), serving for 20 years and transforming the station into a leading research and training centre, teaching fieldwork techniques to generations of students.



A respected ecologist, environmentalist and interdisciplinary scientist, Shay's trademarks were patience, firmness and grace, tempered by an impish sense of humor. Her research ranged from contemporary marshes, prairies and forests to ancient settlements on Crete – a project shared with her archeologist husband, Tom Shay.

Shay served as president of the Manitoba Naturalists Society and was a founding member of both the Manitoba Museum and Winnipeg's Living Prairie Museum. She also sat on the board of the Fort Whyte Nature Centre. Shay's many other national presidencies and advisory-board positions ranged from the Canadian Botanical Association and the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council to the Organization of Biological Field Stations and the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

In recognition of her pioneering role in environmental advocacy and outdoor education, and especially for founding the Delta Marsh Field Station, Jennifer was inducted into the Order of Canada (1988) and became an Officer in 2001. She received the Centennial Medal (1970), Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002), and Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012). The Manitoba Historical Society designated her as a "Memorable Manitoban."

She retired to Yorkshire, England, with Tom in 2001. Jennifer died there on May 7, 2018. A collection of her papers is held at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Jessie Lang, LL.D.

(1916-2018)

Born April 1, 1916, two months after Manitoba women received the right to vote, Jessie Lang defied the traditional roles and expectations for women.

A born leader and organizer, she was a dedicated, committed and inspiring, yet unassuming mentor. Influential and empowering to women, she encouraged critical thinking and independence. Lang became a role model for women early in life, achieving with a quiet determination goals that were not easily accessible for women.

In 1937, she graduated from Wesley College with a BA in mathematics. She participated on the debating team, played ice hockey, was a member of the student council and worked in the library. She was very persistent in securing her first job at an insurance company that had a policy not to hire women. Lang was offered the job anyway, albeit at a much lower salary than the men.

As a young wife and mother, Lang volunteered for the Community Chest (United Way), and UNICEF among others. Widowed in 1961, she enrolled at the University of Manitoba, obtaining a BSW. A gifted counselor for Child Guidance Clinic (Winnipeg School Division), she advised, encouraged and mentored high-school-aged girls.

In the 1970s, Lang began her major volunteer work with the U. of M., the Health Sciences Centre and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. As a member of the university's board of governors, she became involved with, and then was appointed the first female board chair of, the Health Sciences Centre. She helped to establish daycare for its staff, assisting women to remain in the workforce. Jessie was a board member of the Health Sciences Center Foundation and an honorary director.



Lang embodied a rare blend of compassion and action. She participated in her first Multiple Sclerosis walk in 2013, at age 97. She walked with the Forever Wendy Team to honour the 20th anniversary of the death of her daughter Wendy, who suffered from MS. Lang continued to educate people about the disease and to advance the research and service commitments of the MS Society until she died in Marc, 2018, at 102. Lang was an extraordinary role model for the inclusion of all women, challenging society's perception of women in the workforce and society, while committed to serving everyone, regardless of gender.

She received the Distinguished Service Medal from the U. of M., an honorary doctor of laws from the University of Winnipeg, and honorary fellow of St. John's College. She was also awarded The Nancy Perkins Award for outstanding volunteer contribution to the MS Society of Canada. She was recognized for her lifework advancing women with a Nellie McClung Foundation 'Nellie Award' at the 2016 Centennial Gala: Celebrating 100 Years of Manitoba Women's Right to Vote.

Dr. June James, O.M., Hon. DIP (RRC), BSc, BSc (Med), MD, FRCPC.

Dedicating oneself to a career in medicine is a noble choice, one that June James has taken on with a gusto difficult to match. James excelled in the field of allergy and immunology and has contributed to her community at large.

James emigrated from Trinidad in 1960 alone, leaving behind her parents and four siblings. After a Bachelor of Science in 1963, she began her medical career, the first Black woman, to attend Manitoba Medical College; achieving a bachelor of science in medicine and her MD designation in 1967. She then specialized in pediatrics, and in allergy and clinical immunology.

James has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments. Having worked as an assistant professor in the faculty of medicine at the U of M and as a consultant in allergy and immunology at the Winnipeg Clinic and the Health Sciences Centre, she also developed the first family asthma program teaching parents and children how to manage asthma to reduce trips to the hospital.

James has led several organizations, including: the Winnipeg Clinic; the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba; the Manitoba Allergy Society; and, the allergy and immunology section of the Manitoba Medical Association. She was named a fellow of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

Her list of community volunteer service is lengthy, having chaired the Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation and the Winnipeg Foundation and served as president of the Manitoba Museum, the Manitoba Museum Foundation and the Congress of Black Women of Manitoba, which she co-founded. She currently sits on the board of St. John's College.



She calls her greatest achievement in the community the 54-unit, affordable-housing complex constructed when she was president of the Harambee Housing Coop.

For her contributions, James has been presented many awards, including the YWCA Woman of the Year Award in 1981, for her work in medicine and the community, a citation for citizenship by the federal government and the Queen Elizabeth 50th Jubilee Medal. On July 15, 2004, James was invested into the Order of Manitoba by Lt.-Gov. Peter Liba and was conferred with an honorary diploma by Red River College.

She credits her involvement in these organizations with making her a better physician, but says living in Manitoba has played a part, too: "The quality of life here has kept me in Manitoba. I love the arts – my second choice in life was to be a concert pianist. I can't play a note now, but the arts are very important to me. Art and music help to refresh my soul."

In accepting her honorary diploma, James shared this advice with students: "Whatever goal you set for yourself, strive for excellence. And once you have achieved your goal, you should look around to see how you can help others."

Dr. June Menzies, C.M., O.M.

(1925-2020)

An economist and tireless advocate for feminist and social justice issues, June Menzies helped revolutionize and reform family law across Canada. Menzies' feminist development took shape as a young child when she began noticing that men were inherently handed a higher social standing. This continued into her early adult years, when she experienced firsthand gender discrimination on many fronts while serving with the Canadian Women's Army Corps in 1943.

Born in Arcola, Sask., in 1925, Menzies enlisted in the Armed Forces immediately after high school, against her father's wishes. She went to Japanese language school in Vancouver, and worked as an intelligence officer in Fort Richie, Maryland. After the war, she met her husband Merrill Menzies at university, where he was also studying economics.

After moving to Winnipeg in 1962, Menzies quickly became a key member of Manitoba's feminist movement. She was central to the development of the original Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, drafted the structure of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and served as the first vice-president for the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Menzies also chaired and served as CEO for the Farm Products Marketing Council. She was the vice-chair of the Anti-Inflation Board from 1976 to 1979, and spent seven years in the private sector as director and economist with the M.W. Menzies Group Ltd. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1981, received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1983, and was invested into the Order of Manitoba in 2007.



Menzies was co-chair of the Task Force on Urban Safety for Women and Children in Winnipeg. She was intelligent, spoke her mind, and a humble but leading light for equality in the women's community. She was also actively involved in the United Church.

Ahead of her time, she worked as a volunteer with Kali Shiva, providing home care for people with AIDS when health care professionals were unsure of the transmission and there was much fear. Menzies would pick up laundry, and do it at her home for the clients. She was known by the volunteers as the "laundry lady" and never mentioned the fact that she was a well-regarded national figure who received the Governor General's award.

Menzies died in 2020.

Dr. Margaret Stovel McWilliams

(1875-1952)

Margaret Stovel McWilliams, the first female graduate in Political Economy at the University of Toronto, moved to Winnipeg in 1910 where her involvement in civic and provincial social and educational issues soon expanded nationally and internationally.

As past president of the University of Winnipeg's University Women's Club (UWC), she was a founding member and first president of the national Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) in 1919. Her interest in promoting education at the international level prompted her to join with UWC leaders in the USA and England to form the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) and to become its first vice-president.

McWilliams is credited in Kinnear's Social Gospel with stating in 1923: "The gift of a university education carries with it an obligation, to make return of service. Canadian democracy is committed in its very foundation to education, and this great experiment in human values demands . . . the intelligent support of those who have enjoyed its benefits." These sentiments have been at the heart of CFUW from its beginning. The scholarship program initiated by her in 1920 has grown to an annual million-dollar contribution at the club and national levels combined.

Credited with reviving the Manitoba Historical Society in 1944, McWilliams served as its president from 1944 to 1948. She was the second female alderman of the City of Winnipeg, serving from 1933 to 1940, where she was active in introducing legislation of benefit to women and children, including relief administration during the drought period.



She was active in the Red Cross, National Council of Education, National Council of Women and the Women's Canadian Club, and was a frequent delegate to international conferences representing CFUW, IFUW, the federal government and other organizations, authoring numerous relevant articles. For over 30 years she held her monthly continuing-education class in politics "Current Events" to which women came by the 100s. Her writing included the books *The Women of Red River* (1923), *Manitoba Milestones* (1928), *This New Canada* (1948) and she co-authored *If I Were King of Canada* (1931).

McWilliams foresaw problems for women post-Second World War and urged then-prime minister McKenzie King to include in his rehabilitation planning, a committee to study the problems of women who were moving from the armed forces and war industries to civilian life. When McKenzie King set up the Federal Advisory Committee on Reconstruction in 1943, she accepted an appointment as chair of the Subcommittee on Post-War Problems of Women. Its subsequent report became best-selling material for women's discussion groups and contained 12 major recommendations, many of which were still timely a generation later.

Following her death in 1952, CFUW established the Dr. Margaret McWilliams Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in her honour and in 1955, a literary award was established by her husband, former Lieutenant-Governor Roland F. McWilliams, to encourage the study and interpretation of the history of Manitoba by authors of scholarly books, popular books, local histories, and other works.

Her legacy continues!

Dr. Marsha Hanen, C.M., Ph.D.

(1936-2019)

Marsha Hanen, distinguished academic and Member of the Order of Canada, was the first woman to serve as president and vice-chancellor of the University of Winnipeg and, in 1989, one of the first two women to be university presidents anywhere in the country.

A strong believer in the importance of multidisciplinary liberal arts and science education at the undergraduate level, Hanen inspired much innovation to this end at the university. Her consultative style of leadership, along with her keen attention to detail, enabled her to steer the university deftly through a decade of change.

She left an indelible mark on the University of Winnipeg and beyond, inspiring many women in education, motivating attitudinal change across genders, and encouraging intelligent innovation among academics, business leaders and lawmakers.

In her role as president, Hanen was instrumental in the advancement of the university's growth and development strategy and oversaw the development and enactment of the university's first real strategic plan. One of her most notable accomplishments was the passing of The University of Winnipeg Act, a fundamental piece of enabling legislation, an aspiration of the university's since its creation in 1967.



Her championing and establishing an innovative, full-time bachelor of education program, with a focus on preparation for inner-city teaching, has left a broad impact on education in Manitoba.

She contributed to the opening of the Bulman Student Centre and the acclaimed Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, one of Canada's premium chamber music concert halls. Hanen also played an instrumental role in having Spence Street, between Ellice and Portage, closed to traffic, now named Marsha Hanen Way, and in the acquisition of the former Salvation Army Citadel on Balmoral, which was transformed into the the University of Winnipeg's theatre and film department.

The Marsha Hanen Award for Excellence in Creating Community Awareness, was established in 2000 to recognize her community commitment, and is awarded to faculty and staff who reinforce the value of a liberal education and expanded understanding of, and respect for, the university. The award is funded by the Toronto-Dominion Bank in her honour.

With a generous donation, Hanen also personally established the Marsha Hanen Global Ethics and Dialogue Fund in 2007 to help support faculty members in their research on pressing issues such as ethics, human rights, freedom of expression and the impacts of science and technology. As well, she established the Marsha P. Hanen Entrance Scholarship (2015) with very generous donations to the scholarship and bursaries fund established by The University of Winnipeg Retirees Association.

Hanen generously contributed to many other Manitoba institutions, including the Manitoba Museum. CancerCare Manitoba has also named a room after her.

Hanen's reputation extends beyond Manitoba's borders. Throughout her career, she had a broad and deep interest in ethics, the philosophy of science and of law.

Hanen's exemplary work has earned her many grants, awards and honours. With her distinguished academic credentials and her consultative, inclusive, yet decisive style as a leader, Marsha Hanen was recognized as a true trailblazer.

Dr. Mirjana Roksandic, Ph.D.

Mirjana Roksandic is an esteemed biological anthropologist. She is a professor in the anthropology department, and coordinator of the interdisciplinary program in bioanthropology at The University of Winnipeg. She is also biology graduate from the U. of W. and adjunct graduate faculty in anthropology at the University of Manitoba. Her expertise, extensive field experience, and commitment to her students' success make Roksandic a respected educator.

Roksandic asks the big questions about when, how and why humans have moved across continents and vast expanses of lands and sea in the context of human evolution and adaptation to climatic fluctuations. She is the only faculty member in Manitoba with an active research program in paleoanthropology but has received immense support from her peers and the community here in Winnipeg.

Roksandic's innovative research offers insights into the world of ancient humans. Her team found the oldest human remains ever discovered in the Balkans – a 500,000-year-old jawbone of an early Homo in Mala Balanica Cave – as well as the first Neanderthal discovered in Serbia, a 100,000-year-old tooth from Pešturina Cave. She also has conducted research in Portugal, Cuba and Nicaragua, using archaeological evidence to understand the hunter-gatherer and early-agricultural populations in these regions.



Prof. Roksandic's work is changing our understanding of these areas and the early people who inhabited them.

As a trailblazing woman in science, Roksandic is transforming understandings in anthropology. She is an inspiration and role model who is contributing to the advancement of science.

Dr. Noralou P. Roos, O.C., Ph.D.

Noralou Roos was the founding co-Director of the world-class and innovative Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP), which was established in 1991 and continues to provide research evidence about population health and service use in Manitoba to inform policy. Roos was a pioneer in working with both policymakers and the media to translate research knowledge into action. She organized the pan-Canadian Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network to ensure objective, timely evidence was produced about pharmaceuticals. She is currently a driving force on a novel approach to tackling poverty in Manitoba.

After arriving at the University of Manitoba in 1973, Roos and her husband, Les, worked with the Manitoba Health Services Commission to build what would later become the Manitoba population research data repository – a de-identified collection of administrative datasets for research. It was developed to describe and explain patterns of service use, and profiles of health for all Manitoba residents. The repository has become a model for research data centres across Canada and the world.

Roos's work on inequalities in children's health and education outcomes was part of the impetus for the Manitoba Education Department to develop the community-schools pilot project, which recognized the need to address multiple challenges experienced by families living in low-income areas, in order to improve student outcomes. This program led to the Community Schools Act funding over three dozen schools to serve as community hubs where cross-sector services and resources can be mobilized to support families and boost student achievement.



Roos' contributions to health services and population health research have been recognized by numerous awards including YWCA Manitoba Woman of the Year award in 1988, the Order of Canada in 2005, membership in the Academy of Science of the Royal Society of Canada in 2009, winner of the inaugural Population and Public Health Research Milestone Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Canadian Public Health Association in 2011. In 2016, she was promoted to Officer in the Order of Canada.

After stepping down as director of MCHP, Roos obtained funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Manitoba Health Research Council to work with the media to ensure evidence on high-profile health policy issues was accurately communicated. As founding director of EvidenceNetwork.ca in 2009, she networked with more than 80 high-profile academics across the country to provide timely responses to reporters' questions.

Roos also mobilized a large group of academics to work with Health Canada and provincial governments across Canada, establishing the Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network (DSEN). This was funded with a \$31-million commitment from the health minister in 2009, and \$10 million per year of ongoing funding.

Currently, Roos is co-director of the Winnipeg Foundation-supported Get Your Benefits project that sees health care providers and community groups working to ensure poverty is diagnosed and treated by helping people access the benefits for which they are eligible.

Dr. Rayleen De Luca, C.M., O.M.

Dr. Rayleen De Luca has followed in Nellie McClung's footsteps, pursuing social justice, the arts, human rights and advancing democracy through her professional, educational, research and community endeavors.

At the University of Manitoba, Department of Psychology, De Luca was the first woman director of clinical training. Her work with children in the area of child abuse and family violence has been described as "ground breaking". Her publications have been translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Russian, German and Italian.

She has presented workshops on women's issues internationally, including at the Universidad Catolica, Andres Bello, Caracas, Venezuela, the Universidade Catolica Dom Bosco, in Campo Grande, Brazil and Universidade Aberta Do Brasil, in Barretos, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Through her work, hundreds of women and girls who had been sexually abused have received free intervention and access to psychological treatment. Her studies have demonstrated that those who have received treatment have not experienced the negative long-term effects often associated with abuse.



Her essence was captured by a child's comment at the end of her therapy: "Dr. De Luca is the one that came to my rescue and became a true friend." A life member of the Catholic Women's League, she has dedicated hundreds of hours to developing resolutions focusing on women's issues, that are annually presented to the federal government. For example, important issues as the trafficking of women and children.

She has made presentations to the Native Women's Transition Centre, Anishinaabe Respect; Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre; and Valley River First Nations. She served as president of Folklorama and as Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors of St. Paul's College.

She was appointed by the Canadian Conference of Bishops to serve on a National Ad Hoc Committee on the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable people. De Luca has received a number of awards for her leadership and commitment, including the Sons of Italy CIPA Professional Award and the Order of Manitoba.

Dr. De Luca was inducted into the Order of Canada.

Dr. Sherry Peden, Ph.D.

(1960-2018)

Sherry Peden was an Indigenous educator who worked tirelessly in the field of education. Peden inspired many students, and her legacy lives on in the memories of those who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Born in Kenora, Ontario, the family moved to western Manitoba where Peden was raised on Treaty 4 land farmed by her grandfather and subsequently by her father. In the RM of Grandview, she attended the Wicklow School, more than two kilometres from the family farm. This was the beginning of what would prove to be a lifetime in the field of education.

After attending high school in Grandview, she obtained a bachelor of education from Brandon University and began teaching elementary school at Cormorant at the age of 21. Peden went on to teach middle year and high school students at Norway House, working for both Frontier School Division and Norway House Cree Nation schools. At Norway House she would become the centre co-ordinator for the Brandon University northern teacher education program (BUNTEP) and then centre co-ordinator in Dauphin. She completed a master's degree in education and became a professor at Brandon University.

In 2011, Peden completed a PhD in educational administration at the University of Manitoba, and in 2013, she became the academic vice-president at the University College of the North, in The Pas, which she held until retiring in 2015.



In her work as a teacher, one of her great motivations was to be a role model for Indigenous youth. She undertook to combat systemic racism in the educational system and institutions, and even after being diagnosed with cancer in April, 2017, she continued to work as a consultant in the field of Aboriginal education. One of her many career accomplishments was the creation of the Onikaniwak summer institute for providing First Nation, Inuit and Metis teachings for senior educational administrators.

An international presenter, Peden travelled the world, using storytelling to reach people. She was a mentor, trailblazer, and a critical-race theorist. Her work inspired not only her students, but several family members to pursue higher education. She was first in her family to graduate from university and the first to pursue a doctorate – especially important, given the historical impacts of the Indian Residential School system.

Peden was never afraid to take on new challenges. She never lost her connection to the land and could often be found at “the cabin.” She and her husband Leo built up a cabin located where she grew up, which became a gathering place for family and friends for tea, card games, traditional ceremonies and meals.

Dr. Sybil Shack, C.M., LL.D.

(1911-2004)

Sybil Francis Shack was the first female principal in Manitoba. She was an accomplished educator, with many accomplishments. Shack graduated from St. John's High school at the age of 14. She received her BA from the University of Manitoba at 18 and her teachers' certificate at 20.

Due to the 1930s depression, it took her two years to get a full-time teaching job so she wrote articles and editorials for a labour council newspaper and for the Western Jewish News, while doing her tutorials and substitute teaching. Eventually, she began teaching in rural Manitoba, at Evergreen and Shoal Lake. Three years later, she was hired in Winnipeg and taught at all levels. She returned to the U. of M. and earned her M.Ed. in 1945. She became principal at Sargent Park in 1948, and eventually principal at Kelvin High School, where she retired in 1978.

Shack earned a national reputation in the 1950s as a writer and broadcaster of education programs on CBC Radio. She also authored several education texts and general interest books including Arms with a Primer, The Two Thirds Majority on Women and Education, and Saturday's Step Children, on women in Canadian business.

Shack served as president of the Manitoba Teachers' Society and as a director of the Canadian Teacher's Federation. She led many professional education committees including the Language Arts Curriculum Council of the Department of Education. She was also a founding member and fellow of the Canadian College of Teachers.



Beyond the teaching profession, she served on a number of government boards and committees, among them Manitoba Law Reform Commission and the Manitoba Judicial Council. She also served for many years as chair of the Legislative Review Committee, and Manitoba Association of Rights and Liberties (MARL), where she wrote many briefs and made frequent presentations to the law amendments committee at the Manitoba legislature. She was honorary president of MARL at the time of her death.

Earlier she served as the national president of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association with which MARL is affiliated. She served on the boards of the Winnipeg United Way, the Social Planning Council and the Dafoe Foundation. She was a longtime member and supporter of the NDP. She was actively involved in preparing for the 50th anniversary book for the Jewish Child and Family Service Agency.

Shack was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1984, and received numerous other awards and honours, among them honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Manitoba, the Persons Award, given to outstanding Canadian women, and the Manitoba Human Rights Achievement Award. She was a member and supporter of many organizations, from the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women to Amnesty International and the Winnipeg Humane Society.

She was a mentor and role model to many people through her teaching years and beyond. She died in Winnipeg on Jan. 22, 2004. She left her papers to the University of

Manitoba archives.

Dulcie E. Price

Dulcie E. Price is a trailblazer, as the first woman in Western Canada to own and operate a grain brokerage company. Having been in the grain business since 1979 Price knew the grain industry well. In time and certain circumstances, she recognized that her farmer clients in Manitoba and Saskatchewan were in need of a person to help to market their grain into a volatile and complicated marketplace. Thus, in 1986, Optimum Agra Services Ltd. was established.

There are many moving parts in the grain industry –building and maintaining enduring relationships with farmers, merchandisers, transportation and grain companies, as well as regulatory entities, was just a part of being efficient and plugged in.

Price had a solid reputation as a middle-person between the farmers and grain companies who wanted to purchase specific types and quality of grain. Not only did she broker the grain to the companies, she arranged the transportation to get the grain to the buyers at the export ports by rail, or to the inland buyers and processors by semi-trailer.

Ten years later, in the mid-1990's, there were two other self-employed women female brokers in Western Canada that traded grain and grain products, business-to-business (B2B).



Dulcie Price was the only broker trading product from grain farmers to the Manitoba market-place.

In the late 1990's, other experienced people in Western Canadians started companies to broker grain from farmers to their regional marketplaces – her business model helped create a new industry to service the farmers in the West.

In 2011, to celebrate the company's 25th anniversary she published *Across the Grain - The inside stories 1986 -2011*, a retrospective of the Canadian grain industry. Those 25 years were full of tumultuous change in the grain industry.

In time, the business changed as many do, as Price transitioned the business into a transportation-logistics operation, moving grain by rail and truck to export facilities in Canada and the U.S. markets.

Being self-employed over the years did allow the freedom to travel; she visited Sydney, Australia, to Europe numerous times; to Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; and to Churchill and back by train, as well as travels in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Price was also a volunteer for many organizations in Winnipeg: the Age and Opportunity Centre; the Winnipeg's Exchange District BIZ board; YWCA Women of Distinction Awards; Manitoba Museum; Health Sciences Centre Foundation; Winnipeg Harvest; the Women of Winnipeg; and CARP, the Canadian Association of Retired Persons in 2020.

Ella Cora Hind

(1861-1942)

E. Cora Hind's contributions to Manitoba extend far beyond her tireless efforts to achieve greater equality for women. Her celebrity status as an agricultural commentator in the early 1900s had a profound impact on the industry that fueled Western Canada's economic development.

"She is the greatest prophet in the world: Fortunes and the future of great industries are affected by her forecasts," reported the London Sunday Express in October, 1932. "Her prophecies are eagerly awaited by government experts, grain traders, transportation companies, insurance houses, banks and manufacturers for they affect the price of wheat, the cost of bread and the purchasing power of Canada."

Hind had just arrived in London as the first woman to sail from the newly opened Port of Churchill, a development she had tirelessly promoted.

From the time she was orphaned at a young age to her death in 1942, Hind persistently broke through barriers that stood between her and her goals. Throughout her lifetime, she campaigned for women's right to vote, the temperance movement, and workers' rights.

Her expectations of equality and fairness were instilled in her at an early age. According to a published profile, her grandfather insisted she be treated the same as her brothers when it came to farming knowledge.



Hind moved west at the age of 21 and was initially told newspaper work was no place for a woman with no experience. So she became the first female typist in Winnipeg and served as secretary for agricultural organizations until the Free Press under J.W. Daffoe hired her as an agricultural writer in 1901. She was 40.

She was both a news reporter and a newsmaker, attracting international media coverage for the uncanny accuracy of her annual Prairie crop inspections that began in 1904. She later travelled the world writing about agriculture on a special assignment for the Free Press. Amongst her many achievements, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Manitoba in 1932.

Hind relentlessly used her typewriter and her wit as instruments for change, at times gently admonishing her readers, whether it was women for not exercising their right to vote, or farmers who failed to heed market signals.

In a September, 1939, column for the Commercial Girl's Club newsletter, she advised: "Don't vote for a woman because she is a woman and don't vote against her because is one. Weigh carefully and without prejudice her abilities and experience against her men opponents and vote irrespective of sex for the one you feel will do the best job."

Hind recognized that all of society would benefit when when women gained access to equal opportunities, and when they exercised their right to be full partners.

"The usual statement is that I am a remarkable woman because I can do it: the implication is that the average woman is too dumb to succeed at a man's task and I resent that implication, for it is false," she wrote.

Edith Hancox

(1874-1954)

Socialist feminist Edith Hancox championed the poor and the dispossessed, and disrupted Winnipeg's political establishment in the wake of the Great War.

Hancox was born an impoverished and "illegitimate" child in England. As a child servant, Hancox received only a rudimentary formal education. She arrived in Winnipeg in 1904; six years later she opened small hardware store at 1574 Logan Ave., which she managed until defaulting on her mortgage on the eve of the Great Depression.

Hancox emerged as a significant political figure during the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike. She was the only woman known to address the massive pro-strike congregations in Victoria Park. Following the strike, Hancox gave sermons in the Labour Church, formed the Weston-Brooklands branch of the Women's Labour League, and ran unsuccessfully for school board trustee.

By 1921, Hancox was active in the One Big Union (OBU); it was through her lobbying that the OBU voted to grant full affiliation to women. That same year, Hancox organized unemployed women and men and became the secretary of the Winnipeg Central Council of the Unemployed (WCCU); she retained that role when the WCCU expanded into a provincial organization in 1922. Soon after Edith joined the Communist Workers' Party and became the most prominent Anglo-Canadian woman in the Communist Party in Manitoba. In November 1922, Winnipeg hosted unemployment activists from across the country to form the first national anti-poverty organization in Canadian history. Hancox held the position of national secretary in this organization until it dissolved in 1928.



"The time for winking at the class struggle has passed, for we are now at the commencement of a life or death struggle for our existence. Things cannot get better under the present existing order of production, and it is up to us to prepare ourselves to get those things that we need to live."

—Edith Hancox, 1922

Hancox ran unsuccessfully as a city councillor under the banner of the Workers' Party in 1923. It was not her political candidacy but her activism amongst the poor that earned her notoriety. Throughout the 1920s, Hancox organized numerous parades, relief strikes and public protests. She led delegations to city hall, the provincial legislature and to visiting federal officials. She also published more than 40 letters and articles in the local press, the OBU Bulletin, and the Communist Worker.

"I trust women will soon educate themselves to produce a system ... [in which they] shall not be regarded as a commodity by the other sex."

—Edith Hancox, 1921

Hancox combined an analysis of gender and ethnic discrimination with a socialist critique of economic inequality. In her activism, public speaking, and journalism, Hancox championed working-class women, children, immigrants, and the unemployed. Although Hancox won many small concessions to improve the welfare of the city's most impoverished, her aim to eradicate poverty has yet to be realized. Hancox is an inspiration to all Manitobans who continue to fight against gender, racial and class exploitation.

Edith Hancox died in anonymity in 1954.

Edith Mary McDowell, LL.D.

(1899-1972)

Edith Mary McDowell is recognized as a pioneer in nursing education in Canada, and for her work that led to establishing the bachelor of science in nursing and other related programs. She was a strong advocate for continuing education for nurses, which she felt should include interviewing skills, studies in communication and knowledge of administration.

McDowell grew up in Brandon, Manitoba and earned her tuition for nursing school by working as a legal secretary. She began her nursing career in 1927, graduating as a Registered Nurse in 1930 from the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, and later earning her diploma in teaching. She returned to Manitoba, where she worked for over 10 years in public health.

From 1934 to 1941 she was director of nursing at the Winnipeg General Hospital (now Health Sciences Centre). She served as director of health education in Manitoba Normal Schools for Winnipeg and the Interlake, introducing a more practical program of hot lunches in schools, health broadcasts about nutrition and hygiene and a new health course for schools. She became director of health and welfare education for Manitoba and from 1936-38 she served as president of the Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses.

This varied background of experience served her well in her career in Ontario.



After receiving her BSc (Nursing) and MA (Hospital Administration) in 1947 from Columbia University, McDowell became the University of Western Ontario's first dean of the School of Nursing in London. McDowell was determined the new school of nursing be autonomous and not a minor adjunct to the medical schools as was the case in most hospitals. Her major emphasis on patient-centred care and communication was groundbreaking at the time. She made revisions to the existing community health nursing programs, established major courses in microbiology, interpretive statistics, psychiatric nursing and preventive medicine. During the Cold War, she introduced training to community groups on preparedness for atomic, bacteriological and chemical warfare.

In 1957, a program leading to a diploma in nursing service administration was introduced at Western and McDowell became its director, making sure students learned how to apply administration principles to nursing services and responsibilities. McDowell found funding for large research projects and fellowships, and for intensive development of nursing administration courses. A new master of science in nursing degree was initiated in 1959; McDowell fought to keep the word "science" in the title against vigorous opposition from the medical division of the senate.

McDowell's career culminated in the building of a new school of nursing at Western, which became known as The House that Edith Built. She was held in great esteem and affection by faculty and students alike, and was granted an honorary doctor of laws in May, 1962. An article in the Canadian Nurse, February, 1972, quotes the citation: "The debt which the whole nursing profession owes to Miss McDowell is exceeded only by the debt which this university owes to her."

Eira “Babs” Friesen, C.M.

(1917-2008)

Eira Babs Friesen was a trailblazer in the work for women, establishing Western Canada's first Women's Resource Centre in 1973, the model, it is said, for dozens of social safety net programs and organizations that followed.

Born in Wales on April 1, 1917, Friesen attended St. Mary's Academy, graduating Grade 11 in 1936. She received a bachelor of science from the University of Manitoba, with distinction of Lady Stick, in 1939. Friesen and her husband Rhineheart proudly called Winnipeg home, where they raised four children.

As a young mother, Friesen worked tirelessly to support and connect women in Winnipeg. According to her obituary, "Eira created the Y-Neighbors Program, bringing stay-at-home moms and preschoolers together for exercise, mutual support and companionship. The program was so successful, it soon spread city-wide and remains so today."

The Manitoba Historical Society recognizes Friesen as a Memorable Manitoban and notes "recognizing another need, she was instrumental in establishing the Women's Resource Centre at the YMCA in 1973. This was the first such centre offering women information, support, guidance in Western Canada and became the model for dozens of social safety net programs and organizations ever since."



Her leadership and compassion were demonstrated during her 28 year-long volunteer commitment to this resource centre. We can only imagine her impact on our community, considering the many generations of women who have benefited.

Friesen also embodied Nellie McClung's spirit as an activist and leader, with her involvement in MATCH International, the Winnipeg and Manitoba Councils of Women, Immigrant Women, the UN Platform for Action Committee, and the University Women's Club. Her obituary also noted that Friesen attended the first International Women's Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1985, and the follow-up conference in Beijing 10 years later.

Friesen's tireless devotion to equality and advocacy work on behalf of women has been recognized in so many ways, receiving the Queen's Jubilee Award; the Premier's Volunteer Service Award; the Medal of Merit from the Girl Guides of Canada; Paul LeJeune Volunteer Service Award from the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation; 50th Anniversary United Nations Global Citizen Award; YMCA-YWCA Woman of Distinction. She was named to the Order of Canada in 2003; given the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case in 2003; and the Inaugural Marian Award for Excellence, St. Mary's Academy in 2005.

The citation from Friesen's Order of Canada beautifully affirms her place as a trailblazer: "She has helped countless women take a stand, improve their lives, and thrive in a community of peers."

Elaine Froese

Elaine Froese has been called the 'farm whisperer', but she should be called the 'mother of farm succession'. For nearly 25 years, she has changed the conversation about transition and business planning by understanding and including the emotional factors affecting farm families.

Starting in the 1980s, when farms were focused only on the farm finances, Froese was insightful and realized that relationships on the farm were a crucial part of successful farming. She combined her home economics background with mediation training and farm experience to coach family farms on how to address their people challenges that no one was talking about. Her approach was innovative and necessary.

Froese has been a columnist with Grainews for 26 years, and five years with Progressive Dairyman. She has written five books, offers podcasts, her blog is distributed to over 7,500 people on a regular basis, and she has created over 19 tools, available for free on her website in the farm-family toolkit. She has turned her experiences as a coach to over 1,000 small-business families into practical tools. Her influence is spreading to other industries and families in other countries with several of her tools translated into other languages.



Froese has become a beloved speaker throughout Canada and the world, creating a sense of hope and pathway for farm families to kickstart conversations, to deal with what she calls the "undiscussabulls."

She has also trained consultants and coaches in Australia, U.S. and Canada. In the last few years, she has become a mentor for new transition coaches and speakers. Froese is a charter member of Canadian Association of Farm Advisors (CAFA) in Brandon. For over 15 years, she has collaborated extensively with CAFA, FCC, FMC and Country Guide to deliver quality content to farmers. 4-H Canada named her their most distinguished alumna in 2018. Wilson Loree, on behalf of Farm Management Canada, recognized her excellence in farm management in 2018.

Froese farms with her very supportive husband, Wes, son Ian, and daughter in-law, Kendra, near Boissevain.

Froese likely gained insight on how to become a trailblazer from mother, Lois Edie, fellow 150 Manitoba Women Trailblazer Award recipient.

Elba Haid

In April 2018, the Heart and Stroke Foundation launched the #TimeToSeeRed initiative, an awareness and fundraising campaign dedicated to women's heart and brain health.

Women's heart and brain health is still vastly misunderstood and women in Canada are under-researched, under-diagnosed, under-treated and unaware of their risks for heart disease and stroke. Currently two-thirds of heart disease and stroke clinical research is based on men, yet 23 per cent more women die of heart failure than men, and it is the number one cause of premature death for women.

After launching the #TimeToSeeRed campaign, Elba Haid was Canada's first founding member of the Women's Heart and Brain Health Initiative.

Haid believes in giving back to the community. She felt a very strong commitment to take a major role in this initiative because of the devastating impact of heart disease and stroke among women of all ages. Haid lost her mother to stroke when she was only 14 years old, and growing up without a mother had a profound impact on her life. She believes in doing everything possible to save other young women from a similar experience.



Haid is a trailblazer in this life-saving campaign, and now Manitoba has six founding members, the most in Western Canada.

In addition to her philanthropic work, Haid has been a champion of her fellow women entrepreneurs as a founding member of the Women of Winnipeg. She has encouraged, mentored and funded women to achieve higher education, board positions and elected office. Haid makes it her mission to open doors for other women to promote equality of opportunity and inclusivity.

Haid has been a supporter of arts and culture in Winnipeg as a passionate volunteer for Manitoba Opera, The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

This, in addition to her contributions to the elder-care community. In 1995, Haid founded Realcare Inc., a primary-care provider for elders in Winnipeg, with the mission to set and maintain a high standard of care in the industry, driven by the belief Manitobans deserve to be cared for with dignity and compassion.

Elder Mae Louise Campbell

Indigenous Elder Mae Louise Campbell has dedicated her life doing the emotionally difficult work of bringing healing, hope and balance to Indigenous female survivors of trauma, particularly those who have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. Campbell has done this, in large part, by embracing the wisdom in the teachings and spirituality of her ancestors. Much of her insight comes from her lived experience in her early life and motherhood, from which she came out strong, focused and with an impassioned calling to heal her indigenous community.

Her dedication to healing led Campbell, along with her daughter Jamie Goulet, to create and operate Grandmother Moon Lodge, in St. Laurent, Manitoba, for 25 years. Campbell, Keeper of Grandmother Moon Lodge, and Goulet hosted thousands of women at their healing gatherings, where they re-connected to the land within Indigenous spirituality and ceremonies. She and Goulet moved back to Winnipeg's inner city to continue their healing work in service to its large Indigenous population. Campbell has also travelled all across the country to work with young Indigenous women.

Campbell has provided guidance and wisdom to leaders, staff and students in government, industry, not-for-profit and post-secondary institutions. For her work at Red River College, she was awarded their "Hidden Hero Award" in 2015, and an honorary diploma in Indigenous Social Enterprise, in 2020.



Campbell is known for her spiritual work as a lodge keeper and as the wisdom-keeper of woman's medicine and Moon Teachings, which she generously shares. As an elder-in-residence at two post-secondary institutions, she guides through her knowledge of Aboriginal peoples' histories, including the history of residential schools and colonization. She is the co-founder of the Kookum's Council, working to address the social issues affecting Aboriginal children and youth, locally and globally. She worked for five years with the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre.

Among her accomplishments, Campbell was the elder-in-residence at Brandon University for five years and was the elder advisor for the Coady International Institute's Indigenous Women in Community Leadership Program, at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. She is the elder-in-residence at Red River College and University of Manitoba, Faculty of Social Work (Selkirk campus). She successfully advocated for a rural facility for exploited girls, now part of Tracia's Trust: Manitoba's Sexual Exploitation Strategy. Currently, she is elder and co-founder of Clan Mothers Healing Village and Knowledge Centre, a contemporary, innovative holistic model of healing, education and training for Indigenous female victims of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

Committed to mentorship, Campbell is the epitome of grace and dignity and compassionate sensitivity. She advocates for the understanding and valuing of Indigenous heritage, spirituality, ceremonies, and ancient ways of being and knowing among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people alike, for the healing and advancement of community members.

Mae Louise Campbell has been a trailblazer in the field of healing Indigenous women and girls, and in helping organizations incorporate Indigenous teachings and spiritual values.

Elder Ruth Elaine Christie, O.M., LL.D.

Ruth Christie is a ,“knowledge keeper,” dedicated to passing on her own elders’ teachings of the true history of Indigenous peoples. Christie he has an amazing memory, able to recall the many stories she heard in her youth.

Christie was the first nurse to come out of her community of Loon Straits and she delivered its last baby. And when Loon Straits needed a teacher in 1965, she stepped in.

Christie is humble by nature, and so it is not in her personality to talk about, let alone keep track of, her achievements. She has done a great deal to make people aware of the true history of this area of Manitoba.

Christie has identified variously as a nurse, historian, community member (Loon Straits, Selkirk and Peguis First Nation), storyteller, mother, grandmother (kokum) to many -- including some who aren’t her biological children – great -grandmother, elder and mentor. She graduated in 1960 from the St. Boniface Hospital Licensed Practical Nursing program. Christie, who has a love of history, is passing down the stories she heard from her great-grandmother, grandmother and mother.



She has also worked as activity coordinator for the Tudor House Personal Care Home in Selkirk from 1974-79 and then from 1980 to 2000, she worked for Parks Canada at the Lower Fort Garry National Historical Park, playing the role of her ancestor, Joseph Monkman’s wife, having studied the role at the Archives of Manitoba. From 1995-2005, Christie worked at the Manitoba Museum as a storyteller.

Christine also took on the Buffalo Tales Storytelling program, an off-site schools program, coordinating with provincial curriculum, to address the needs of local schools for historical programming about Indigenous people and the Native Lore Badge Programming for Brownies and Guides.

Ruth Christie had the creek that runs through the Lower Fort Garry National Historical Park returned to its historic name of Monkman Creek. She did the work to identify how the creek had been referred to historically.

Christie has a number of published works and film appearances. This includes her publication with Angie Thompson and Blanche Bigelow, *Loon Straits Through The Years: The Monkman Ancestry* (Hignell, 2000). This is a compilation of stories written by Christies’ mother, Kathleen Monkman, about their life growing up in Loon Straits. Christie also contributed “Poem of Family Reunion” and *Memories of My Mother*. The book is now in its second reprint, with over 700 copies sold.

In 2000, Ruth Christie went to Oxford University to participate in the Rupertsland Studies Colloquium held there. She then visited Orkney Islands and visited some of her relatives. On her trip, she took part in public education about Indigenous history in Manitoba as well as her own family history.

She currently works as an elder at the University of Winnipeg and for the Selkirk Friendship Centre and the Lord Selkirk School Division.

Elizabeth Parker

(1856-1944)

Canadian journalist Elizabeth Parker co-founded the Alpine Club of Canada in the early 1900s, in probably the flattest city in the country.

In 1902, she was working at the Manitoba Free Press (now the Winnipeg Free Press), when American Alpine Club president Charles Fay proposed to establish a Canadian chapter. In nationalistic fervour, she wrote scathing criticism of the idea, and instead helped to establish the Alpine Club of Canada as an independent mountaineering organization.

She and the Manitoba Free Press continued to publicize and support Canadian mountaineering, and with the help of the Canadian Pacific Railway, she organized the founding meeting of the ACC in 1906, at which she became the club's first secretary.

Although not herself a mountaineer, Parker participated in many of the ACC camp trips and was at home in the mountains and among the climbing community.

She helped lay out the club's philosophical foundations in the opening article of the first Canadian Alpine Journal (1907). She saw the club as a protector of the environment, "a national trust for the defense of our mountain solitudes against the intrusion of steam and electricity and all the vandalisms of this luxurious utilitarian age; for the keeping free from the grind of commerce, the wooded passes and valleys and alplands of the wilderness. It is the people's right to have primitive access to the remote places of safest retreat from the fever and the fret of the market place and the beaten tracks of life."

She envisioned the group promoting scientific study and cultivating mountain art. It was Parker's fondest dream that mountaineering would promote conservation, patriotism, and moral discipline among Canadians.

In 2006, the Canadian government (through Parks Canada) produced a dramatic presentation called *Elizabeth Parker and the Alpine Club of Canada* (written and performed by actor and Parks interpreter Laurie Schwartz) describing Parker's contribution to Canadian mountaineering. The play credits Parker not only with her contributions to Canadian mountaineering, but also "a feminist commitment [that] paved the way for others".

The Alpine Club of Canada maintains the Elizabeth Parker hut near Lake O'Hara. Parker Ridge, overlooking Saskatchewan Glacier in Banff National Park, was similarly named for her.



Image Source: [Elizabeth Parker], Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Canadian Alpine Journal 1938, Volume 26, page 92 (CAJ/1938/Vol26/pg92)

Erna Kimmel

(1920-2010)

Erna Kimmel (Weiss) was born to Solomon and Celia Weiss in Drohobycz, Poland. Sol was a leading tailor and clothing manufacturer while Celia, a very educated woman, worked as a secretary for a legal firm. Kimmel, together with brothers Philip and Leo, led a fruitful life. Within 10 days of the German army defeating the Polish army in September 1939, Poland was divided into two occupied zones and Kimmel's family began living under Soviet control.

In June 1941, Germany attacked the Soviet Union, Drohobycz was occupied by German forces, and Kimmel's entire family was forced into a ghetto. After the liquidation of the ghetto in December 1941, she and her parents were transferred to a forced labour camp, S.S. Zwangsarbeitslager, which was under the brutal control of the SS and the Gestapo. In June 1944, she was liberated.

In 1948, the entire family arrived in Winnipeg where she married. She and her husband, Herman, began working in Winnipeg's fur design industry. Life was not easy and eventually, with the little English she could speak, Kimmel moved on to work at the Bay. She was promoted to head cashier and worked there until she was five-months pregnant. Her husband died at an early age, leaving Kimmel a single mother.

At this difficult time, Kimmel began working with her brother, Philip, in his business. She also threw herself into a life of volunteerism, active in the Women and the Arts, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and the Manitoba Association of Community Arts Councils.



For 28 years, she dedicated her life to the Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble. Kimmel designed and created spectacular costumes for creative dance numbers. Her biggest satisfaction was working with young people and watching them perform on stage. They considered her their second mother.

In 1978, Kimmel became a founding member of the Winnipeg Associates of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. For 26 years, BGU became her heart and soul. During her presidency of eight years, she organized many events which brought the largest financial support for Ben-Gurion.

As a result of her dedicated leadership and vision, Avishay Braverman, president of Ben-Gurion University, personally inscribed and presented Kimmel with a special book during a BGU mission to Israel. Her unwavering support for BGU earned her much recognition, including: recipient of the first BGU 30th Anniversary Award (1999); elected to serve on the Board of Governors of BGU in Beersheva, Israel (2000); Ben Gurion University Negev Award, its highest honour (2006). As education was always her priority, she dedicated the proceeds from her tribute luncheon to establish the Erna Kimmel Computer Laboratory which continues to benefit needy students with their research and homework.

Erna Kimmel died in 2010. She was a unique lady, a true survivor, loved and admired by all whose lives she touched. She leaves a legacy of her deep love and friendship to so many, her good name, and the recognition and respect she has earned from the community.

Evelyn Hart, C.C., O.M., F.R.S.C.

As ballet dancers go, Evelyn Hart started her training late, making her sterling career and accomplishments are the more remarkable.

Born in Toronto in 1956, she began her training at 14, in London, Ont. She attended the National Ballet School in Toronto before moving to Winnipeg at 17 to study at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's professional division. She joined the RWB corps de ballet in 1976, was promoted to soloist in 1978 and to principal dancer in 1979.

In 1980, Hart won a bronze medal at the World Ballet Competition in Japan; later that year, Hart became the first Canadian to win a gold medal at the International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria – considered the Olympics of ballet – for the pas de deux *Belong*, choreographed by Norbert Vesak.

Besides her spectacular artistic accomplishments, Hart is recognized for her contribution to the development of the RWB and the art form of dance as a whole. Many of the classics of the company's repertoire (including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Giselle*, *Swan Lake* and *The Sleeping Beauty*) were brought in specifically to showcase her talents.



Her biography, *Evelyn Hart: An Intimate Portrait*, by celebrated Vancouver dance critic Max Wyman, was published in 1991; *Moment of Light: The Dance of Evelyn Hart*, a 50-minute film by Winnipeg filmmaker Gordon Reeve, debuted on national television in 1992.

In 2005, Hart left the RWB to dance as a freelance artist. On Aug. 23, 2006, she danced her swan song at the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario. She also danced as a guest artist with Toronto's ProArteDanza, ending a 31-year career.

Hart's awards and honours include: the Officer of the Order of Canada (1983), elevated to Companion in 1994; Jean A. Chalmers Award (2000); inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame in Toronto (2000); named a "Friend" by Vancouver's "Friends for Life" for her lifetime contribution to the organization (2000); Lifetime Artistic Achievement (Dance) Governor Generals Performing Arts Award (2001); two ACTRA Awards for best variety performer; YM-YWCA Woman of the Year (1987); Laureate of Excellence, University of Manitoba Health Science Centre Foundation; honorary doctorates from the University of Manitoba and McMaster University (Hamilton); Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (2006); Member of the Order of Manitoba (2006).

Florence Edith McTavish Rogers

(1876-1947)

In 1920, Edith McTavish Rogers was the first woman elected as an MLA in Manitoba. She was a member of the Manitoba Liberal Party, and was recruited to run as a "star candidate" in the first election in which women could be candidates.

Florence Edith McTavish was born at Norway House, Manitoba, on April 26, 1876, the daughter of Metis parents, Lydia Catherine Christie and Donald C. McTavish, Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company. McTavish's mother Lydia Christie was the daughter of William Christie and Mary Sinclair, both Metis.

Rogers had strong family connections to Manitoba's past. Her maternal great-grandfather, Alexander Christie, served as governor of Assiniboia on two occasions, and supervised the construction of Fort Garry. His son, William J. Christie, worked for the Hudson's Bay Company in Manitoba from 1843 to 1873, and was named Inspecting Chief Factor in 1868. Rogers herself was born in the tiny outpost of Norway House, 600 kilometres north of Winnipeg. At age two, she moved with her family to Rupert House, on the shore of James Bay.

In 1920, Rogers was asked to run for the Manitoba Liberal Party in the Winnipeg constituency, which elected 10 members by a single transferable ballot. She accepted, contested the 1920 provincial election, finished eighth on the first count, and was declared elected on the 38th count.



In 1921, she introduced the legislation that incorporated the Winnipeg Foundation. An active advocate of the Child Welfare Act, she was re-elected in 1922 and 1927. During the First World War she was very involved in volunteer work, and was particularly active in social-welfare work, including a term as president of the Convalescent Home of Winnipeg (1919-1933). She served as the only woman on the Winnipeg General Hospital Board, and was secretary of the Central Council of the Battalion Auxiliaries.

For the next two years, Rogers served as a backbench supporter of the Norris administration. Because of her work with Winnipeg's returned soldiers and unemployed men, she was said to be more sympathetic to labour issues. She played a significant role in steering Manitoba's Child Welfare Act through committee and into law. She also supported the prohibition of alcohol.

She stayed in office until 1932, when she chose not to run for re-election. She resumed her philanthropic career in the Second World War, serving as chair of the Provincial War Council of the Red Cross. She retired in 1942, and died in Colborne, Ontario, five years later.

Rogers's daughter, Margaret Konantz, served as a Liberal MP from 1963 to 1965, and was the first woman MP from Manitoba.

Gabrielle Roy, C.C., F.R.S.C.

(1909-1983)

Gabrielle Roy, a famous French-Canadian writer, was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, in 1909, to a French-speaking family. She studied at the Académie Saint-Joseph, in Saint-Boniface, and at the Winnipeg Normal Institute. She taught for 12 years, first in isolated villages and then in St. Boniface, where she also performed in the theater with the Cercle Molière troupe.

In 1937, she left for Europe (France and England, 1937-1939), where she studied drama and wrote her first articles published in the French periodical "Je suis partout". Returning to Canada in 1939, she settled in Montreal and published reports, descriptive works and essays in various newspapers and magazines: *Le Jour*, *La Revue moderne*, *Le Bulletin des agriculteurs* and others. Inspired by life in the working-class neighbourhood of Saint-Henri, she wrote her first novel, *Bonheur d'occasion* (1945). The English translation, *The Tin Flute*, was published in 1947. The novel was eventually translated into eighteen languages. *Bonheur d'occasion* won the Prix Fémina (1947) and was rated a bestseller by the Literary Guild of America in 1947. It was also in 1947 that Gabrielle Roy married Dr. Marcel Carbotte and settled in Quebec City.

Bonheur d'occasion was followed by other novels and collections of short stories and essays. Among the many distinctions and artistic awards she has received, Roy was the first Canadian to be inducted into the Royal Society of Canada (1947), and was named a Companion of the Order of Canada (1967). She was awarded the Duvernay Prize for lifetime achievement in 1956, the David Prize in 1971 and the Molson Prize in 1978. Other important works include *Ces enfants de ma vie* (1977), which earned her third Governor General's Literary Award. Her autobiography, *La Détresse et l'Enchantement*, which recounts the first thirty years of her life (up to 1939) and her letters to her sister, *Ma chère petite sœur, Lettres à Bernadette 1943-1970*, were published after her death, in 1984 and 1988 respectively.



Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D.

Gail Asper is a woman who did what some consider the impossible. She is responsible for the construction of the first national museum (an architectural treasure and award winner) built outside of Ottawa and the National Capital Region. The visionary, respected Winnipeg lawyer, philanthropist and president and trustee of the Asper Foundation spearheaded the creation of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg.

Established in 2008 through the enactment of Bill C-42, an amendment of the Canadian Museums Act, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights was the first new national museum created in Canada since 1967.

Asper ran one of the biggest fundraising campaigns in Canadian history to get the museum built. She currently sits on the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and on the Board of the Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

Canadian generosity is exemplified in Gail Asper, who is a tireless champion for arts and culture. A visionary dreamer whose courage and conviction inspire others to see Manitoba's vast potential, Asper inspires us to serve, to give, and to make our community a better place.



She is well known for her support of the arts and her volunteer efforts encompass a myriad of causes. She has served on the boards of numerous, not-for-profit groups and was the 2002 campaign chair for the Winnipeg United Way Campaign, which raised a record \$13.8 million, and then served as president of the board of United Way. She continues to serve on the United Way's Major Donor Cabinet and Advisory Council.

Asper has served as president of Manitoba Theatre Centre and co-chaired its successful \$6-million capital campaign and \$10-million endowment campaign. She served on the board of directors for the National Arts Centre Foundation as its Chair, and is a governor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Among numerous honours, Asper is the recipient of the YMCA/YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Community Voluntarism (2002); the Children's Charity of Manitoba, Gold Heart Humanitarian of the Year Award (2004); and the Governor General's Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts (2005). She is also a recipient of the Order of Manitoba and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Gertrude Richardson

(1875–1946)

Gertrude Richardson (nee Twilley) was an English-born pacifist, feminist and socialist who was prominent in the fight for women's rights in Manitoba, before the First World War.

In 1911, Richardson and her mother moved to Canada to stay with her brother Fred on his homestead in the Roaring River district of Manitoba, south of Swan River, where Richardson began to publish verse[s] and articles in the Swan River Star. She married Robert Richardson, a successful local farmer.

The Manitoba Grain Growers' Association supported suffrage from 1911. The Roaring River Suffrage Association was founded in March 1912, with both men and women as members. Gertrude Twilley was president, and her sister Fannie Livesey was secretary. They believed they were the first suffrage group in Manitoba.

Gertrude Richardson became involved in the local Missionary Society, and eventually became its president. She also co-founded a Home Economics Society, at which women in the region exchanged recipes and learned about trade so they could understand and influence their husbands' business dealings. She was invited to contribute to *Woman's Century*, published by the National Council of Women of Canada. Her main interest was the Suffrage Association. This was closely associated with the Grain Growers, which held meetings in the local schoolhouse. (Nellie McClung came to Swan River and stayed with the Richardsons. She addressed a women's meeting in the afternoon and a packed meeting of both sexes in the evening.)



Richardson actively opposed the First World War (1914–18). She was against conscription and in favour of an early end to the war with a just peace settlement. She believed there was a natural link between pacifism and maternal feminism. She wrote that "war and militarism are the bitterest of all foes of womanhood, wifehood, motherhood and the home."

In 1915, the Roaring River Suffrage Association became a branch of the Manitoba Political Equality League. Richardson helped organize sections of the league in other Swan River valley communities. In February 1915, she attended the Political Equality League's convention in Winnipeg and joined a deputation that confronted the Tory Premier Rodmond Roblin. Richardson was elected first vice-president with responsibility for organizing equality groups throughout Manitoba.

Richardson later became disillusioned with the women's movement, which failed to represent "women's traditional values of peace and nurture," and with some leaders supporting the war. She abandoned the suffrage movement, and organized religion, taking up Marxism. She called on Canadian women to "arise and save our men," and blamed the war on "the blood-stained Capitalists of the world."

After the war, Richardson tried to help the civilians in the defeated countries, now suffering from an embargo. She fell ill and showed signs of mental stress, suffering from aural and visual hallucinations. She was hospitalized in Winnipeg in 1921 and periodically thereafter. In 1930, she was admitted to the Hospital for Mental Diseases in Brandon, remaining there until her death from heart failure in 1946.

Gudrun Helga Julia Sigurdson

Gudrun Helga Julia Sigurdson's story is one of assimilation in the 20th Century. Sigurdson was born on July 7, 1920, to pioneering Icelandic immigrants, Sigurdur Danielson Holm and Sigridur Gudny Borgfjord Holm, on the family homestead in the Lundar District.

She was born four years after the Bill of Enfranchisement became law in Manitoba, 50 years after Manitoba joined Confederation.

She married Johann Straumfjord Sigurdson on October 31, 1942, and, except for a few early years spent in Vancouver and Winnipeg, she has called Lundar home. They raised four children, Linda, Sandra, Johann and Lorenz, in an Icelandic settlement. The family valued education and all four have university degrees, two with PhD's.

Residence in a small town requires community commitment. As a member of the Lundar Historical Society, one of Helga's greatest contributions is the documentation of the first 100 years of the history of Lundar and district in the 784-page *Wagons to Wings*. She named it, designed the cover, arranged the pages, edited stories and proof read, in a period of five years. No computers. Her dedication ensures that people are not forgotten and that 1000s of their descendants will understand their heritage both in Canada and the countries of origin.

Both Helga and Johann were community workers and innovators. Sigurdson was involved in the following: Agricultural Society – Women's Section, served as president, director over 50 years; 4 H sewing instructor; Seniors' Resource Council since its inception; New Horizon member; Care Home Guild as charter member, president and board member; Senior Citizen Co-op Board (20 years), Museum Board as founding member and over many years; Holmgardur Heritage Park; Sundial; Prairie Dog Central to 1987 Celebration; Diamond Jubilee (1947) and 1987 centennial celebrations committee member.

Sigurdson's extensive trailblazing follows: Icelandic National League of North America, member over 70 years, served on board; INLofNA Lundar Chapter president for 15 years; Logberg Heimskringla (newspaper) as board member; Woods and Water Association Cavalcade reception in Lundar, over 20 years.

She proudly joined the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE, at age 90.

Sigurdson has been a talented artist all of her life and as a ceramicist has won many awards, including the Athena. She is a certified ceramic teacher instructing both seniors and school students. Her signature Giant Canada Goose pair are found in many countries and in Bessastadir, home of Iceland's president.

She designed the Lundar Centennial plate, pins, painted the Lutheran Church confirmation cups for 30 years and ceramic lambs for the Fair Baby Show for over 20 years.

In 1947, she and her father created and painted the dragon head and tail attached to a boat on which she and Johann enacted persons from the Viking Age. Together with sister Lilja, she sewed and created the national dresses for Iceland, Scotland, Ireland, Manitoba (26 dolls) -- heritage treasures.

Helga G. J. Sigurdson continues to live life to the fullest, trailblazing through her century to become an honoured citizen of Manitoba and Canada. Beloved icon for the ages.



Harriet Snetsinger Dick

(1867-1957)

Harriet Dick was a trailblazer in many ways. She began her life in Winnipeg as a wife and mother, first making a home on the family lumberyard in 1885. As her housing improved, she added charitable and community work to her life. Along the way she became a suffragist, businesswoman and property developer, and she moved from fundraising for charity to lobbying and making policy that improved the conditions of living in Winnipeg. Most of all, she became "the champion of the children because the future depended upon the children." (The Free Press, 21 June, 1920.)

Dick helped to organize the Mothers' Association, free kindergartens and she was instrumental in the Mothers' Allowance Act of 1916. From 1908-1909 she worked on the Playgrounds Commission and later became the first "lady member" of the Parks Board. She worked for the Manitoba Patriotic Fund and Christmas Cheer for the children of soldiers. (Remember that WWI soldiers and their families didn't get the financial support that service people do today.)

Politics would always be an interest and she was active in the Political Equality League, ran for MLA in Manitoba in 1920, was defeated, and ran federally in 1921. She ran provincially again in 1941.

Defeated three times, she returned to organizing charitable dinners for the poor and for the families of service people.

In 1927, her circumstances changed. With the death of her husband she was now responsible to provide for six children and herself. She did so by doing something unusual for the times – she took some family property and became a real estate developer, building the Dick Block and the Eugenie Apartments, all in Norwood.

In addition to real estate, she was now lobbying for service people and their dependants during the Second World War. Because she was so often lobbying at City Hall, she left her car in various places for various lengths of time and expected to be exempt from tickets! After all, she was doing the "city's business"!

Dick was honoured in 1940 by a civic luncheon and again in 1947 for her service "with dignity and grace, without thought of recompense...(and with) deep concern for the underprivileged."

Dick continued her work until just before she died in 1957 at 90.

When you see the small parks that dot our residential areas, remember Harriet Dick. She wanted neighbourhood grassy spaces and local playgrounds for the children – not mud and garbage on the streets!



Helen ‘Ma’ Armstrong

(1875-1947)

“The Wild Woman of the West” was a Winnipeg trailblazer overlooked for years by those studying the 1919 General Strike. Helen Armstrong was a tenacious labour activist and president of the local chapter of the Women’s Labour League. She was arrested multiple times during the General Strike, as she organized female workers on the strike committee. Known affectionately as “Ma,” she was a warm and compassionate fighter for workers’ rights.

Armstrong was born in Toronto in 1875, one of 10 children for Alfred Jury and Emma Hart. It was in her father’s tailor shop that Armstrong was given her education about labour issues. Her father was the co-founder of the Canadian chapter of the Knights of Labour.

She travelled to Winnipeg in 1905 with her husband, George — who was in construction — and their three children. (A fourth child, a boy, was born in 1907.) Labour activism was in the Armstrong family, too. Helen was a tenacious activist and George was a founding member of Winnipeg’s Socialist Party and a member of the carpenters’ union.



The Armstrongs were an integral part of the six-week Winnipeg General Strike, with Helen organizing female workers, picketing, managing a strikers’ soup kitchen, signing up new union members, speaking and marching.

She was arrested twice, but released quickly. George, however, spent nearly a year behind bars, leaving Armstrong to manage the household and children while her husband was in jail.

She ran for Winnipeg city council twice after the General Strike. This was at a time when women in politics were a rarity. In the aftermath of the strike, civic politics became a continuation of old grudges between labour and business. In particular, the 1919 civic election was known as the “second round of the general strike,” with labour candidates advocating for the reinstatement of civic employees fired during the labour unrest, and the right to organize.

During her run for city council in 1923, Armstrong said: “I shall continue to work for more protection for our girls and women workers, also for the enforcement of all laws relative to wages, better conditions and our social welfare problems.”

Armstrong’s fight for social justice preceded the General Strike. She actively fought against conscription during the First World War. She thought the federal government could improve voluntary enrolment into the military by improving financial support to military families. When conscription became law in August 1917, Armstrong supported those who were sentenced to prison for refusing military services by providing food and clothing. She was arrested in December 1917 for handing out anti-conscription pamphlets. That year she also revived the Women’s Labour League — becoming its president — and led Woolworth’s retail clerks out on strike.

Armstrong successfully ran the campaign in 1918 to set minimum-wage legislation for women in Manitoba, one of the first two provinces to do so.

Armstrong died in 1947 in California. Because of her, Manitoba women enjoy labour rights many of us now take for granted.

Helen Granger Young, O.M., A.O.C.A

Helen Granger Young is a prolific and internationally renowned artist whose artistic body of work has contributed to the cultural and historical fabric of Manitoba and Canada.

Helen Lillian Granger was born in Mimico, Ont., in 1922 to Lillian (Shelley) and Lewis E. Granger. Granger Young won a scholarship to the Ontario College of Art, studying under Charles Comfort, Franklin Carmichael and Fred S. Haines, earning a diploma of associateship, Ontario College of Art (A.O.C.A.), majoring in portraiture and landscape painting. In her early career, Granger Young was involved in commercial art, producing children's illustrations and fashion catalogues for Eaton's and Hudson's Bay stores, and participating in Canada's war effort, producing technical drawings of military tanks and aircraft.

She married William Allan Young (1949) in Winnipeg, where she continued to create her own art, teach and mentor many Winnipeg artists, while raising four children.

Granger Young's body of work includes portraits and landscapes in oil and pastel, portraits in bronze, sculptures in porcelain and bronze monuments. She collaborated on and released numerous porcelain sculptures with Royal Worcester, Royal Doulton, Bing & Grøndahl, Goebel and Cybis.

Granger Young has painted or sculpted many prominent Canadians. One of her remarkable bronze sculptures, located on the west side of the Manitoba Legislative Building grounds, pays tribute to Nellie McClung and the "Famous Five". Her bronze bust of Nellie McClung is on display in Assiniboine Park's Winnipeg Citizens Hall of Fame, alongside five of her other works (Dr. Bruce Chown, Israel Asper, Donald Ian MacDonald, Sister Geraldine MacNamara, Sen. Duff Roblin).



Granger Young's statues of Pierre de la Verendrye and Father Aulneau grace the front of the St. Boniface Basilica. Her Tri-Service and First Flight monuments can be seen on Memorial Boulevard near the Cenotaph. The Prairie Sailor, dedicated to war veterans, is located at the entry to H.M.C.S. Chippewa. Six high-relief sculptures of bison heads are located on the Main Street Bridge.

In Brantford, Ont., stands a seven-figure memorial to Canadian war veterans. The bronze sculpture of John Diefenbacher is located in Prince Albert, SK. During Canada's Centennial in 1967, the R.C.M.P Centennial sculpture was presented to Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in Regina. Many of Granger Young's porcelain sculptures are housed in public and private collections around the world including Rideau Hall, Buckingham Palace, the White House, the Kremlin and the Vatican.

Granger Young is the recipient of the Order of Manitoba (2013), the YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction for the Arts Award (2013), MAWA (2013), City of Winnipeg Community Service Award (2010), Canada 125 Medal (1993), Manitoba Woman of the Year (1977) and several others.

Helen Granger Young has been a trailblazer in the arts, creating a visual record of history and culture that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Helena F. Reimer, C.M.

(1905-1993)

Helena F. Reimer is a nurse, educator and administrator, a pioneer born Jan. 27, 1905, in Steinbach. She was one of the first nurses in Canada selected to participate overseas in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration during the Second World War.

In 1928, Reimer obtained the highest marks in Manitoba in the Department of Education entrance examination and taught for several years thereafter. In 1937, she completed training as a registered nurse at Winnipeg General Hospital and dedicated herself to the service of humankind. Reimer held several positions during her career at the Winnipeg General Hospital, as a general nurse, instructor, supervisor and assistant superintendent.

Her first assignment with United Nations in 1944 was in a refugee camp at Tolumat camp, Egypt. In 1946, Reimer was transferred to Taiwan/China and worked there to implement proper nursing care and training until 1949. She resumed work overseas in 1951, this time under the World Health Organization, and was stationed in Cambodia as a nursing consultant. Reimer spent two years in Cambodia before she was transferred to Egypt where she was instrumental in the founding of the Higher Institute of Nursing, a part of the University of Alexandria. She served there as an administrator from 1953-1956.



Historian Susan Armstrong-Reid stated that "Reimer had a voracious appetite for hard work, and besides her nursing duties, quickly launched some relief programs until welfare members of her could arrive." Her creed was "adapting yourself to your environment, improving conditions when possible, accepting those that could not be improved, then doing what could be done cheerfully."

In 1957, Reimer accepted the position of secretary registrar of the Association of Nurses of the Province of Quebec, where she worked until her retirement in 1970. Reimer spent her retirement in Winnipeg, volunteering with the elderly, teaching English to refugees and taking courses.

Reimer valued higher education and demonstrated this through her work as an educator, and as a student. In 1951, she earned her bachelor of nursing from McGill University, and in 1957 she obtained a master's degree in nursing administration from the University of Chicago. Others recognized Reimer's commitment, accomplishments and standard of excellence. In 1974, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Winnipeg, and in the same year, was named to the Order of Canada for over 30 years of service and dedication in the field of nursing in Canada and abroad. In 1977, Reimer received the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Helena F. Reimer was a skilled administrator and a passionate humanitarian. She was a lifelong member of the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church. Her faith in God informed all she did. Reimer died in 1993. Her photos and correspondence are at the Mennonite Heritage Archives, Winnipeg. Reimer's Order of Canada medal is at the Mennonite Heritage Village, in Steinbach.

Hon. Janice C. Filmon, C.M., O.M. Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba

A visionary leader and a champion of humanitarian causes, Janice Filmon is Manitoba's 25th lieutenant-governor, only the second woman to serve as the Queen's official representative in the province.

To honour the profound influence of the early suffragists, Filmon served as the founding chair of the Nellie McClung Foundation, successfully leading the campaign to install a monument of the organization's namesake on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislative Building.

She has earned the respect and admiration of the community in advancing causes that enhance the entire community and beyond, including health, education, human rights and voluntarism

Long dedicated to her community, she took on leadership roles benefitting a variety of major organizations including the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice, CancerCare Manitoba Foundation, Winnipeg Airports Authority, Manitoba Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Manitoba Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer.

Filmon's extensive experience in the non-profit sector strengthened her respect for the importance of voluntarism, and the vital contributions that volunteers make to our society and provincial identity. She was co-chair of Leadership Winnipeg and the founding chair of Manitoba A.L.I.V.E. (A Leadership Initiative in Voluntary Efforts).



The inaugural chair of the Winnipeg Festival of Trees, she also served as president of the Junior League of Winnipeg, and co-chair of the Federation of Junior Leagues of Canada. Always mindful of the impact of dynamic, large-scale community projects and keen to support them, Filmon was the chair of festivals for the 1999 Pan American Games and a member of Toronto's 2008 Olympic Bid Committee.

Despite her long record of achievement, Janice Filmon is not one to court the spotlight, but her contributions to the betterment of her community have earned many prestigious awards and inspired the establishment of others. The Manitoba Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation (now CancerCare Manitoba) awarded her its Guardian Angel Award and partnered with Great-West Life to create the Janice C. Filmon Award, presented to a Manitoba health care professional who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in cancer care.

She was the 2006 recipient of the Variety Club's Gold Heart Humanitarian of the Year award. She was awarded an honorary doctorate in canon law by St. John's College in 2007 and an honorary doctorate of law by the University of Manitoba in 2011.

For her exceptional contributions to Manitoba and beyond, Filmon received the Order of Manitoba in 2007 and the Order of Canada in 2013.

Hon. Janis Gundrun Johnson, C.M.

Janis Johnson has had, and continues to have, a prominent career spanning the corporate sector and the public service, including 26 years of distinguished service in the Senate. She is recognized as a leader in championing women's rights and as a visionary entrepreneur in the arts and cultural sectors with a long record of volunteerism leadership.

A proud Icelandic-Canadian from Gimli, she is the eldest daughter of Doris Blondal Johnson and Dr. George Johnson, the province's 20th lieutenant-governor.

Johnson first pursued political science at the University of Manitoba and was a leader in the student union. After completing her bachelor of arts degree, she moved to Ottawa, where she was a youth policy advisor to the Robert Stanfield, then leader of the Progressive Conservative (PC) Party of Canada. She went on to become policy advisor to the party president.

From 1971-1979, Johnson worked closely with Frank Moores, helping to organize his campaign for premier of Newfoundland, that led to the defeat of Joey Smallwood in 1971. In 1973, they married and had a son, Stefan Moores, in 1975.

Returning to Manitoba in 1979, Johnson became an advisor to Premier Sterling Lyon and created the first women's Progressive Conservative caucus in Winnipeg. She also worked with the University of Manitoba's continuing education division.



In 1983, she served as Manitoba co-chair of Brian Mulroney's successful campaign for national PC leadership and became the party's first female national director.

In 1985, Johnson founded a public policy and communications consulting company that worked in the areas of women's health and equality, Indigenous affairs and cultural policy. This was the same year she joined the CN board, convincing it to establish a head office daycare, a first in corporate Canada.

She was appointed to the Senate in 1990, and upon retiring in 2016 was the longest-serving Conservative member. Among her achievements, she served as chair or vice-chair of the committees on human rights, Aboriginal Peoples, transport and communications, and fisheries and oceans.

Voluntarism has been a fundamental part of Johnson's life. Active in the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, she is the founder (2001) and chair of the Gimli Film Festival, which has won numerous awards, including from Tourism Manitoba. She was a founding member of the Manitoba Special Olympics board and sat on the Canadian Special Olympics board for 10 years.

Johnson is one of the few Canadians to be awarded Iceland's prestigious Order of the Falcon.

She is the loving 'amma' of three grandsons.

Her record of service has been recognized by many and acknowledged by several awards including a doctor of laws, honoris causa, the U. of M.; the Canada 150 Medal for Community Service; the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal; the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal; the Canada 125 Medal; and, the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Hon. Judge Kimberly Prost, LL.B.

Kimberly Prost is a gold medalist from the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba in 1981. She joined the Canadian Federal Department of Justice in 1982 and worked for five years in the Winnipeg Regional office as a federal prosecutor.

In 1987, she joined the Department of Justice's Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Unit in Ottawa working as head of the Baltic team examining possible prosecutions for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In 1990, she began to work in the field of international cooperation in criminal matters eventually joining the newly formed International Assistance Group designed to act as a central authority for requests for evidence gathering and extradition submitted to and by Canada.

Prost was a member of the Canadian delegation to the preparatory committee meetings and the diplomatic conference at Rome in 1998 leading to the adoption of the Rome Statute which established the International Criminal Court.

In July 2000, Prost joined the Commonwealth Secretariat in London as Head of the Criminal Law Section, Deputy Director, Legal and Constitutional Affairs Division. In March 2005, Prost joined the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna as Head of the Legal Advisory Section within the Division of Treaty Affairs. In that capacity she continued to assist countries with the development of justice systems through programs related inter alia to international cooperation, organized crime and counter terrorism.



In June 2005, she was elected by the General Assembly as an ad litem judge for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. On July 3, 2006, she was sworn in as a Judge of the Tribunal where she served for four years on the case of Popovic et al, a seven-accused trial related to events surrounding the fall of the Srebrenica and Zepa enclaves in 1995. She also served as the pre-trial and, subsequently, presiding judge in the pre-trial phase of the Tolimir case managing the trial preparations.

In June 2010, Prost was appointed to serve as the first Ombudsperson for the Security Council Al Qaida Sanctions Committee. She developed the policy and procedures necessary to implement the Security Council resolution which established the Office of the Ombudsperson as a fair process mechanism for individuals and entities listed by the Security Council as being associated to Al-Qaida. She assessed over 60 individual cases, investigating and reporting to the Security Council Committee with a recommendation on delisting or retention.

In February 2016 Judge Prost became Chef du Cabinet for the President of the International Criminal Court managing the office of the President.

In December 2017 Prost was elected as a judge of the International Criminal Court and she is currently serving as a judge of the trial Division of the Court in the Hague.

Prost has lectured extensively throughout her career and is the author of several published works on international cooperation, international criminal law and the International Criminal Court.

Hon. Myrna Driedger, MLA

Myrna Driedger's path in life is rooted in her strong desire to make a difference. Having served as a nurse, a leader in the area of missing and exploited children and as an elected Member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, Driedger's many contributions have left a mark in this province. Her accomplishments have led to her being listed in the Canadian Who's Who for a number of years and in 2019 she was chosen as a top 10,000 notable Canadians in the Canadian Who's Who publication.

Demonstrating that a woman in politics can make a difference, Driedger achieved something rare in Canada having five private members' bills passed as an opposition member. These included a date rape prevention bill; mandatory accreditation of all mammography machines; creation of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; an act to celebrate the centennial of (most) Manitoba women getting the vote ; and the founding of the Nellie McClung Foundation. This latter resulted in the monument of Nellie and the Famous Five on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature.

With the goal of getting more women into politics, Driedger became actively involved in the Canadian Women Parliamentarians (CWP) organization, becoming the first Manitoban to chair this organization. She also led the development of the CWP Outreach Program Framework in 2014. In 2016, Driedger was elected speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly and is currently the only female speaker in Canada.

Driedger has used her position within the Legislative Assembly to promote women and girls in politics, working with groups like Equal Voice and Girl Guides Manitoba. She hosted Equal Voice Manitoba's Campaign Bootcamp that trained over 80 women to be candidates and campaign organizers. With Girl Guides Manitoba, Driedger has hosted over 100 Manitoba Girl Guides in the Chamber to sit in the MLA chairs for the first time in Manitoba history. She later hosted a similar event with the Pathfinders, a group of older girls within the Girl Guides organization. She is a mentor to many of her peers and women all over the province.

Under her guidance, the Legislature walls have been forever changed. Along with the Nellie McClung Foundation, Driedger initiated the Vote100 wall to commemorate the 100 years since (most) Manitoba women first earned the right to vote. She initiated the Trailblazers Wall, a permanent exhibit to commemorate the many female firsts in the 100 years since (most) Manitoba women first earned the right to vote.

Before entering public life, Driedger was a registered nurse with experience in general duty, nursing education, quality assurance, medical and nursing research, patient education, and nursing administration. As president and executive director of Child Find Manitoba, Driedger was a leading advocate for the protection of children. Her fierce determination and leadership were the driving force behind Child Find Manitoba which, as the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, is now recognized across Canada as a key player in child protection issues. She is also a recipient of the Queens Golden Jubilee medal.



Hon. Pearl McGonigal, C.M., O.M., LL.D.

Pearl McGonigal has devoted her life to public service and volunteerism. From her humble beginnings in Melville, Saskatchewan, McGonigal has grown to become a transformative figure who has had a major impact on her city, province, and country.

Ever the trailblazer, McGonigal's political and personal life is filled with dramatic milestones. She was the first woman elected to the St. James/Assiniboia City Council. She was the first female deputy mayor of Winnipeg and female chair of the Executive Policy Council. In 1981, she became the first female Lt. Governor of the province of Manitoba. She was also the first female Campaign Chair of the United Way of Winnipeg.

McGonigal has served on dozens of boards and committees including the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, MediaCom, Manitoba Law Reform, Royal Trust Co., Manitoba Blue Cross, First Canadian Mortgage Fund, Rainbow Stage and the Winnipeg Convention and Visitors Bureau, to name only a few. She has been the recipient of dozens of awards as well, including the Order of Canada, Order of Manitoba, The Salvation Army Distinguished Auxiliary Service Cross, Citizen of the Year from the Winnipeg Chinese Cultural Centre, the B'Nai Brith Canada Humanitarian Award, an Honourary Doctor of Laws from the University of Manitoba and the Patriots Award from the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba.

McGonigal has always had a strong connection with the military, serving first as the Honourary Colonel of 735 Communications Regiment then as the Honourary Colonel of the 402 City of Winnipeg Squadron.



McGonigal has been a tireless champion for Grace Hospital. She is a founding member of the Grace Hospital Foundation and was its chair for almost two decades, retiring in 2011. Under her guidance the Foundation raised more than \$20 million in support of patient care at the Grace. In 2016, she co-chaired the "Tomorrow's Grace" Capital Campaign, which raised \$6 million to help build the new emergency department and MRI Building. In addition to serving as the chair of Grace Hospital Foundation, McGonigal also served two terms as the chair of the Grace Hospital Board of Management (1987-1993). All told, McGonigal has devoted more than 40 years to the Grace.

Mere words cannot express her importance to Grace Hospital. For decades she has been the guiding hand and the compassionate heart of the Grace. No single individual has ever, or will ever, have the same impact that Pearl McGonigal has had in shaping what Grace Hospital has become.

Hon. Sharon Carstairs, P.C., C.M.

The Honourable Sharon Carstairs is a trailblazer for being the first woman in Canada to be elected the leader of the official opposition, taking the helm of the Liberal party in Manitoba. She has lived her life as an activist beginning with her graduation from Dalhousie University with a BA in political science and history. The first woman to become the president of the National Federation of Canadian University Students at Dalhousie she was also the Atlantic Universities Students vice president. Following graduation, she accepted a full scholarship to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts and completed a degree receiving a Master of Arts in The Teaching of History. Following this degree she taught for two years in a private school for girls in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Following her return to Canada she accepted a teaching position with the Calgary Catholic School System and taught high school until 1972. She became active in the Liberal Party in Alberta and became the first president of the Women's Liberal Association. In 1975 she became the first woman to be elected president of the Liberal Party of Alberta. She also ran that year as a provincial candidate but was not elected.

In 1977 the family, which now comprised of husband John whom she married in 1966 and daughters Catherine and Jennifer, decided to leave Alberta and move to Manitoba. In 1984 she sought the leadership of the Liberal Party in Manitoba. Winning on the first ballot she became the first woman to lead a major political party in the province. Elected to the legislature in the General Election of 1986 to represent the constituency of River Heights, she was re-elected in 1988 and 1990.



In 1994 following her retirement as leader of the Liberal Party in Manitoba she was appointed to the Senate of Canada. At her request, Prime Minister Jean Chretien also gave her the designation as Minister with Special Responsibility for Palliative Care.

This was her passion, and it gave her the opportunity to direct more federal money into palliative care for both programming and research. One of the most important initiatives was the original funding to establish the Canadian Virtual Hospice located in Winnipeg. This interactive website which reaches millions of Canadians and others throughout the world has been described by the American Palliative Care Association as Canada's gift to the world in Palliative Care.

Following her early retirement, she has continued her activities. She was the original chair of the Frailty Network located at Queen's University. She is currently the chair of the International Centre for Dignity and Palliative Care in Winnipeg. She is a member of the Order of Canada which in her citation recognized her political achievements, her efforts on behalf of Palliative Care and her work to prevent family violence.

Isabel Ross MacLean Hunt, LL.B

(1894-1990)

Isabel Ross MacLean Hunt was one of the first women to attend law school in Manitoba. She was the first woman to earn a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from the University of Manitoba (in 1916). She was called to the Manitoba Bar in 1917, which was also the same year that she helped to found the Portia Club (an organization dedicated to women in the legal profession). Hunt was involved with that organization (and its successor the Women Lawyers' Association) for many years, including serving as its president.

Hunt was the first woman in Western Canada to establish a law office when she opened her office in Grandview in 1918. She withdrew from practice when she got married but came back to the practice of law after her husband passed away a few years later. In 1928, she joined the City of Winnipeg's legal team. She served as a solicitor in the department of welfare for 30 years and was an expert in family law.

In 1952, Hunt was the first woman to receive the Queen's Counsel designation in the province of Manitoba. In 1983, she received the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case for her role in improving the status of women in the legal field in Canada.



The Manitoba Bar Association created the Isabel Ross MacLean Hunt Award in 2011 to recognize role models for women lawyers deserving of special recognition.

Jarita Greyeyes

Jarita Greyeyes is an accomplished scholar and has worked tirelessly to support others' learning journeys. She is nēhiyaw of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and the Red Pheasant Cree Nation, both located in Treaty Six territory. Greyeyes moved to Winnipeg to attend the University of Winnipeg, where she completed a Bachelor of Arts in 2006. Before moving to California to pursue a PhD in Race, Inequality, and Language in Education with a full scholarship at Stanford University, she worked as manager of the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre and Community Learning (2013) and as acting associate vice president of Indigenous Affairs at The University of Winnipeg.

As director of Community Learning and Engagement at the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre (2016), she built bridges to families in the inner city through the centre's weekly Pow Wow Club, Sacred Seven Hoop Dancing and after-school homework and computer clubs. Greyeyes helped those living near UWinnipeg to connect with each other and participate in meaningful learning opportunities.

Under her leadership, the centre provided innovative programming to community members each year, culminating in thousands of visits including after-school youth programs focusing on culturally appropriate activities and Indigenous language programs in Cree and Ojibwe. Indigenous and core community members viewing these programs as a celebration of First Nations, Métis and Inuit accomplishments and contributions and a chance to transfer knowledge between generations.

Greyeye's programs and skilled facilitation supported others as they progressed along their learning journeys. She helped create the first land-based Anishinaabemowin course, which saw students learn an Indigenous language on the land from both academics and traditional knowledge-keepers.

During her time as acting associate vice president of Indigenous Affairs, Greyeyes championed the ongoing efforts towards reconciliation and indigenization at the University of Winnipeg. Here, she collaborated with and advised other members of the executive to develop and implement initiatives that supported Indigenous education and culture.

Greyeyes mentors at the Stanford Native American Cultural Center and is a member of the Winnipeg Art Gallery's Indigenous Circle. She has received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship and she is a 2019 Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation Scholar. She received the inaugural University of Winnipeg's Weweni Future Scholar Award and was also the first Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern.



Photo credit Alan Greyeyes

Jean Agnes Hird

At a time when the upper echelons of banking were the domain of men, Jean Hird broke the glass ceiling to become one of the first women to be appointed a manager of a Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada (CIBC) in Manitoba. In 1970, she was appointed the officer in charge of opening of a sub-branch at 55 Nassau Street in Winnipeg and then became the manager.

Perseverance, determination and hard work accounted for Hird's rise to branch manager. In the beginning there were a few clients who were reluctant to have a woman help them deal with issues of higher finance but her competence and interest in her clients soon won them over. Hird says "I remember having customers look at me straight in the face, asking to speak with the manager, not believing me when I told them that I was the manager."

When Hird became manager, it did not mean that she was treated as an equal in all respects. The salary for a female manager was not equal to that of the male managers. Males could contribute to their pension fund, but women could not. Hird was a determined advocate to have this changed, not only for managers but for all female staff.

Starting in the bank in 1950 in Treherne and then Portage La Prairie, she transferred to Winnipeg in 1956 and was appointed to a management position as an accountant. To keep up with changes in the banking industry, Hird attended many courses for senior managers and obtained the prestigious title Fellow of the Institute of Canadian Bankers in 1974.



In 1973, Hird joined Soroptimist International of Winnipeg and was a member for 45 years. She was a director of the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada and regional treasurer for many years. In 2003 she received the Volunteer of the Year Award and in 2013 the Soroptimist International Western Canada Region award for 40 years of outstanding volunteerism.

For more than 20 years, Hird volunteered with the Canadian Cancer Society. In 2001, she received the International Year of the Volunteer Award and a Citation of Merit in 2010. Hird also volunteered for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet for five years. She worked in community relations with the Winnipeg Police Force for 15 years. In 2001, she received the International Year of the Volunteer Award and in 2002 the Certificate of Appreciation for 1000 volunteer hours.

Hird canvassed for the Heart and Stroke Foundation for 20 years. She served as vice chair of the finance committee for the Festival of Trees for several years. She served on committees at Harstone Memorial United Church and then Crescent-Fort Rouge Church, serving on different committees for many years.

Jean was a trailblazer for the many women who now work in management positions in the bank. Her leadership and people skills demonstrated that women were equally capable of being leaders in the financial world. She has been an inspiration to many people through her work and volunteerism.

Jean Folster

(1922-1994)

Jean Folster was not only a trailblazer she was ahead of her time in a time and place dominated by men. She remains an inspiration to her family, community and First Nations women everywhere. Today her legacy continues through the Jean Folster Place – Norway House Cree Nation Shelter for women experiencing violence.

Folster, daughter of trapper James York, was born in 1922 in Norway House Cree Nation. In 1941, she married Billy Folster and they had eight children. Her husband died in 1954 and she worked to support her eight children through sewing.

In the late 1960s she started the first local child and family services agency in a First Nations community. In 1967 she was elected to Norway House band council as the social assistance officer. In 1971 she beat out three male candidates to become the Chief of Norway House Cree Nation. She served in this role until 1975. Folster then served as a provincial magistrate from 1973 to about 1980.

She died at Norway House on the 26th of December 1994.



Jessica Dumas

Jessica Dumas is a leader and sought-after speaker on the topics of women in business, leadership and personal resilience. She is the president of Jessica Dumas Coaching and Training and a professional certified coach who specializes in speaker coaching, helping women across North America speak with clarity and confidence. She quickly gains the trust of her audience with her warm, engaging personality and energetic motivation.

In 2018 on the TEDx stage, Dumas shared her story about turning the tragic and sudden loss of her brother in 2005 into an opportunity to lead others to overcome challenges and hardship by developing personal strengths, vision and self-confidence. Today she is a powerful role model and advocate for social justice, while demonstrating her own story of reconciliation.

Dumas has been honored for her professional expertise with many nominations and awards. She was the recipient for the 2017 Future Leaders of Manitoba, the CBC's Top 40 Manitoban's under 40 for 2015 and Ace Burpees Most Fascinating Manitobans for 2019.

Her volunteer contributions have gained her wide respect across Manitoba. She is the first Indigenous woman to chair the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce (2019-2020), at which time she spearheaded their Truth and Reconciliation Roadmap (2020) and had the pleasure of introducing Michelle Obama to the Chamber's audience (2019). She has served as chairperson of the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce (2014 to 2016) and she is a member of the City of Winnipeg Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle (2015 to 2021) and continues to sit on numerous committees and boards at the executive level.



Dumas's career started with over 10 years of corporate experience before gaining a certificate in Conflict Resolution and Workshop Facilitation and since then has become a master of facilitation.

To support her practice in Design Thinking for Innovation, she has certificates in Advanced Business Design Facilitation from the University of Toronto and Rotman School of Management Executive Programs. She also completed the Advanced Program in Management, Leadership and Strategy from the University of Manitoba Asper School of Business.

Dumas is a mother to three sons and a band member of the Anishinaabe community, Keeseekowenin First Nation in Manitoba, Treaty 2. She brings with her a strong message of awareness on diversity, inclusion and Indigenous history, with hopes for people to gain a deeper understanding on the importance of taking action on inclusivity, and to motivate solutions for the current challenges diverse populations face in Canada.

Today, you can find Dumas lending her expertise on several media outlets, hosting local and national events or facilitating a masterclass. Dumas believes that the best teaching happens through storytelling. When you share stories and get to know people, you find ways to relate and start to care for each other and this is how you truly build community.

Joan Mary Harland

(1914 – 2016)

Joan Harland was born in Leeds, England on December 10, 1914, shortly after the start of the First World War. Her parents lived at 1120 Grosvenor Avenue in Winnipeg, adjacent to the present site of St. George's Anglican Church, a building project with which Harland would later have close involvement. After attending nearby St. Mary's Academy, Harland took her degree in architecture at the University of Manitoba, having learned that the Architecture School at McGill University did not admit women. Harland graduated in 1938, earning the Gold Medal in her class.

After graduation, she interviewed for a position with an architecture firm in Winnipeg, only to be told that her training would make her a good secretary for an architecture practice; she instead found work with the famous Winnipeg office of Brigden's catalogue and art company. Shortly after, the young designer started working in the School of Architecture as the first instructor in interior decorating classes at the university. She joined the only two other instructors, Dean Milton Osborne and Professor John A Russell, lecturing on a variety of subjects and forming the basis of the first specialized program of its kind in Canada.



In order to continue her university teaching career, Harland completed a Masters of Fine Arts degree at Columbia University in 1948. Her biography notes "Harland continued to build her department into a full Department of Interior Decorating by...convincing the University to develop the program within the School of Architecture into a four-year Interior design degree, in 1949. ...Harland became first the chairman of the department and later, department head" serving in this role for 23 years. The Winnipeg Architecture Foundation also lauds Harland for leaving her mark in building up the Interior Design Educators Council of Canada (IDEC) and serving as president of the Manitoba Institute of Interior Designers.

Harland's impact on the community can also be seen in her involvement in the 1958 expansion of St. George's Anglican Church on Wilton Street and the redesign of the interior of the Ralph Connor House, home of the University Women's Club of Winnipeg.

Harland's obituary notes that after retiring in 1980, she returned to the University of Manitoba as a student and obtained 52 credits in Religious Studies and went on to create an impressive body of published writings, including *The History of Interior Decoration/Design at the University of Manitoba 1938-1997*.

While receiving the St. Mary's Academy Marian Award for Excellence in 2008, she remarked, "I was born into a far different world than yours. I was born before women were given the vote in Manitoba...I found that my education and training I received at St. Mary's stood me in good stead and that I could tackle and mostly succeed in doing the things I really wanted to do and was willing to work hard to achieve."

Joann MacMorran

(1934 - 2021)

Joann MacMorran's trailblazing work as a provincial nurse consultant in Tuberculosis and Chronic Pulmonary Disease for 30 years allowed Manitoba to get the disease under control. She demonstrated leadership in her work as a nurse and was an outstanding role model and mentor in her position as instructor at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Nursing. Her numerous roles as a volunteer took her around the world, providing important program work internationally.

The third nurse to hold the position of nurse consultant in Tuberculosis and Chronic Pulmonary Disease in 1971, MacMorran policed the tuberculosis control program and "in all matters concerning tuberculosis and chronic obstructive lung disease" coolly resolved problems that arose between government and voluntary organizations – and between these agencies and the physician and patients in the community.

At the time, tuberculosis was a scourge in Manitoba and was especially common in the Indigenous population. She visited Wabowden for a number of years, coordinating the treatment program and ensuring compliance. She was a tireless worker and her patients appreciated her good humour, care and support in those trying times. She visited many reserves in those years finding active cases, administering treatment and bringing help and support to those afflicted.



MacMorran was also involved with TB case finding in the immigrant population and was involved in teaching nurses and medical students the basics of case finding and treatment and supports within medical and government programs. With Arlene Draffin Jones, she developed a teaching manual for nurses regarding management of the TB patient used in the nursing program for many years. MacMorran also served as chair of the Advisory Committee that developed a number of health-related educational tools, facilitating the introduction of nursing responsibilities related to the DNA tracing of TB contacts.

She made significant contributions to health care in Manitoba, throughout North America and in the Caribbean, Europe and Taiwan. As well she influenced care of persons in Russia, South Africa, and Central America through tuberculosis nursing programs. She has also given workshops throughout the world as well as seminars for Manitoba Association of Registered Nurses (MARN) members. She nominated the Main Street Project for a 2000 MARN Community Caring Award for its participation in a Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) Program.

She was active with the Canadian Public Health Association, The Women's Health Clinic and the Canadian Club. She was a founding member of the Canadian Respiratory Society and belonged to the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. MacMorran retired from her long and distinguished nursing career on April 30th, 2001, but her many accomplishments will continue to have a lasting impact on tuberculosis care.

After retirement, she joined the Canadian International Development Agency in a project in Guyana. While working there, an electronic TB registry was created, the Guyana Chest Society was reactivated and a TB manual for workers was developed. MacMorran was instrumental in suggesting, organizing, implementing and providing follow-up and evaluation from this important visit.

MacMorran died in 2021.

Judy Wasylycia-Leis

Klazina (Judith) Wasylycia-Leis, born August 10, 1951, is a Manitoba trailblazer and leader in politics, community development, feminism and disability rights. In fact, her entire adult life has been a merger between the personal and the political.

Wasylycia-Leis is a mother, wife and friend and ally to thousands of Manitobans, a mentor and political hero to countless women over many decades and a loving parent advocate for a son born with profound developmental disabilities. She has four decades of electoral experience and has been staunchly committed to addressing systemic barriers to equality through the democratic process in both the political arena and the not-for-profit community.

Wasylycia-Leis was educated at the University of Waterloo, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in 1974, and at Carleton University, where she received a Master of Arts in political science in 1976. She moved to Manitoba during the 1980s and was an executive assistant to Premier Howard Pawley and coordinated the Women's Directorate in the Manitoba government. In the mid 1980s, Wasylycia-Leis was acclaimed the NDP candidate for the North End Winnipeg riding of St. Johns after Don Malinowski announced his resignation as MLA. She handily won the 1986 provincial election and in 1986 was appointed to the cabinet as Minister of Culture, Heritage and Recreation with responsibility for the Status of Women and the administration of the Manitoba Lotteries Foundation Act.

She was re-elected in 1988, and again in 1990. Throughout her time in government and opposition, she juggled work and family responsibilities drawing public criticism and media attention. As a cabinet minister, she had a playpen in her office for visits from daycare of her two-year old son and was accused of being a high-priced babysitter.

In 1988 she returned to the Legislative Building a few days after the birth of her second son which resulted in front-page coverage of her decision to breast feed at work and drew public criticism that she was wasting taxpayers' money. While pregnant with her second son, Wasylycia-Leis learned that her firstborn had a rare brain disorder causing uncontrollable seizures which gave her new insights into the pursuit of equality for persons living with disabilities.

Wasylycia-Leis resigned her provincial seat in 1993 to run federally in Winnipeg North. She lost the 1993 election but ran successfully in 1997 in the riding of Winnipeg North Centre, marking the start of five consecutive terms in the House of Commons as an NDP MP.

In Parliament, she focused primarily on issues relating to women and women's health, and driving human rights leadership and progress. Wasylycia-Leis served as her party's health critic and was made critic for women's and senior's issues in 2001.

She ran in the mayoralty race in Winnipeg in 2010 and lost to Sam Katz. In 2014, she came second, losing to Brian Bowman.

Since then, Wasylycia-Leis has devoted her boundless energy and time to serve countless charities and organizations devoted to social progress, disability rights and inclusion, democracy, the arts, and community economic development.



Kanaye Connie Matsuo

(1919 – 2014)

Kanaye Connie Matsuo (nee Sakamoto) was the bridge between generations. She connected younger generations to their Japanese roots, culture and history; she welcomed and gave advice about Canadian life to new families from Japan. She promoted the culture to the great Winnipeg community and became the unofficial advisor on all questions about Japanese Canadian history and culture. She was a true ambassador for the Japanese Canadian community in Manitoba.

Matsuo was born on July 20, 1919 in Vancouver, BC. As the first in her family to be born in Canada, her beloved grandfather, Daisaku Izumi, named her Kanaye in honour of her country of birth. Kanaye was the eldest of seven daughters. She spoke fondly of her early years in Vancouver, attending Strathcona School and the Vancouver Japanese Language School until her early teens. In order to help her parents and younger siblings, Kanaye left school to work in the local sewing factory.

In 1941, she married Hisashi Matsuo in Vancouver. Soon after the birth of daughter Janet, the family had to leave their farm and belongings behind and were moved to Manitoba due to the forced evacuation of all Canadians of Japanese ancestry during WWII. After many moves within the outskirts of Winnipeg, the Matsuo family settled in North Kildonan and welcomed son Rodney and daughter Sharon. Her expertise in the sewing industry kept her busy as a supervisor at many local factories, including Viceroy Clothing and Westcott Jeans.



In addition to working fulltime and raising a family, Matsuo was also a dedicated member of the Manitoba Buddhist Church since its inception in 1946. During this era, Japanese Canadians did not have a centre or location to meet and gather. The church became the social gathering place for community activities. Matsuo was an avid volunteer at the church and was often working behind the scenes for the women's group "Fujinkai". Her deep Buddhist belief of compassion for all was the mantra of her volunteerism throughout her life.

After 52 years in the sewing industry, Matsuo retired at 66 years of age. But she could not stop working for very long. In 1987, at the age of 68, she was recruited as the volunteer manager at the newly formed Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

Her dedication to her second career is legendary. The first person to arrive in the morning and the last person to leave at night, Matsuo devoted all her energy into making the centre the success it is today. She organized many of the fundraising activities at the Centre, especially all of the Japanese cuisine events. She freely shared all of her family recipes, many of which are still used today.

Fully bilingual, Matsuo was often called upon to translate documents and interpret for visitors from Japan. Due to her work with the Cultural Centre, Matsuo was asked to join former mayor Glen Murray as part of the official Winnipeg delegation to Setagaya, Japan.

Kanaye Connie Matsuo passed away in 2014.

Kate Rice

(1882 – 1963)

Kate Rice was a professional prospector who was responsible for bringing INCO to Manitoba and ultimately the city of Thompson. Rice garnered widespread attention for her adventurous life, brilliant mind, statuesque beauty and for succeeding in the mineral industry, which very few women were engaged with at the time.

Soon after Rice moved to The Pas, there was word of gold north on Beaver Lake. Rice began studying prospecting and read everything she found on geology. She befriended local Cree, and learned their language and to hunt and trap animals. In 1914, Rice borrowed money, a “grubstake”, from an old college friend and hired a Cree guide to take her north to Beaver Lake by dogsled. She then travelled further north by canoe to Brochet to begin prospecting. On this first foray, Rice discovered zinc showings at Reindeer Lake but did not stake the claim as there was no railway to the area and it would be difficult to develop.

In 1915, she took her own dog team to explore the Beaver Lake area where she went on to stake her first claims. During this time Rice hired “Old Isaac” a local Cree Elder, to teach her how to trap, hunt, mush dogs and shoot. The local Cree called her “Mooniasquao” (white woman).



The following year, Rice entered into a partnership with Richard “Dick” Woosey. The two built a remote cabin together and worked as a team until Woosey's death in 1940. While there was frequent speculation about their personal relationship, Rice always insisted it was strictly professional. In 1917, Rice staked more claims at Herb Lake and had them surveyed, proved, and assessed. For several decades afterward, Rice prospected the Wekusko Lake, Herb Lake and Snow Lake areas, as well as in the Burntwood and Flin Flon mineral belts.

In 1928, Rice visited Toronto, where she began to garner media attention. She was hard to overlook – at over six feet tall with golden blond hair. She occasionally wrote for the Toronto Star about topics of interest to her.

Rice's many copper and nickel discoveries ultimately led to the development of large mining operations and the creation of the mining hub of Thompson. From 1940 onwards Rice lived in her log cabin on her island on Wekusko Lake, writing, gardening, fishing, trapping and prospecting in her small 12 ft canvas canoe “Duckling.” She wrote several articles in scientific journals about meteorological and astronomical observations she had made in her travels through Canada's north. She became well known, as well, for her ability to raise and train sled dogs, and for her skill in mushing them without resorting to the use of a whip.

After so many years living in isolation on her island, Rice became worried for her own sanity. She left the wilderness in 1960 and in 1962 Rice moved herself into a nursing home in Minnedosa where she died a year later. Penniless in the end, she was buried in an unmarked grave.

Katherine Friesen

(1918 – 2015)

Katherine Friesen (Loewen) was an immigrant, student, teacher, business woman, interior decorator, philanthropist and much more. She is the name behind Rancho Realty, a “trailblazer,” bringing women into the male-dominated business world. Katherine’s legacy to Manitoba is experienced today through a strong Mennonite community, educational centres and healthcare facilities. Her footprint left on the real estate world in Winnipeg is remarkable. Her incredible story is matched only by her incredible grace and modesty. Her story is one that must be told.

She was born in Halbstadt, Southern Russia on August 12, 1918. It was during the Russian Revolution when her parents escaped with their two children through the Mennonite underground, eventually settling in Winnipeg.

Katherine Friesen spearheaded many things in her life, including being the first woman in her church to get her driver’s license, and using her own teaching money to purchase her family’s first home. She was very committed to preserving and serving the Mennonite community. She and her husband, David Friesen, were founding members of the Mennonite Benevolent Society (MBS), and she founded the Mennonite Elementary School (the first Mennonite elementary school in the city), and the Menno Simons Christian School in Calgary, as well as the Menno Simons College in Manitoba, bringing the Mennonite religion and education to children of all nationalities and walks of life.



Together with her husband, she created the David and Katherine Friesen Family Foundation and the Katherine Friesen Legacy Fund as a means to help her philanthropic spirit live on.

She wanted the First Mennonite Church on Notre Dame Avenue to be a safe place for its congregation. There was a building next to the church that she and David purchased, and thus there was a meeting place and parking lot.

Friesen wanted to have a family and be able to afford to purchase their first home. She had a plan. There was a great need for housing after the war, so she decided her husband would build homes. She took her savings and borrowed from her father so that David could buy seven lots in River Heights and build seven homes. Her husband planned and built seven homes and she sold them.

This was the beginning of a great partnership with her husband. She had a strong business sense and soon started her own business in 1957, Rancho Realty, the sales arm for selling the new homes. She received her sales license, broker’s license, and FRI designation and took an interior design course. She was one of the first women in Manitoba to be a licensed real estate broker.

Friesen now trained her salespeople, decorated the homes and assisted her husband in building the business. She had entered a male-dominated industry and was very successful.

Today, Rancho Realty has operations across Western Canada with over 1,900 residential rental apartments, over 40,000 condominium units and 430,000 sq. ft. of commercial space.

Kathleen M. Richardson, C.C., O.M., LL.D.

(1928 – 2019)

Kathleen Richardson – businesswoman, quiet philanthropist, community volunteer, champion of the arts and proud Canadian – was a remarkable woman.

The daughter of James A. Richardson and Muriel Sprague Richardson, Kathleen Richardson served as a director of James Richardson and Sons, Limited from 1954 to 1998, and was appointed Director Emeritus following her retirement from the board. During her tenure, she made many outstanding contributions, most notably guiding the expansion of Pioneer Grain and development of Lombard Place, as well as providing sound governance as the firm's financial services operation grew into an international brokerage. In addition, Richardson served as a director of Sun Life Assurance Company (1978 to 1998), Barclays Bank of Canada (1984 to 1994) and Gulf Canada Limited (1977 to 1987).

While Kathleen Richardson was certainly in the vanguard of women serving on major corporate boards, it is her behind-the-scenes philanthropy and unwavering commitment to the arts for which she is most fondly remembered.

Although her extraordinary generosity benefited arts and cultural organizations across Canada, she developed an especially deep love and appreciation for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Richardson's passion and patronage are credited with helping to elevate the ballet company to its world-class status and securing its permanent home in downtown Winnipeg. She served as president of the RWB from 1957-1961 and honorary president from 1963 until her passing in 2019.



Her lifelong community involvement included national executive committee member, Pan-Am Games Society (1964 to 1970); member, Canada Council (1964 to 1970); member, Manitoba Arts Council (1969 to 1973); member, board of directors and executive committee, Institute for Research on Public Policy (1972 to 1978); member, advisory board, The Winnipeg Foundation (1971 to 1982); co-chair, furnishings committee, Dalnavert (Manitoba Historical Society's Macdonald House) during restoration (1970 to 1974) and subsequently, committee member for the construction of Dalnavert's Visitors Centre (2003 to 2007); governor, The Stratford Shakespearean Festival (1983 to 1986); member and board of governors, Winnipeg Art Gallery (1983 to 1991); member of the Manitoba Government's Education Review Commission in 1992; and chair of Manitoba Foundations Council (1999 to 2001).

Kathleen Richardson was named an Officer of the Order of Canada (1973), Companion of the Order of Canada (1994); Member of the Order of Manitoba (2005) and received an Honorary Doctor of Laws, University of Manitoba (1989). She was the recipient of the University of Manitoba Jubilee Award (1975); the Edmund C. Bovey Award, Council for Business and the Arts in Canada (1991); Arts Champions Award for Arts Patronage, Winnipeg Arts Council (2007); and the Royal Canadian Academy of Artists Medal for outstanding contribution to the Arts (2007).

Richardson preferred to make donations anonymously and without public fanfare, quietly contributing to numerous worthwhile causes through the Kathleen M. Richardson Foundation. Like her mother before, she embraced the proverb, "Unto whom much is given, much is also required."

Kathy Mallett, O.M.

Kathy Mallett is a proud Ojibwa and Cree woman born and raised in Winnipeg. She has been involved in the Winnipeg Indigenous community since the mid-1970s. Mallett is a mother of two grown daughters, a son-in-law and four grandchildren and a grandson who died in infancy. When Mallett worked in Thompson in the late 1970s, she became involved with a group of Indigenous women who were concerned about First Nation women losing their treaty status upon marrying a non-First Nation person. This important issue led Mallett to become involved with other Indigenous women who began to organize themselves to lobby the federal government and their own community to change this law. Mallett did not want her own daughter to experience this kind of discrimination if and when she decided to marry.

During the 1980s, Mallett along with other Indigenous women developed a family support service organization to help inner city women and their children. Housing and childcare were important needs which resulted in the building of a family 42-unit housing co-op including a day care centre for children. Finally, Mallett worked for 10 years with an Indigenous women's organization which helped women gain work skills. As well, she helped with studies on violence against Indigenous women in Winnipeg and needs for Indigenous women leaving prison and returning to their communities.

The next decade, Mallett volunteered with Winnipeg Indigenous organizations around the political needs of urban Indigenous peoples. She also became involved with others on the development the old CPR train station. Mallett was one of the first elected school trustees of Indigenous ancestry to the Winnipeg School Division #1 in a hundred years of its history.



In the late 1990s Mallett, along with criminal defense lawyer Fagie Fainman, began a pilot diversion program in Winnipeg. An Elders council was formed along with the board of directors to guide the program. The program involved the mainstream courts diverting Indigenous peoples to the program so they could make amends to the victim and seek both spiritual and community support.

Before retiring in 2014, Mallett was the co-director of the Community Education Development Association for five years. She was responsible for the operation of the Pathways to Education program along with other initiatives. One of the North End community initiatives was the redeveloped of the old Merchants Hotel on Selkirk Avenue resulting in its new purpose of becoming an educational hub and student housing.

In 2020, Mallett retired from the Merchants Corner board after serving 10 years.

She first received recognition for her volunteer work by members of her community in 1985 when she was given the YWCA Woman of the Year award. In 1993, she received the Faculty of Social Work Anniversary Award. In the early 2000s, she received the Grassroots Women Award and the Manitoba Human Rights Commitment award. In the mid-2000s, she received the Order of Manitoba and Keeping the Fires Burning award. Lastly, she received the Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues recognition in 2015.

Lara Rae

Like the namesake of this honour, Rae is an orator and an entertainer, a teacher and an advocate. She leverages her enthusiasm to bring about change in society. It is in her nature to give of herself with openness, humour and grace, which invigorates others to do the same.

Rae's current trail blazes through the streets of West Broadway, where she helps to deliver as many as 150 home-cooked meals a week, along with support and supplies, to her neighbours dealing with food and shelter insecurity with an initiative called Pantry and through her work as a floor manager at 1JustCity.

Inspired by a lifelong love of cooking and a short story by Raymond Carver entitled A Small, Good Thing, Rae looked for a way to raise the spirits of the people in her community through her passion for food.

"There is a spiritual comfort that can be derived from the gift of fresh food," Rae said. Rae began making and sharing home-cooked meals from a stock of fresh, healthy ingredients. With a primary goal to "uplift," Rae named her new initiative Pantry, and in August 2019, the self-proclaimed "food purveyor to the disenfranchised" shared her vision on social media. Soon dozens of friends and strangers were arriving at Rae's door with trays of chicken breasts and cloves of garlic and bags of potatoes and more. The Bear Clan Patrol, helped to put those meals directly into the hands of those in need.



Today, Pantry boasts a growing network of about 1,000 supporters and serves more than 150 meals a week along with the 400 meals 1JustCity distributes. Rae also creates and delivers dignity bags filled with shampoo, deodorant and feminine hygiene products. Through the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, she has become a volunteer Community Nutrition Educator.

The recent success of Pantry is fueled by the same infectious energy Rae has leveraged throughout her life to create community, bring about change, celebrate inclusion and inspire action, both in Manitoba and far beyond.

Rae blazed a trail in Canada's comedy scene over the last 30 years – including as co-founder and longtime artistic director of the successful Winnipeg Comedy Festival where she was invested in uplifting women and diverse comics.

As one of the developers of the hit television series Little Mosque on the Prairie, Rae earned three Canadian Comedy Awards and a Gemini Award nomination. The series ran for six seasons and aired around the world.

In 2019, Rae shared her own story of a "half-century long (and counting) gender odyssey" in a moving original play entitled Dragonfly." The play is described as "a call to all of us to forge creativity from chaos." She was also the first transgender person to guest host a national CBC news program when she guest hosted The Current. She currently teaches adult ed classes on opera and literature and is an instructor at the University of Winnipeg in the women and gender studies department.

Leanne Boyd, BSW, MSW, RSW

Leanne Boyd has dedicated her life to the promotion of positive mental health and well-being and the prevention of mental health problems and disorders, at the individual and population levels. Boyd is a life-long champion for social justice, equity and human rights for everyone, celebrating people's strengths, abilities and dreams.

Boyd's public entry to the mental health world was 54 years ago in her Grade 9, St Mary's Academy class when she won a province-wide Canadian Mental Health Association essay competition for her essay: "Mental Health is Everybody's Business" and began volunteering at CMHA Open Door Club. Boyd and two volunteers walked Main Street Saturday nights, identifying those living in board and room or on the street with no access to meals on Sundays. They bought or prepared food and opened the Sunday lunch gathering at Immaculate Conception Church. This grew into the Sunday Drop-in, an inner-city cornerstone which is still active today, with a hot meal provided by religious groups of all denominations.

Boyd chose a career as a social worker in mental health. For 45 years, she has worked as a mental health clinician, instructor, policymaker, community developer, director, researcher, innovator, mentor, advocate and public speaker and was dedicated to mental health promotion and mental illness prevention, especially for children/youth, their families and communities.

Boyd is the recipient of the Marian Award for Excellence, (St Mary's Academy); Prix Senator Ron Duhamel jointly awarded by provincial/federal governments/ francophone community; MacDonald Youth Services Award for Community Service. Boyd contributed to many national, federal/provincial/territorial boards, committees, research, policy development and innovation task forces and is recognized as a visionary thinker who truly sees an issue from multiple perspectives, analyzes comprehensive and sustainable options and extrapolates the expected, incremental impact of changes over decades.

Boyd is an innovator and is known for many firsts in Manitoba, Canada and beyond. She co-led design, construction, staffing and implementation of Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre, a ground-breaking provincial psychiatric hospital for youth.

She was part of the provincial design and coordination of the province-wide, advanced training internship in community child/adolescent mental health to improve equity of access to clinicians for children, youth, families, close to their homes, across Manitoba. She was the co-creator of a unique governance model of the Children and Youth Secretariat and Healthy Child Manitoba, legislated under Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet, representing all departments impacting children. Directed by scientific evidence, it operates through horizontal policy decision-making, considering the whole child/youth, in partnership with community. This innovative model of policies, programs, funding structures, research, resulted in impressive outcomes over 25 years, improving the lives of thousands of children, youth, families, communities across Manitoba.

Boyd is a trailblazer, risk-taker, a woman of deep faith, integrity and passion; a strategic, visionary, transformative thinker and doer. She has dedicated her positive energy and exceptional commitment to children and youth through 45 years of public service, to increase equity, social justice and well-being for all.



Lee Newton

(1952 – 2014)

Lee Newton was a graphic designer and community activist, forming the Winnipeg Harvest.

Born at Winnipeg on 1 July 1952, daughter of Bill and Mae Newton, she attended Lord Wolseley School, McLeod School, John Henderson Junior High School and River East Collegiate. After a year of design training at the University of Manitoba, she worked for 30 years as a graphic designer, first with the advertising department of the Eaton's Department Store and later with the Winnipeg Art Gallery where she was the head of the design department.

She then formed her own business Newton Coleman and Associates, publishing Interchange magazine and other publications for the Osborne Village area. In 1983, after hearing about a food bank in New York City, she established Winnipeg Harvest. It opened in July 1985, and she managed its volunteer program, held fundraising events and organized publicity. She did not want to open a place where people lined up for handouts. Instead, she decided to open a distribution centre, where donated food would be redistributed to social agencies.

It was fitting that Lee finished her career at Winnipeg Harvest, first managing the volunteer program and later organizing various fundraising initiatives, including Empty Bowls. "I've had bowls from David Suzuki, Bob Geldof, Michael Bublé, Jamie Oliver, Martha Stewart and Elton John," Newton told Flannery Dean for a July 2009 Chatelaine magazine article. "Last year, the Rolling Stone bowl raised \$5,000."

She also established The Huron Carole, which features Tom Jackson and other celebrity musicians.

Other Harvest programs she founded and helped manage until her retirement in 2010 were Grow-A-Row and Kids Who Care.

She also raised public awareness about hunger and the work of Winnipeg Harvest through speaking engagements and interviews. Lee was loved and respected by everyone at Harvest and in the community that supported it, because she treated each person with the same concern and respect, from corporate sponsor to the newest volunteer sorting groceries. "I have learned that everyone at Harvest takes a great deal of pride and sense of ownership for their jobs," Newton said in a statement. "I have learned that it is just as valid when a disabled volunteer can make five food hampers an hour as when an able-bodied person can make 50." In recognition for her role there, she received a YMCA/YWCA Woman of Distinction Award in 2005.

She retired from the organization in 2010. A special Lee Mae Newton Excellence Award has been created in her memory by Winnipeg Harvest to be "dedicated to an individual or a volunteer family that contributes to the spirit and operation of Winnipeg Harvest in a way that strengthen individuals or families who struggle with low-income issues in Winnipeg".

She died at the St. Boniface Hospital on 8 February 2014 and was buried in the Victoria United Church Cemetery at Balmoral. In 2017, she was inducted into the Winnipeg Citizens Hall of Fame, only the third inductee to be recognized solely for her community service.



Lois Darlene Edie

(1932 – 1998)

Lois Darlene Duke Edie of Dugald was born in a log cabin near Redvers Saskatchewan on October 2, 1932 descending from a long line of strong prairie pioneer women. She never forgot her agrarian roots, becoming a leader in agriculture.

“Observe, remember and compare” was Edie’s life motto. She trained as a registered nurse but her career changed to farming in 1955 when she married Norman Edie. She gave birth to her first of five children in 1956, and while raising a growing family she contributed as an equal partner in expanding the business of Edie Farms. In 1974, Norman and Lois won the Red River Exhibition Manitoba Farm Family of the Year award.

The Western Canadian Wheat Growers welcomed her as a director on their board in 1987 and made her a lifetime director. At a time when women were not commonly seen on agricultural boards, Lois Edie challenged the Honourable Charlie Mayer, Canada’s Agriculture Minister as to why oats was still under the control of the Canadian Wheat Board. She expressed concern over the inclusion clause, the secrecy of the CWB, the CWB monopoly and lack of choice in wheat marketing and wanted to see a similar system to that proposed for Ontario.



Lois Edie and Pierre Trudeau

To promote agriculture and all it offers, Lois Edie also was instrumental in the creation of Manitoba Farm Vacations, a venue for urban families to experience agriculture firsthand. It’s now known as Manitoba Country Vacations Association. As a beef producer, Edie established The Manitoba Beef Information Centre, in 1971, as a vehicle to showcase and promote beef products. She even invited chef Madame Jehane Benoit to cook with her at trade shows in Winnipeg to promote Manitoba Beef.

Edie also served on the Manitoba Disaster Board from 1988 to 1997, deeply concerned about the effects of flooding on Manitoba’s farms.

In addition to her leadership in the agriculture industry, Lois Edie was a life-long role model for empowering women. She joined the Manitoba Women’s Institute (MWI) in 1967 and led the organization as president in the early 1980’s. It was at that time when she went head-to-head with Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau and his quest for the Charter of Rights.

She was also a member of The Dugald Fashion Review, modeling original vintage outfits, along with her daughters. Spearheaded by Wynnifred Van Slyck, The Fashion Review inspired and helped create The Dugald Costume Museum.

In her Legacy book Edie wrote: “I enjoyed the opportunities of meeting new people and sharing challenges. I have always enjoyed ‘Male Meetings’ being the only one or one of a few females around the table and challenging the thinking and agenda. Dinner with the Prime Minister Trudeau in 1981 was an experience. Representing Manitoba Women’s Institute at the signing of the constitution in Ottawa as a guest of Premier Howard Pauley was a special honour. ”

A genuine trailblazer, who contributed so much to so many, Lois Edie died at age 65 in 1998.

Margaret Morse, O.M.

(1925 – 2021)

Margaret Morse pioneered speech therapy in Manitoba. After establishing the clinic at Children's Hospital, she established speech clinics at Rehabilitation Hospital in 1956, Deer Lodge Hospital in 1960-1962, Municipal Hospitals in 1970-1975, Concordia Hospital 1980-1990 where Morse worked as chief therapist and Victoria Hospital 1990-1996. She established the inaugural board for the Rehabilitation of Stroke Patients with 12 members including doctors, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and two stroke survivors. As a volunteer, she set up a group program for stroke survivors with communication disorders at Sargent Park Community Centre. This was the first stroke club in Winnipeg, and it was known as the Manitoba Stroke Recovery Association.

For over 10 years, Morse spoke to many service clubs in Winnipeg including Kiwanis, Lions and Kinsmen promoting the need for Stroke Clubs. There are now several of these clubs in various parts of the city.

From 1992-1996, Morse established a committee to develop a graduate program at the University of Manitoba in speech/language pathology. The proposal was passed by 10 university committees including the Senate and Board of Governors. The President of the University, Eموke Szathmary also approved this new program, however, the Manitoba government turned it down. In 2016, Morse again began campaigning the university to start this program. She established a new committee under the Associate Dean at the School of Medical Rehabilitative Services at the University of Manitoba.



In addition to Morse's trailblazing career as a speech therapist, she volunteered for a wide variety of community boards. She was a longtime volunteer with the Winnipeg Art Gallery since 1956 and was president from 1964-1966. She also served as vice president of the WAG's Board of Governors from 1966-1968. She was president of Children's Home of Winnipeg from 1962-1964, co-chaired "150 Years of Art in Manitoba-Legislative Building Centennial Event" in 1970, president of the Manitoba Division of the national Canadians for Health Research from 1980-1982, was a board member of the R.H. Institute from 1986-1989, a board member of the St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation from 1983-1985, board member of The Victoria Hospital Foundation from 1992-1994, secretary of the Women's Canadian Club from 1981-1983, a trustee of the Eckhardt-Gramatte Foundation from 1982-present, member of the Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg since 1990: president from 1998-2000, a volunteer in numerous capacities at All Saint's Anglican Church since 1968, council member of the Manitoba Historical Society from 2004-2006 and chair of the Sir John A. MacDonald Annual Dinner from 2003-2005, and volunteered at Agape Table serving lunches from 2009-2017.

Finally, Morse has received a certificate from the Red Cross Society for 75 donations. In addition, she has received numerous certificates of appreciation from a variety of organizations.

Margret Morse passed away in Winnipeg in 2021.

Margo Goodhand

Margo Goodhand cut her teeth in journalism as a reporter -- where all good newspaperwomen start. But it was her climb up a very long ladder at the Winnipeg Free Press — from the graveyard shift on the copy desk to assistant city editor to Features Editor to Entertainment Editor to Deputy Editor — that shaped her into the trailblazer who led the newsroom into its digital age.

Goodhand became editor of Manitoba's largest newsroom in 2007 — the first and only female editor in the paper's 149-year history. Amid turbulent, revolutionary times for the media world, Goodhand shifted the Free Press to a 24/7 digital and print operation, while enhancing its reputation for innovation and excellence.

Her leadership refreshed and redefined the newsroom, earning recognition and awards on a national and international scale – including the nomination of an all-female Free Press team for the 2008 Governor General's Michener Award for meritorious public service journalism. In 2009, Goodhand accepted on behalf of the Free Press the "Excellence in Journalism" award from the Canadian Journalism Foundation, its highest award for broadcast, digital or print journalism.

Goodhand published North America's first-ever "pink" newspaper in 2008 to increase awareness and to fund-raise for breast cancer research and opened up senior leadership positions to women.

She created a bridge to the city's Francophone community, publishing a weekly story en francais from La Liberte which continues to this day. And she earned a reputation for fearlessly defending her Free Press colleagues' work, famously wading into an angry crowd of protesters one day to listen to their concerns — but also to state the newspaper would continue to report on contentious issues.



Goodhand left the Free Press in 2012 to track down and interview a remarkable set of Canadian trailblazers, the pioneer feminists of the 1970s who opened Canada's first battered-women's shelters. Their stories formed the heart of Goodhand's *Runaway Wives and Rogue Feminists: The Origins of the Women's Shelter Movement in Canada* (Fernwood, 2017).

The book won two Manitoba book awards, but more importantly documented the historical contribution of these previously unknown and unheralded women. They were recognized in the House of Commons in May 2019, given a standing ovation from the assembled legislators, and later thanked by the Prime Minister for their work and their legacy. One has since received an Order of Canada.

Goodhand was the editor of the *Edmonton Journal* from 2013-2016 and continues to contribute to Canadian journalism through her work as Chief Judge of the Michener Awards, and as a member of a federal advisory panel of journalists.

Among her accomplishments are Distinguished Alumna of the University of Winnipeg (2011); one of *Chatelaine Magazine's* "Women We Love" (2008); YWCA Woman of Distinction (2008); a founder and member of Winnipeg's Homelessness Task Force (2012).

Past board work includes: The Winnipeg Art Gallery; John Dafoe Foundation; National Newspaper Board of Governors; Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council and advisory boards for the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba.

Margret Jonsdottir Benedictsson

(1866-1956)

Margret Jonsdottir Benedictsson was a forerunner for the suffragist movement in Manitoba. For almost 25 years, from the late 1880s to 1912, Benedictsson led the way for women's rights in Manitoba, as a suffragist, a social activist and organizer, a journalist and publisher. During this period before Nellie McClung arrived on the scene in 1910 and even today, Benedictsson has had a great influence on the women and men of Manitoba in their pursuit for equality, human rights and the vote for women.

To Benedictsson, the promotion of education for women was a key to their equality. In 1877 when she arrived alone as a young woman in North America, she went to school to educate herself first. Then Benedictsson encouraged women to use the tools they had and run for school board, which they could do at that time. In this way they could have influence over the curriculum on alcohol education and women's rights in a democracy.

Benedictsson organized suffragist societies in Winnipeg and rural Manitoba beginning in 1904 and this was followed by other societies in Gimli, Argyle and Mountain, North Dakota. Men also joined these organizations. In 1908 she founded and became president of the first Icelandic Suffrage Society of America with headquarters in Winnipeg.

From 1898 to 1910, Benedictsson ran a publishing company with her husband, producing the journal *Freyja*. This paper was the first and only paper in Canada dedicated to the topic of women's rights during those years. She wrote prolifically, sometimes using other names. The paper had a wide subscribership and gave the suffragist movement a focus and direction.

Benedictsson applied political pressure as well, to further women's causes by organizing petitions to the government on women's suffrage, two of which were presented in 1910 by the Icelandic communities. These petitions called for the rights of women to be equal to that of men irrespective of their marital status and property holdings.

In 1910 when Nellie McClung arrived in Winnipeg, she created a resurgence in the mainstream suffrage movement. The Icelandic women and the establishment women held a joint meeting to determine the best time to petition the government again.

In 1916, when women became enfranchised in Manitoba, Margret Jonsdottir Benedictsson was no longer centre stage. By 1913, she had divorced, was going blind and had moved out of the province to join family on the West Coast. However, it was no coincidence that third reading of the bill for women's enfranchisement was moved by an Icelander, the acting premier and Attorney-General Thomas H Johnson. His mother had been a pioneer suffragist who had laboured alongside Margret Jonsdottir Benedictsson in rural Manitoba. Unfortunately, Benedictsson was unable to be at the legislature when the bill was signed but most of those in attendance were aware of the groundwork she laid for that landmark achievement.



Marianne Cerilli

Marianne Cerilli has been a trailblazer in Winnipeg, most notably through the naming of the Marianne Cerilli Trail, in recognition of her work to create healthy communities and a sustainable city. As the youngest female MLA when elected in 1990 Radisson Constituency, she led many initiatives, including the rehabilitation of a former contaminate site, protection of tall grass prairie to preventing unsustainable transportation investments and to spark creation of the Transcona Trail Association. The first leg of the trail links the Transcona Bio-Reserve (the former contaminated site) and Bradley Prairie Preserve. Cerilli served in the Manitoba Legislature until 2003, two terms in the Official Opposition and one term in the NDP government.

Her firsts as a young woman began in the 70's when she was a record-setting athlete and at only 17 was teaching adult fitness classes for the City of Winnipeg Parks and Recreation. She went on to start recreation and fitness programs with high school friends at the East St Paul Community Centre. She showed leadership as a summer student with the Manitoba Track and Field Association, Target Fitness and Mini-University at the University of Manitoba, including as a fitness consultant and coordinator at the Max Bell Centre.

A clerical error that delayed her teaching diploma in 1984 diverted her from teaching to volunteer management and youth services with the provincial government after graduating from the University of Manitoba. Life took a political turn, however. She had been helping on elections since she first came to Winnipeg in 1968 as a kid and had become the president in 1986 for MLA and Deputy Premier Muriel Smith's constituency association. She was encouraged and mentored by Smith to help manage Glen Murray's campaign in 1989 when he was first elected to Winnipeg City Council and other election campaigns.



Elected as a young MLA, Cerilli was known for her eco-feminist views and work to address all types of inequalities and environmental challenges. As an "opposition critic" she was not content to merely condemn the government, she saw herself as an elected activist who worked to steer development in a more sustainable direction. She worked for years as Housing Critic, and Legislative Assistant to the Minister of Family Services and Housing, advocating for rent regulation, social and affordable housing, tenant rights, and public investment into poverty reduction through quality affordable housing, and innovation into energy efficiency. Many of the policies she championed later were implemented.

After leaving the legislature, Cerilli was determined to bring what she had learned about government to the grassroots in communities. She started Marianne Cerilli – Change Agent, consulting in community development. She became an advocate mentor at the West Central Women's Resource Centre and mentored local women in advocacy particularly in securing their rights through the creation of the HOMES Program.

She ran for mayor of Winnipeg in 2006 coming second to incumbent Sam Katz.

Marie-Anne Lagimodière

(1780 – 1875)

Marie-Anne Lagimodière (née Gaboury) a coureurs des bois (voyageur), translator, healer, fur trader, hero.

History has been very unkind to Gaboury. They have disparaged her for the colour of her skin, her gender and as the “first white woman resident in the west, grandmother of Louis Riel.”

But there is much to know about Gaboury. At the age of 12, she was forced to leave home and work when her father died. Married at the age of 26 to Jean Baptist Lagimodière who came from Maskinongé, her hometown.

In spite of her honeymoon pregnancy, she decided to travel with her husband in defiance of the custom, by canoe, horse, hiking from Montreal to Fort Gibraltar, at the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers in present-day Winnipeg. This was a trip that the voyageurs described as arduous. Imagine doing it pregnant and a new wife.

Gaboury discovered when she arrived in Winnipeg that her husband had another wife (commonly known as a “country wife”) with three daughters who he lived with for four years. Gaboury survived a poisoning attempt by the first wife and yet records indicate she welcomed their children.

From all accounts, Gaboury led an exceptional life. For years she led the life of a “voyageur,” trapping, hunting and trading, across the prairies. Even close to giving birth with her second child, she was on a bison hunt and ended up self-delivering her son. On another occasion her bravery was tested when she heroically saved the life of a companion by fighting off a grizzly and shooting it.

She settled in Fort Douglas in 1811. Coming up to the Battle of Seven Oaks, Marie-Anne Gaboury, a single mother on her own at the time as her husband was away and understanding the political situation, left Fort Douglas to stay with Chief Peguis. She was an astute leader and raised a political family including her grandson, Louis Reil, who grew up on the family farm in St Boniface.

She remained at St. Boniface, until her death in December 1875. She is buried in the St. Boniface Cathedral Cemetery and is still known by her maiden name, an indication of the significance of this Manitoba trailblazer.



Martha Jane Hample

(1859-1927)

Martha Hample was Winnipeg's first businesswoman and an important financial backer of The Political Equality League. She leaves an important legacy behind in Winnipeg as a philanthropist, real estate investor, employer and politician. The three-story Hample building, which was the first building in Winnipeg built and owned by a woman, was constructed in 1906 and it continues standing near Portage and Main.

With little formal education, as Hample was born into a large family in England with limited resources, she followed her brother to Canada in June 1885. In 1888, she married and had two children. Also in 1888, her husband opened a meat shop on Main Street and from that shop, Hample began her career as a caterer, eventually employing as many as 14 regular employees and many others as casual workers when the occasion required. She was widowed in 1899, and fitting the norms of the day, Hample opened up a delicatessen shop in the Hample building and invested further in real estate. Amongst her investments was a large tract of land at Sturgeon Creek.

However, being the family breadwinner, Hample yearned for the right to vote. In 1912, she built a substantial home at 808 Wolseley Avenue, and this was the location where The Political Equality League was first organized. Word has it her home and purse were always open to help the cause of women. She was elected to the Winnipeg School Board in 1916 and ran for provincial office in 1922.

Hample also helped to establish the Knowles Home for Boys in 1907. Situated then at 738 Broadway, it provided accommodation and meals for abandoned and orphaned boys between the ages of 11 and 16.

Martha Jane Hample was a remarkable woman and Manitoban – Winnipeg's first businesswoman, an employer, a real estate investor and builder, a politician, a philanthropist and financial backer of The Political Equality League – assuredly worthy of being a "Manitoba Female Trailblazer".



Mary Dyma, O.C.

(1899 – 1998)

Mary Sawczak Dyma was the first Ukrainian woman to graduate from a Canadian university. She put her education to work, supporting her community. Dyma was born in 1899 and immigrated to Winnipeg from Borschiw, Ukraine in 1920. After enrolling at the Grade 11 level at St. Mary's Academy she excelled in learning the English language within a few months. She graduated in 1923 from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Dyma taught in Stuartburn, Manitoba and was school principal in Ethelbert 1923 to 1924.

Dyma's teaching career ended when she had to make a choice between marriage and a career. She married Dr. Bronislaw Dyma in 1925 and the couple had two sons: Bernard and Donald. Her husband encouraged her to become involved in community work to use her acquired skills. She ran for Winnipeg school trustee and was elected. While on the school board, she became president of the League of Women Voters.

During the Second World War, she served on the executive of the Ukrainian Canadian Relief Fund. In 1944, she was a founding member of the Winnipeg Ukrainian Catholic Women's League and first president. She helped found the national league, an organization which united local Ukrainian Catholic parish leagues across Canada giving Ukrainian Catholic women a voice in their commitment to the mission of the Church. It is known today as the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada (UCWLC).

In 1950, she became president of the League of Women Voters, a group advocating for improving public policy through education. Representing the UCWLC at a World Congress of Mothers held in Brussels, Belgium in 1953, Mary had the opportunity to address the assembly. Before that she attended the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in London.

Mary received several awards in recognition of her community work: Taras Shevchenko Medal (1962); Centennial Medal (1967); Papal Medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" (1983); Order of Canada (1989). A Ukrainian chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IODE) was named in her honour. The National UCWLC established The Mary Dyma Religious Studies Scholarship to assist Ukrainian Catholic women preparing for a religious life.

At age 99, Mary Dyma died on 12 October 1998 at Holy Family Home and was buried at All Saints Cemetery, Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Mary Kelekis, O.C., O.M.

(1925 – 2019)

She was a member of the Order of Canada, a co-founder of the world's longest running multicultural festival and a devoted sports fan.

Born at Winnipeg around 1925, one of six daughters of restaurateur Chrystomis Kelekis, she attended Daniel McIntyre Collegiate before joining the family business in the 1930s, operating what became a Winnipeg institution until its closure in January 2013.

Mary Kelekis is one of the trailblazers who may not be part of the "official history" of the province, but she's one of the many women who worked hard with elbow grease, determination and community spirit and tried to make their city and this province the best it could be. Kelekis's hard work and commitment to her family's iconic business near the corner of Redwood and Main ensured the success of a restaurant famous for shoestring fries and hotdogs. But her reach went far beyond the diner in Winnipeg's North End.



Kelekis grew up in the North End and started working in her father Chris's restaurant at an early age along with her five sisters, Chryse, Sophie, Evelyn, Isabel and Becky, and her brother Leo. Eventually, she became the owner. Kelekis ran the family business at a time when women were not expected to be in the workplace, let alone be in charge.

Kelekis made a point of hiring young people from the North End and ensured they were equipped with an understanding of a good work ethic so they could make their way in the world. She identified young people who needed some support and hired them – giving them strong guidance.

Kelekis was a proud supporter of Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute in the West End and she worked hard to establish an alumni club with lifetime friends from high school days. She was also a dedicated member of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and she participated in the Ladies Philoptochos Society for many years. When former mayor Stephen Juba asked Kelekis to become one of the founders of Folklorama, she moved beyond her business to help others. She volunteered her time and her expertise to transform two weeks in August into a multicultural holiday favourite for many. It was an important marker to celebrate Manitoba's centennial in 1970.

She served on the Misericordia Hospital Foundation board for more than 10 years, something her family said gave her tremendous pride. The foundation presented her with an Angel Award in 2013.

In 2000, Kelekis was awarded the Order of Manitoba, the province's highest honour, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence and achievement. And in 2002, she was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal to commemorate the monarch's 50th year on the throne. A decade later, she received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

She found time to cheer on her favourite Winnipeg Jets and Blue Bombers and ensured her nieces and nephews could enjoy season tickets with her. She died in 2019 at the age of 90.

Image Source: Winnipeg Free Press

Mary Richard, O.M., M.S.M.

(1940 – 2010)

Mary Richard was an Indigenous activist, entrepreneur and politician. Born to a Métis family in Camperville, she was active in promoting language retention, housing, training, cultural awareness and business enterprise among and for Manitoba's Indigenous population. She became the director of the Manitoba Association of Native Languages in the 1980s and held this position for almost a decade. In 1997, she was appointed by Winnipeg Mayor Susan Thompson to co-chair the North Main Task Force, examining social problems in north Winnipeg's aboriginal community.

Richard was a dynamo, both in the Indigenous Community and the community at large. She was an entrepreneur, having run the "Tipi" Restaurant in downtown Winnipeg, developed the Indigenous Centre, the Lodge/Tipi-form on Main Street and became an integral part of the 1980's federal program for providing grants and funding for Indigenous people who were looking to buy into established businesses.

She was the first chief executive officer (CEO) of Thunderbird House in north Winnipeg, which opened its doors in 2000. Although this was intended as a tourist destination, it soon became primarily a social outreach centre for the many low-income persons living in the area. Under Richard's leadership, Thunderbird House became active in programs to assist aboriginal youth escape solvent abuse, gang life and the sex trade.

Richard was also a president of the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg, and a former executive director of the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg. In 2000, she was admitted to the Order of Manitoba.

She campaigned for the Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba in the 1999 provincial election, in the constituency of Point Douglas. Richard's campaign was part of an effort by Gary Filmon's government to increase its profile in the Aboriginal community. She received 1224 votes (19.56 percent), an improvement over previous Conservative candidacies in the area. The winner was George Hickey of the New Democratic Party.

The following year, Richard crossed to the Liberal Party of Canada and ran as that party's candidate in Winnipeg North Centre for the 2000 federal election. In explaining this move, Richard told a Winnipeg Free Press reporter that she had long supported the Progressive Conservatives at the provincial level and the Liberals at the federal level. She received 6,755 votes, finishing second against New Democrat Judy Wasylycia-Leis.

She died on September 9, 2010, while undergoing treatment after a kidney transplant. She leaves behind many fans who think of her fondly as a whirlwind, a marvel and a generous inspiration to everyone – both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.



Image Source: Winnipeg Free Press

Mary Scott

Mary Scott is a dynamic advocate for social justice working for women's equality both in Canada and in developing countries. She represented Canada on the world stage as an advocate for women and has been a steadfast ally for Indigenous women on the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Scott was born in Winnipeg in 1938. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts (1959) and a Bachelor of Social Work (1960) from the University of Manitoba. She also obtained a Master's of Natural Resources Management (1981) from the University of Manitoba with her area of study focusing on the impact of resource development on the lives of Indigenous peoples.

As a young woman, Mary's community work at the North End Y and Agape Table focused on improving conditions for marginalized women and children. Her work at Employment and Immigration Canada (later Human Resources Development Canada) was a women's centered approach to service provision. She developed pre-trades training for women, leading to upgrading and eventual apprenticeship/trades training with Red River College.

She launched initiatives to improve access to employment for Indigenous women and equal access to training in the trade occupations. She headed up the Manitoba Re-entry program, supporting women reentering the work force.



Scott served as a director with the Health Sciences Centre and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Boards, as an advocate with the Women's Health Clinic and also as an advisor to the Birthing Center. All this while balancing a family life and raising three daughters.

Scott has been a long-standing member of the University Women's Club of Winnipeg and has held various leadership positions in the organization, including president. She was also a member of the Councils of Women, serving as president at the local, provincial and national level. She led the delegation for the National Council of Women of Canada to annual meetings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York City.

In 1995, the 4th World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace took place in Beijing, China. Mary was chosen as the Canadian Federation of University Women's delegate to attend the conference. She was able to support learning opportunities for women in accessing the internet in those early days.

In 1998, Mary received the YMCA-YWCA Woman of Distinction Award and in 2012, she received the YM-YWCA Babs Friesen Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her dedication to improving the lives of women and providing them with a voice at a local, provincial and national level.

In 2009, she received the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case. When the historic 100th anniversary of the CFUW held its "The Power of Women Working Together" conference in Winnipeg in August 2019, Scott was one of the Winnipeg members who received a Notable Woman Award.

Scott and Senator Marilou McPhedran co-founded the Institute for International Women's Rights – Manitoba in 2013, an EOSOC accredited organization with the UN, which advocates for the human rights of all women.

Milla Rasmussen

(1892 - 1980)

Milla Rasmussen was a pioneer and trailblazer in getting the mentally handicapped to remain in the community rather than being institutionalized as was the practice of the day. She was born in Minnesota and trained to be a teacher. Upon graduation, Rasmussen taught school in North Dakota and Minnesota. In 1929, she married Rudolph Rasmussen and moved to Dacotah, Manitoba. She and Rudolf had three children, one of whom was severely mentally handicapped. Upon diagnosis, they considered placing him in the home in Portage la Prairie but decided there had to be a better way so Mel remained at home. In 1944 the family moved to Winnipeg to enhance the opportunities for all of the children including Mel's education.



Rasmussen was very active in all aspects of improving the lives of the mentally handicapped including recreational, educational, group home living and support right up until her death in 1980 and received dozens of awards for her service. She was one of the founding directors of several organizations including "The Association for Retarded Children in Manitoba", "The Association for Community Living" and "The Maitland B Steinkopf Residency Incorporation Act".

Muriel Smith, O.C., O.M., LL.D.

Muriel Smith is indeed a trailblazer for many reasons. She accomplished many “firsts” as a woman and she has inspired a whole generation of women and girls. She is one that believes: “leave no one behind.” She was one of 100 Notable Women honoured by the Canadian Federation of University Women in August 2020.

She tackles the challenging subjects like economics with a sharp mind, is always ready to listen and articulates other points of views. She is a leader and trailblazer in our province. Smith graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B.A. Honours, followed by a diploma in Education from Oxford University. She returned to school at the University of Manitoba in 1973 to complete her B.Ed and M.Ed. (psychological counseling) and went on to teach and be a counselor at the high school level. In later years, Smith was an instructor at the Winnipeg Education Centre and the University of Manitoba. She received an Honorary LLD from the University of Manitoba in 2009.

Smith’s political career began in 1973 as a candidate for the New Democratic Party in River Heights. She was the first woman president of the New Democratic Party of Manitoba in 1975. In 1981, she was elected as member of the Legislative Assembly for Osborne. Her appointment as deputy premier signified the first woman in Canada to achieve this position. She also held the portfolios of Economic Development and Tourism, Community Services and Corrections, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and Labour and Housing.



Smith’s interest and participation in women’s issues and areas of international cooperation span the range of chair of Empowering Women in Burma, United Nations Association of Canada and delegate to five world conferences, Provincial and National Councils of Women, the Canadian Federation of University Women, executive member of the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, chair of the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and one of three Manitoba government representatives to the Red River Basin Commission, to name just a few.

Smith’s appointments to the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, Council on post-secondary education, and lay member of the Manitoba Law Society and the Association of Professional Engineers of Manitoba and her positions of vice-president of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra Board and president of the board of Reh-Fit Centre demonstrate the breadth of her participation in her local community.

Muriel Smith’s wide-ranging interest and participation in her immediate community and to the larger society, has provided an immense service to these sectors.

Muriel Sprague Richardson

(1890 - 1973)

Muriel Sprague Richardson became the fifth president of James Richardson and Sons, Limited in 1939 following the sudden death of her husband, James A. Richardson. A teacher and administrator without formal business training, the mother of four relied on moral fortitude and knowledge accumulated as her late husband's closest confidante to successfully lead the private, family-owned organization for the next 27 years. In doing so, Richardson became the first woman to lead a major Canadian corporation and subsequently, the first woman inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame in 1981 (posthumously), earning her the distinction of "The First Lady in Canadian Business."

During her tenure at JRSL, the Pioneer Grain network expanded to over 400 grain elevators, the investment division opened offices in 26 cities and the firm was further diversified by participation in pipelines, business forms and real estate. Richardson was among the earliest business leaders in Canada to demonstrate concern for company personnel by introducing a pension plan, group life insurance and other benefits. She also implemented the 25-year service award program in 1953, which has since recognized over 1,000 men and women who have achieved a quarter century of loyal service with the firm.



As one of the initiatives to mark the 100th anniversary of James Richardson and Sons, Limited in 1957, Richardson established the Richardson Century Fund. Originally mandated to provide books to school and university libraries across Canada, the entity eventually shifted to providing monetary donations to registered Canadian charities, and was renamed the Richardson Foundation in 2000.

Richardson often referenced the verse, "Unto whom much is given, much is also required," and lived by those words. Her generosity extended to a wide range of artistic, educational, charitable and public service organizations, many of which also gained from her practical wisdom and good judgment. The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Winnipeg Children's Hospital and Queen's University all benefited from Richardson's interest. She served on the board of trustees of Queen's University from 1939 to 1966 and was honorary president of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet from 1949 to 1955. She was the first female Winnipeg Foundation Board member, serving with distinction from 1944 to 1962 and later breaking ground as its first female chair, a position held from 1955 to 1962.

Richardson was recognized on many occasions during her lifetime. She was awarded Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Queen's University in 1951 and the University of Manitoba in 1958. She received the Golden Boy Award in 1961 and in 1970, Governor-General Roland Michener presented her with the Manitoba Centennial Medal.

Muriel Sprague Richardson retired from James Richardson and Sons, Limited in 1966, and died in Winnipeg seven years later. Many tributes poured in, honouring the far-reaching effect she had on the city and province.

Nellie McClung

(1873 – 1951)

Nellie McClung was an orator and an entertainer; she was an author and an advocate; she was a teacher and a legislator. She was a prairie woman who used her talents, determination and energy to bring about change in society.

Nellie McClung was born Nellie Letitia Mooney in Ontario on October 20, 1873. At seven years old, she moved to Manitoba where she would grow up and begin to sow the seeds of many incredible political contributions later in life. At the age of just sixteen, she began teaching at a school near Manitou, Manitoba and through her connections there, became involved in several emerging social reform groups.

When McClung was 23 years old, she married Wesley McClung, with whom she would raise five children. In 1911, the family moved out of rural Manitoba and into Winnipeg, where McClung continued to fight for social change.



McClung joined the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) to help stop the problems associated with alcohol abuse, and this led to a passionate interest in the women's suffrage movement as well. In addition to the WCTU, McClung joined several other reform groups focused on the advancing women's suffrage movement and became a founding member of the Political Equality League.

In 1914, she and other members of the Political Equality League staged a mock parliament which turned the tables, satirizing the dangers of allowing men the right to vote. The play was entertaining and effective; it began a turn of the tide for the government of the day in the province. In 1916, Manitoba was the first province to grant women the right to vote, and the province of Saskatchewan quickly followed.

McClung is best known for two major achievements: being one of the leading women who helped "get the vote" for most of the women of Manitoba (1916); and as a member of the "famous five" – a group of women who challenged the meaning of the British North American Act and worked to get women declared "persons" rather than property under the law (1929).

Later in life, she was appointed the first woman to the first board of the CBC in 1932. McClung also remained a human rights advocate throughout her decades in public life. She urged the government of British Columbia to extend the vote to Japanese Canadians in the 1930's; petitioned the Canadian Government to open its doors to Jewish refugees in the late 1930's and early 1940's; and often wrote about the need for equal pay for equal work. She promoted the ordination of women in the Methodist Church in the 1920's and later in the United Church. McClung was a driving force in Canadian politics and the women's movement till her death in 1951.

Olive Bend Little

(1917 – 1987)

Olive Little is a member of Softball Canada Hall of Fame, Softball Manitoba Hall of Fame and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. She started her career playing in Poplar Point, progressed to Winnipeg and then onto the Rockford Peaches of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. She pitched for the Peaches for a number of years, playing in the All-Star games at Soldier Field. Following the end of her career she returned to Poplar Point where she coached the girls of her area and developed a group of young ladies who formed one of the best teams in the province with a number of those girls eventually following her into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame and winning national championships.

Little was inducted into the Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in 1985. She died at the age of 69.

Olive Bend Little started making herself known in 1937 when she commuted to Winnipeg to play with the Norwood Senior Women Softball team. It was in the days when 2,000 spectators would attend games and no hitters were not uncommon for Little. She pitched a no-hit game to start a best-of-three series for first place in the league and finished the same way – tossing another no-hitter with a Winnipeg newspaper claiming: "Bend is Brilliant." Moving to the Winnipeg C.U.A.C., Little continued setting records in the league averaging 12 to 14 strikeouts a game during 1940's.

It was that year she travelled to Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan with permission from league commissioner Jimmy Dunn to play ball if she had the opportunity. She joined the Royals in the Saskatchewan Senior League, leading them to the Saskatchewan championship. Returning to C.U.A.C. she played a large part in helping that club win their provincial title the same year. During the Second World War when major league baseball in the United States was hampered with players taking part in the fighting, a women's professional baseball league (A.A.G.P.B.L.) was formed and Little was recruited by the Rockford (Illinois) Peaches. She was to pitch four no-hitters while with Rockford and was selected to the all-star team that played at Wrigley Field, Chicago. Married to George Little in 1943, Olive ended her career professionally in 1945 when George was discharged from the Canadian Army.

The daughter of Jack Bend, Olive Bend Little lived most of her life in Poplar Point. She credited much of her success to her father. "Anybody who had the kind of coaching and encouragement I had could have done what I did," she claims. "Maybe more." What Little did on the playing field in a relatively short time would take a team many years to accomplish. Her kind come once in a lifetime.

She was inducted into the Canadian Baseball hall of fame in 1983.



Pamela Rebello, O.M.

Call it kismet or fate, but Pamela (Godinho) Rebello was born to lead. Her trail began in India, continued to the United States and then to Canada. She is a lifelong volunteer and pioneer in the areas of arts, culture, education and race relations. She was the first woman to chair the Manitoba Intercultural Council, the first visible minority to be appointed to the Manitoba Arts Council and in the very first investiture of the Order of Manitoba – the first Asian woman to receive this great honour. A certified teacher with a graduate degree in Educational Administration and Foundation, she chose to use her knowledge, skills and vision to support and build Manitoba's arts and cultural communities.

Rebello is an educator, author (script writer), public speaker and an advocate for women of all ages and cultural backgrounds. She headed to the United States to marry Dennis, a Fulbright Scholar, and then proceeded to Manitoba in the late 1960's for a life of faithful volunteerism, cultural exchange and further education. Rebello made a conscious choice to make Winnipeg more than just a home, but a place where her heart, her talent and her dream for Canada could take root. She broke barriers, built bridges and scaled new heights as an immigrant, as a visible minority, and a woman in various organizations at the municipal, provincial and national levels. She has served and has held numerous appointments in the areas of race relations, multiculturalism, arts education and has been recognized for her volunteerism, mentorship and expertise in international education. However, she has never once rested on her achievements, but strives every day to demonstrate gratitude to her province by using her creativity, enthusiasm and community building skills to transform the landscape of Manitoba. This has allowed Winnipeg to set the stage for embracing cultural diversity and showcasing world-class performances.



She was the first and only executive director of the renowned India School of Dance, Music and Theatre Inc. (a non-profit cultural arts organization), which just celebrated 40 years of excellence in the Performing Arts of India in Canada. She has masterfully written scripts addressing the need for redress and reconciliation with our Indigenous Peoples and the need to respect climate change and the environment, through her collaboration with other artists in dance, music and multimedia. Rebello ensures that each performance is more than entertainment, but a soul-stirring experience of the body, mind and spirit through her guidance and inspiring leadership.

On top of being president, chair, and/or member of many provincial and national arts organizations in earlier years, she continues to remain committed to cross-cultural education, race relations and other initiatives to the present day. As mother of three children and grandmother of five, she believes that respect and courage are keys to unlock dreams. Rebello encourages everyone to blaze a path that leads to the empowerment of women around the world.

Peggy Green

(1921 – 1990)

Peggy Green was the first Manitoba theatre producer to pay Manitoban actors, beginning with John Hirsch's *A Box of Smiles*, which Green directed for the Junior League Children's Theatre's 1951-52 season. The Actor's Guild, the company she created in 1952, signaled a seismic shift from amateur to professional theatre with its ongoing payment of artists, and laid the groundwork for Rainbow Stage (1954) and the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (1958).

Peggy Jarman Green McIntyre was born in England in 1921 and moved with her family to Winnipeg in 1929. Soon, the *Winnipeg Tribune* reported that nine-year-old Peggy Jarman was appearing in *A Doll's House* at the amateur Winnipeg Little Theatre. By the age of 15, she had returned to England, studying theatre at the prestigious Old Vic. When war broke out, the Old Vic made her a tour stage manager because London theatres had closed, and male theatre workers had been called up. She left embattled England only when her parents insisted that the teenager return to the relative safety of Winnipeg. By then, she was a professional, and brought new expectations with her.

John Hirsch described what set her apart: "Peggy Green was a much better director, because she was a trained person, ... She paid attention to voice, and movement, and pace, and all those things, and she was a very forceful personality, ... and very well organized. ... And above all, again, she was forever thinking that there was going to be eventually a way of making a living at that. I mean it was a professional approach, and it had a hell of a lot to do with what she produced, and I learned a great deal from her."



So did actress Helene Winston: "Here we were, working for the (amateur) Little Theatre,... Oh, how wonderful if we could act all the time. If only we could just spend our lives doing it... .. And I guess Peggy Green had the courage to go out on a limb. I don't know how financially it was arranged or anything, but all of a sudden we had a company." Winston had planned to go to Mexico with her husband in 1952 but decided that she would rather stay in Manitoba and work with this ground-breaking professional company. "\$40 a week. It was a very generous salary. ... The nucleus of the people were paid, you see. ... Now Peggy, she worked day and night on those things."

Green's contemporaries recognized her accomplishments and celebrated them. In January of 1954, she was named one of the *Winnipeg Tribune's* 12 Women of the Year. By December of the same year, she became only the third Manitoban to win the national Dominion Drama Award, a tribute to her "courage and devotion as well as her artistic abilities."

In 1956, Green met dancer Patrick McIntyre while she was stage-managing the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's first American tour. They married, and moved to England, where they raised three children. Green died in 1990.

Rachel Massicotte

(1953 – 2006)

Rachel Massicotte shared her big heart with everyone in her life. That included her family, friends, as well as all the people she helped in the community such as at-risk children, teenagers and women affected by domestic violence. She was a proud Franco-Manitoban and was very active in supporting her community through many commitments. She was president of the Provincial Youth Council, activist of the New Democratic Party and Commissioner of the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine.

She also was a pioneer for the creation of l'Entre-temps des Franco-Manitobaines, a second-stage shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence, the only provincial shelter whose mandate is to provide bilingual services and to serve the French-speaking community. It was while performing her duties as the shelter's executive director that she passed away suddenly in 2006 at the age of 53. L'Entre-temps des Franco-manitobaines was renamed ChezRachel in her honor to celebrate her contributions to the organization and ensure her legacy. She is also celebrated by a memorial endowment fund started by her son, which has reached over \$100,000 and will help support ChezRachel each year in perpetuity. Massicotte may no longer be with us physically, but she continues to show love and support for the community that she cared so deeply about.



Rita Chahal

Imagine mid-December 1966, a young family with three children including a nine-year-old girl, arriving on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean at Pier 21. Two days before Christmas begins a rail journey for the family, taking them to Prince Edward Island, where they are one of the first East Indian families to arrive and settle on the island, known as the cradle of confederation. Her Canadian connection began at birth. She was delivered by a Canadian missionary doctor at the Maple Leaf Hospital in the Himalayas of northern India.

Forty years later, her journey brings her to the wheat fields and sunflowers of Manitoba, which is now home. In 2013, she accepted the role of executive director of Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council (MIIC) – affectionately known as Welcome Place – a hostel-like setting in Winnipeg much like Pier 21, to welcome and settle refugees from all over the world.

Starting in 2013, Chahal's work at MIIC meant providing leadership to settle refugees and newcomers including the special federal initiative of welcoming over 2000 Syrian refugees to Manitoba. Shortly after Chahal managed and provided much needed humanitarian services for refugee claimants during the surge of claimants who came through the U.S./Emerson border. This required working with multiple agencies including housing, social services, legal, community and sister agencies to build, maintain and nurture strong partnership to serve some of the world's most vulnerable seeking protection.



In 2013, Chahal served as general manager of the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce where she worked closely with the business community across Manitoba. She understands Manitoba's business community and its challenges and opportunities. As a minority woman from the arts and cultural sector, Chahal shared her understanding of employment and workplace issues impacting women and immigrants within the business community. The chamber is now a leader in reflecting the population demographics of Manitoba both at its board structure and its workforce complement.

In 2020, during the middle of a global pandemic Rita accepted the role of executive director of Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba to provide leadership in serving those impacted by mental health in our province.

Chahal held the position of executive director with the Women in Media Foundation, a national organization that worked with young women of diverse backgrounds to introduce them to careers in broadcasting film and new media.

Embracing diversity requires strong faith and crisis management at every turn. A proud, naturalized Canadian, Chahal is a first-generation immigrant herself who refuses to be isolated or stopped in realizing her dreams. Chahal can straddle both the private, non-profit and government worlds. She excels in these worlds by building partnerships. As a parent she is most proud of her three children in whom she instilled the importance of honoring their bicultural heritage. Her personal guiding principle in life is built on hope, faith and love. That nine-year old is now a grandmother of four and can only imagine a world where racism has no place. But she works towards that goal daily.

Sadie Mildred Grimm

(1895-1970)

In 1914, Sadie Grimm became the winner of the first motorcycling prize ever awarded in Canada to a woman in a competition open to men. In 2017, she was inducted into the Canadian Motorcycle Hall of Fame.

The June 20, 1914 headline in the Motoring section of the Manitoba Free Press read: Lady Wins Gold Medal. Nineteen-year-old Grimm succeeded where many male motorcycle riders had failed. In 1913/14, the Manitoba Motorcycle Club had offered a medal to the first motorcyclist to make the trip from Winnipeg to Winnipeg Beach, a 100-kilometre challenge.

It was reported that there were numerous unsuccessful attempts to make the trip to the Beach while the ground was frozen. Others tried in the spring break up but found the swamps impossible.

On Sunday morning June 14, 1914, Grimm left Winnipeg on her 1914 seven-HP Big Twin Indian motorcycle planning to get there via Selkirk.

The Manitoba Free Press described her ride as follows:



“For twenty-five miles she had to break gravel eight inches deep while going thirty miles an hour she took several graceful slides but picked herself up unhurt. From Selkirk to St. Louis (now Petersfield) the road was fair but from then on it was all bog and pot holes. After riding paths and mudholes alternatively, Miss Grim decided to try the railroad track. This she found very bumpy but much preferable to the continual mudholes interspersed with stumps and roots. In the swampy section, Miss Grim (sic) passed a number of high power cars abandoned in the mud while the owners went hunting (for) teams (of horses). After four hours of solid plugging Miss Grim registered at the Empress (Hotel) and was told she was the first one to make her way through this season. Miss Grim, not satisfied with her achievement turned around after a few hours’ rest and rode back to the city via Teulon completing one of the most strenuous rides ever attempted by a Manitoba motorcyclist.”

Described by a great-niece as a “pistol,” Grimm was born on March 27, 1895 in Milverton, Ontario as the seventh of eight children. The family moved from Gretna to St. Francis Xavier before settling in Winnipeg. There she met future husband James (Jim) Roland Cruikshank.

Sadie Grimm standing with her motorcycle on what the Historians believe is a wooden ferry in Winnipeg.

The unusual nature and challenge of women riding motorcycles in this period is underscored by the Van Buren sisters’ experience where they were arrested for wearing men’s clothing on their famous 1916 U.S. transcontinental ride.

Grimm’s novel achievement made her an obvious choice as a spokesperson for the participation of women in motorcycling. In July 1914, the Winnipeg Tribune quoted her as promoting the activity as benefiting both health and independence for women.

Grimm passed away on February 8, 1970 in Winnipeg.

In 2015, the Antique Motorcycle Club of Manitoba organized a ride commemorating and retracing Grimm’s historic achievement. A Sadie Grimm Ride sponsored by the Coalition of Manitoba Motorcycle Groups (CMMG) to Winnipeg Beach is now an annual event.

Samantha Rayburn-Trubyk

Samantha Rayburn-Trubyk is the president of the Little People of Manitoba, and thanks to her tireless advocacy, Manitoba became the first province in the country to recognize Dwarfism Awareness Day. This is far from all Rayburn-Trubyk is however. She's one of the most giving and caring people. Thanks to her efforts, amateur sports — including hockey — are phasing out the term "midget" to define age groups.

As president of the advocacy group Little People of Manitoba, Rayburn-Trubyk is fighting to make our society kinder, gentler and more accepting of people living with dwarfism, including her and her 15-year-old son Yale.

Rayburn-Trubyk is a human rights advisor and accessibility manager whose style isn't to bash people over the head for being intolerant, but to educate them about the issues.

Rayburn-Trubyk's parents and sibling are all average height, as is her husband. She and her son both were born with the most common form of dwarfism, achondroplasia, a bone-growth condition that affects growth plates. Ultimately, people born with achondroplasia have an average-sized torso but shorter limbs.



In addition to her advocacy in Manitoba, Rayburn-Trubyk serves as a committee member on Little People of America's advocacy committee. In December 2019 she, along with representatives from Little People of America, traveled to Dickenson, North Dakota to meet with the local School Board and community to attempt to change their local high school mascot, called "The Midgets".

Most recently, Rayburn-Trubyk co-created an online group to assist parents in both the U.S. and Canada with raising children born with dwarfism. The intention of this group is to share experiences, advice and to provide parents with an outlet to ask questions and receive non-judgmental feedback. The goal of this group is to raise confident, well-adjusted kids who not only love themselves unconditionally but to also understand that they do not need to be "fixed." With over 450 members, they meet weekly via Zoom.

Samantha became president of Little People of Manitoba, the 38-year-old advocacy organization in 2015, and has quickly amassed an impressive string of achievements.

Sandra McCaig

Few individuals have impacted the education of students, teachers and adults more than Sandra McCaig; speech clinician, educator, administrator and trailblazer, who facilitated changes in education and within her local community.

McCaig earned a Bachelor of Arts degree (University of Manitoba, 1964; Lady Stick of Arts) and a Master of Education in Speech Pathology (Pennsylvania State University, 1965).

McCaig took a position in the Winnipeg School Division as a speech clinician at the Child Guidance Clinic (1966) moving to area service director (1980). She retired in 2009 after a successful career in senior administration: deputy assistant superintendent-elementary schools (1989); deputy program superintendent (1990 - 93); director of student support services (1993 - 2009). Following retirement, McCaig co-managed Winnipeg School Division's Life-Long Learning Program (2011 - 2013) delivering continuing education to adults within a community setting.

An advocate for inclusion, McCaig utilized her leadership and interpersonal skills to foster teamwork, promote people's strengths and serve as a catalyst, bringing together individuals from various systems to develop innovative programs in the Winnipeg School Division, creating a culture where all students were welcome and could succeed, including those with significant medical conditions, autism, behaviour disorders, language disorders (Early Childhood Language Centre) and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (a first in Canada). McCaig received the Easter Seals award (2001) recognizing her work championing inclusive communities for children with disabilities.



McCaig with her team received several crime prevention awards for the CHOICES Youth Program for at-risk youth, an inter-sectoral project with the Winnipeg Police Service, Manitoba Justice and the community. She was recognized as an exemplary citizen for her contribution toward school safety.

McCaig joined the Faculty of Education, University of Manitoba (1996) as a sessional instructor, further facilitating inclusive teaching strategies. She taught several courses and co-authored and introduced the on-line version of Introduction to Inclusive Special Education Practices. She served in executive positions on several professional organizations, published journal articles and educational materials for clinicians, teachers, parents and spoke on women's issues and authenticity.

A local, national and international speaker and trainer, McCaig consulted and advised school districts and universities in Canada, the Caribbean (University of West Indies) and Japan and assisted in the development of distance education courses for the Organization for Cooperation in Overseas Development in St. Lucia.

Recognizing a need for adult education on life-related topics, McCaig was a founding member and chair (1974 - 1976) of the Fort Garry Family Life Resource Centre where she also taught parent-education classes.

Committed to community, McCaig volunteered with the United Way, Rainbow Society, Manitoba Athletes' Assistance Advisory Council, Canadian Centre for Sport, World Boardsailing Organizing Committee, co-chaired Victoria Beach's Walk for Water campaign (Lake Winnipeg Foundation) and was a contributing author to "Heroes in Our Midst," a fundraiser for Olympic athletes. A spokesperson for the arts, McCaig is a board member of the Canadian Mountain Arts Foundation, writes fiction and is a storyteller.

McCaig's roots run deep through prairie pioneers. She is enriched through bonds of family, friends and community.

Senator Marilou McPhedran, C.M., LL.M., LL.B., LL.D.

Marilou McPhedran was the first girl to be student president of her hometown high school – Neepawa Area Collegiate Institute – the first woman student president at The University of Winnipeg, and student president at Osgoode Hall Law School and she has worked tirelessly on advancing human rights education in Manitoba and internationally. Like Nellie McClung, from Manitoba roots, her interests branched out to national (constitutional) and international human rights concerns, which she shared with her students. Through innovative teaching and experiential learning, she opened the world to her students at the University of Winnipeg Global College, launched by then-president Lloyd Axworthy in 2006.

At the Global College, McPhedran prioritized experiential and interdisciplinary learning in her classroom and in the department as a whole – a progressive approach to post-secondary education.

McPhedran was not only a professor, but her students named her their “femtor” who cultivated passion to recognize their strengths in advancing human rights. She provided ample opportunities for her students to explore new ways of learning that challenged their perceptions and encouraged critical thinking and collaboration, such as promoting dialogue and respectful listening as professional skills, rather than oppositional debate and arguments.

McPhedran has been and continues to be a change-maker in our world. As both a senator and professor, she has lived out a dedication to youth engagement that extends far beyond the mere lip service offered by many in positions of influence in our country.



Senator Mary Jane McCallum, D.M.D.

Three weeks after the passing of her mother, Mary Jane McCullum was sent to residential school outside of The Pas. She was five years old and spent 11 years of her life there, leaving Guy Hill Indian Residential School at the age of 16, completing her high school in Portage La Prairie.

As a young woman, she worked at a variety of jobs that didn't require training: nurse's aide, sewing at a sewing factory, chambermaid, at a fish plant and as a cashier at the northern store until her sister asked her why she didn't go for further education.

In the early 1970s, McCallum worked in northern Manitoba as a dental assistant, and trained on the job, then graduated from the Wescana Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences (WIAAS) in Regina with her dental nursing diploma. In 1979, she received her dental therapy diploma from the National School of Dental Therapy. In 1990, she graduated with her DMD – Doctor of Dental Medicine – from the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba.

McCallum began as an assistant professor for the Faculty of Dentistry in Churchill, Manitoba supervising fourth-year dental students, after which she provided treatment to First Nations people in northern communities, including her own reserve of Brochet, Manitoba.



From 1996 to 2000, she worked as the Regional Dental Officer for the province of Manitoba delivering dental care and treatment to First Nations. During her term as regional director, she realized more needed to be done at the government level to help improve the health of people in the north.

In 2002, she accepted a position as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Dentistry, and continued to work as a general dentist providing treatment in her home community of Brochet. She volunteered as a member of the local school committee and conducted monthly meetings with the Elders and community members, shedding light on their strengths and finding solutions to issues and problems plaguing the community. She also held prenatal and diabetes programs.

McCallum provided a children's dental program and came into the classrooms three times a year and presented on traditional healthy living, goal setting, safety and gangs. She got students to do projects, presenting their findings to the Elders, their family and their community members.

McCallum was sworn in as a Canadian Senator on Dec. 13, 2017.

Senator Patricia Bovey, FRSA, FCMA

Senator Patricia Bovey, the first gallery director and art historian ever appointed to the Senate of Canada, is also the first to install artworks in the Senate by Black Canadian artists.

Bovey, Winnipeg Art Gallery Director Emerita, is a founder of St Boniface Hospital's Buhler Gallery; the University of Winnipeg's Manitoba Arts and Culture Management Program, and MA in Curatorial Practice; the British Columbia Government House Foundation; and the National Fundraising Society Vancouver Island Chapter. From 1980 until her return to Winnipeg in 1999, she was director of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. She has been adjunct professor at both the University of Victoria and the University of Winnipeg.

Former chair of the University of Manitoba Board of Governors, she was a board member of the National Gallery of Canada (2005–2009) and the Canada Council for the Arts (1990-1993); member of the 1986 Withrow/Richard Federal Task Force on National and Regional Museums; the national board for the University of Waterloo's Canadian Center for Cultural Management (2002-2010); is a past chair of Emily Carr University's board of governors, and the Canadian Art Museum Directors Organization.

Member of Winnipeg's Public Art Committee (2003-2007), the Mayor's Task Force on Public Art (2002-2003), and past member of the University of Manitoba Press Board, she presently serves on the Eckhardt-Gramatté Foundation. She was board chair of the Centre for Contemporary Canadian Art; member of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, the Manitoba Rhodes Scholarship and Loran Scholarship Selection committees; and board member of Manitoba Artists in Healthcare and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra.

Recipient of the 2015 Winnipeg Arts Council Investors Making a Difference Award, Bovey's honours include election as Fellow of the UK's Royal Society for the Arts; Fellow of the Canadian Museums Association; the Canada 125 Medal; the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal; Winnipeg's 2002 Woman of Distinction for the Arts; the Canadian Museums Association Distinguished Service Award; the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts Medal; the 2013 Association of Manitoba Museum's inaugural Award of Merit, and awards for her books on western Canadian art.

Involved in international touring exhibitions and artist exchanges and official guest of the Japan Foundation, British Council and the government of France, she lectures widely and has been involved in special initiatives in Finland, Iceland, Norway and China. Her consulting practice focused on governance and policy, strategic and business planning for multi-disciplinary community arts organizations.

Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs and International Trade committee, she initiated the Cultural Diplomacy at the Front Stage of Canada's Foreign Policy study. Deputy chair of the Transportation and Communications Committee, and the Special Committee on the Arctic which produced the first Senate report to include Canadian artwork, she chairs the Senate's Artwork and Heritage Advisory Working Group. Executive member of the Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee, she is a member of the Senate Official Languages and Rules Committees. As acting senate speaker, she represented the speaker at international meetings. She is currently the Progressive Senate Group Liaison.



Senator Raymonde Gagné, C.M., O.M.

Raymonde Gagné was born in Saint-Pierre-Jolys, Manitoba, and has been an important advocate for French education and language, dedicating a large part of her professional career to both. She first began as a high school teacher and later became principal. In the early 1980s, she began a long productive career at the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface. Her initial appointment was as a community college teacher and she later became the program director. She subsequently held the position of Director of New Programs. In 2003, she became the first female president of the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface, a position she held until her retirement in 2014. During her tenure in that role, she spearheaded a fundraising campaign called VISION, the largest in the institution's history, which generated \$18 million for the construction of a new health sciences building. In addition, under her leadership, the former Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface officially became l'Université de Saint-Boniface in June 2011. This status allowed the university to broaden its horizon and put Saint-Boniface in step with Manitoba's other universities. Gagné's long-standing dream became a reality.

Throughout her career, she has played an active role on several committees and boards and became involved in the creation and implementation of many projects that were successful thanks to her leadership. She has contributed to the establishment of the Chambre de commerce francophone and the Centre de santé Saint-Boniface, to name a few. She was involved in creating the Conseil communauté en santé au Manitoba, now called Santé en français. She also maintained ties with various councils, organizations and establishments such as the Saint Boniface Hospital, the Société de la francophonie manitobaine and the Government of Manitoba's Advisory Council on Workforce Development.



She received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. In 2013, she also became a member of the Order of Canada and the Order of Manitoba. In 2015, she received the Prix Riel. In March 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appointed Gagné to the Senate of Canada as an independent senator.

Thanks to her tenacity, her skill at bringing people together and her deep commitment, she leaves an invaluable legacy, not only to the Université de Saint-Boniface but also to the entire Francophone community of Manitoba.

Shahina Siddiqui, LL.D.

Shahina Siddiqui moved from Pakistan to Winnipeg in 1976, shortly after first visiting the city as a tourist. She and her husband fell in love with Winnipeg and decided to raise a family here. Soon after settling in Winnipeg, a woeful inadequacy in the community revealed itself to them. Their eldest son was diagnosed with a rare neurological disease, and when he died, Siddiqui realized how little support Muslim-Canadians going through her experiences had, even regarding basic needs like funeral planning. She vowed to herself that no other family would go through what she did.

Siddiqui helped establish the Islamic Social Services Association (ISSA), and she was the inaugural volunteer executive director of both the United States and Canadian chapters. In 2003, the chapters split and Siddiqui became president of ISSA Canada, which provides family, health and social welfare services. She continues to serve ISSA-Canada as its volunteer executive director. Siddiqui sits on the National Advisory Board for the Canadian Association for Muslims with Disabilities and the National Council of Canadian Muslims. She founded the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute and co-founded the Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute and the Federation of Canadian Muslim Social Services.



She has received many local and national recognitions for her work and social justice activism which include: the YMCA/YWCA (Winnipeg) Peace Medal 2002 for her work in fostering understanding between Muslims and other religious and cultural groups in Winnipeg since the 9/11 attacks. In 2012, she was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal for her contributions to Canada. In 2016, she was awarded with the Canadian Red Cross -Humanitarian of the Year; in 2017, the RCMP Commanding Officer's Appreciation of her dedication and expertise in recognition of her expertise, dedication and professionalism in support of the RCMP and various community and cultural diversity programs; in 2019, the Honourary Doctorate of Laws - University of Manitoba; in 2016/ 2019, she was named as one of 100 "what is special about Manitoba" in the Winnipeg Free Press; in 2019 she was featured in the Manitoba Museum Wall of Immigrants who have enriched Manitoba; in 2020, ISSA-U.S.A.in appreciation for generously giving in uplifting mental health and social Services in North American Muslim community.

Siddiqui has been profiled in numerous magazines, newspapers and books, telling the stories of her life and her dedication as a thoughtful and well-spoken advocate for human rights and social justice in Canada. She is a sought-out commentator for radio and television in Manitoba and in Canada on issues regarding cultural diversity and promoting understanding between Muslims and other religious and cultural groups. She is a spiritual counselor, free-lance writer, author, speaker, educator and social justice and human rights activist.

Sheila North

Sheila North, a member of Buniboinibee Cree Nation, was elected Grand Chief of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) in September 2015. She was the first woman elected to this position. She is currently seeking election as grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. North's skills lie in understanding the issues facing the people that live in Manitoba, the history of Indigenous peoples, the geography of the land and what can be done that will make a difference.

Like Nellie McClung, North is a gifted writer and communicator. She enjoyed a career as the chief communication officer at Assembly for Manitoba Chiefs, a CBC journalist and CTV correspondent, a radio personality and a Cree translator. She recently co-produced a documentary, "1200+", exploring MMIWG2S in Canada. She is now at Legacy Bowes as the director of Strategic Partnerships, where she works to enhance capacity within Indigenous communities. She is the mother of two and a grandmother of one.

As Grand Chief, she focused on stabilizing and restoring MKO's operational capacity as one of the largest, most influential First Nations Political Tribal Organizations in the country, resulting in a significant increase in responsibility and resources for the organization. North leveraged these increased resources to bring a new energy to the MKO, advancing her work in representing the communities of MKO and launching a 10-point MKO Economic Action Plan with the full support and partnership of both provincial and federal governments in 2016. North was able to negotiate an agreement with the federal government for the Clinical Care Transformation that is now the Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin Inc., a northern Manitoba health entity led by First Nations.



Sheila North has been tireless in her work to advocate for the full recognition of Treaty rights and for the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Calls to Action, through regular media appearances and meetings with federal and provincial ministers. She has advocated at the highest levels for increased self-determination for First Nations peoples, including many meetings with the Ministers of Indigenous Services and Crown-Indigenous Relations, senior federal cabinet ministers and senior provincial ministers. In 2017, she negotiated an agreement with the province of Manitoba over autonomy of First Nations child welfare alongside fellow leaders and had an imposed provincial administration lifted off the Northern Authority. This was groundbreaking.

During her service to MKO, North oversaw the completion of a suicide prevention tour that reached more than 15 remote Northern First Nations. In 2017, she highlighted the urgent need to address the Nation suicide crisis in First Nations communities, speaking to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs, while unfortunately experiencing her own family loss of a loved one who passed away from the same tragedy at that time.

Sheila North is a community leader. A Red River College grad, she has been tasked with leading University College of the North's new Centre for Indigenous Community Development and she is overseeing the establishment of that new centre.

Sherri Walsh, LL.B.

Throughout Sherri Walsh's work and community involvement she has been successful in giving a voice to and protecting the rights of people, often the most vulnerable people: people who live in poverty, people with disabilities, Indigenous people and children. Called to the Bar of Manitoba in 1986, Walsh is the Managing Partner of Hill Sokalski Walsh LLP. Her practice covers virtually all areas of civil litigation with an emphasis on human rights and employment law, securities and insurance litigation and political and administrative law. She conducts harassment and discrimination investigations for corporations and post-secondary educational institutions and has often been retained in criminal law matters to protect the privacy rights of victims of sexual assault. She participates in and conducts mediations and arbitrations and acts as an adjudicator under the Manitoba Framework Agreement for Treaty Land entitlement.

In 2011, Walsh was appointed to be commission counsel to the Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry, the first woman in Manitoba to hold such a position.

She served as an adjudicator under the Human Rights Code (Manitoba) from 2007 to 2019 and served as the first chief adjudicator under the Code from 2012 to 2019.



Walsh is also the City of Winnipeg's first Integrity Commissioner, having been appointed to that position by Winnipeg's City Council on February 22, 2017.

She presides over discipline hearings for the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and the Mutual Fund Dealers Association and is a member of the investigation unit of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.

From 2001 to 2011, she was a part-time chair of the Appeal Commission – Workers Compensation of Manitoba.

A strong believer in the importance of education, Walsh taught Introduction to Civil Procedure at the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba for many years and a course on Poverty and the Law at the University of Winnipeg.

In 2018, Walsh was admitted as a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America – the first woman in the province to be given this honour.

In 1999, Walsh received The Manitoba Bar Association's Pro Bono award. In 2000, she received the inaugural Manitoba Human Rights Commitment Award, co-sponsored by the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Manitoba Human Rights Commission and the Community Legal Education Association. The Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities awarded her a Human Rights Star in 2006. In 2013, she was awarded Female Litigator of the Year by Benchmark Litigation Canada.

In 2016, she was awarded the inaugural Nellie Award in recognition of her work to promote social justice, human rights and the rights of women and girls in Manitoba.

In the community, Walsh served as chair of the food bank, Winnipeg Harvest, for four years and volunteer red with that organization since 1995. She served for many years as a director of LEAF Manitoba and LEAF's National Legal Committee. She is currently a director on the Board of the University of Winnipeg Foundation and the Manito Ahbee Festival.

In truly Nellie McClung fashion, Walsh is both a fighter and a trailblazer!

Shirley Kalyniuk

Shirley Kalyniuk has set an example by encouraging women to break barriers and become involved in the democratic process.

The first woman municipal politician in the town of Rosssburn, elected in 1983. She was elected the first woman mayor of Rosssburn, a position she held until 2014. Kalyniuk is the recipient of many honours, including the Rural Economic Leadership Award, the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee medal, the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee medal, and the LCIF Melvin Jones Award for Dedicated Humanitarian Services. In 1999, she was elected as the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) Midwestern Urban District Director. In 2006, she was elected Urban Vice-President, a position she held until 2010.

In 2014, Kalyniuk retired from municipal politics after 31 years. In 2015, she was the recipient of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' prestigious Ann MacLean Award for Outstanding Service by a Woman in Municipal Politics. She continues to be very engaged in her community and serves on the Parkland Employment Resource Centre Board and Lifelong Education for Adults: Reading and Numeracy. She chaired the local Age-Friendly committee, the Affordable Senior Housing committee. She is vice-chair on the Transportation Options Network for Seniors. She is secretary for the Rosssburn Senior Resource Council and Handi-van committees. Kalyniuk is a member since 1978 of the Rosssburn Health Centre Auxiliary as well as president since 2017. In 2021, Kalyniuk was made secretary for the newly formed Community Pantry – Rosssburn Food Bank Board.



Shirley Render

Shirley Render is a trailblazer, role model and mentor for many. She has been described as a visionary leader who has consistently been able to inspire and motivate others. Her CV is a testament to her tenacity, skills and success in all that she has done. Her range of skills has garnered the respect of friends and colleagues. Words such as inspiring, innovative, critical thinker, organized and collaborative best describe her. Her passion, boundless energy and her focus have been transferable throughout her career changes.

As a volunteer, social worker, licensed pilot, aviation historian, author, provincial legislator, executive director and curator, Render has had a significant impact on the city, province and country.

She helped to create (1960s) the visionary VON Home Help Program which eventually morphed into Manitoba's Home Care program. Her volunteerism at the Aviation Museum in the 70s and 80s moved the Western Canada Aviation Museum into a nationally and internationally recognized museum with the Province of Manitoba awarding her the Prix Manitoba Award in 1990. Her professional work as the executive director and curator resulted in a "Royal" designation to the Museum in 2014 making it the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada – again bringing honor to the city, province and country. It is understandable why its board of directors honored her with the title Executive Director Emeritus when she retired.



Render is also Canada's first professional female aviation historian (1984). She also authored two ground-breaking books on Canada's aviation history. She unveiled the story of Canada's "lost women pilots" that describe their evolution of roles in aviation and recorded their courage and perseverance as they fought for their careers. Her second book unearthed the truth of James A. Richardson's foresight to create what should have been Canada's national airline. Her research helped provide the proof for the re-naming of Winnipeg's International Airport after Richardson.

Her dedicated work as St. Vital's MLA and the first female MLA for St. Vital earned her the Winnipeg BIZ Association Exemplar Award in 1998 for leading the successful revitalization effort in Old St Vital. Render was the first MLA to receive this award. Normally the city does not give this award to a sitting MLA. Bringing to the City in 2014 the "Royal" designation for the Aviation Museum as well as revitalization work in St Vital were just two of the reasons for the city to name a park in St Vital after her in 2017 – Shirley Render Park.

Render's outstanding contributions in the world of aviation brought her the honour to be inducted in 2020 into Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame – another plus for our province since Render is the first woman from Manitoba to be so honoured. She is the only woman among three Canadian men being inducted in 2020. Since 1973, there have been 246 Canadians inducted of which 10 are women.

Sophie May Ryan

(1876 – 1952)

Sophie May Ryan is a trailblazer mainly for her notoriety as the North's fabulous Diamond Queen. Born in London, England in December 1876, she was tiny in height but apparently beautiful and possessed a lovely singing voice.

She performed in music halls in London in her early teens and then took off on a tour into South Africa where she was taken on a tour of the diamond fields of Kimberley. This is where she was first given her name the Diamond Queen after she was showered with rough diamonds following her performances on stage.

Ryan returned to London, married Captain Law and in 1902 they settled in Toronto. When he died, Ryan moved to the Pas, arriving in 1911. Why, is a mystery. The town in those days was not exactly London, England or Toronto. The mining boom was years away and it was still a very tough frontier town with main activities of logging, hunting and trapping. But Ryan made it her home for 40 years. The Diamond Queen quickly became a bootlegger. Northerners were tolerant of bootlegging in those days and the Manitoba Provincial Police had a difficult job enforcing an unpopular liquor law. When town council ordered a raid on Ryan's place, news of the raid was leaked. According to legend, the police were greeted by a large crowd who stood around to watch the fun.

According to the Northern Mail, when the police squad started pounding on the door and demanded admittance, some of the Diamond Queen's guests became worried that their names might appear on the court docket as "found-ins." "Relax and enjoy your drink," the Queen said. "I can handle this situation." As she headed for the door, she began removing various pieces of clothing, and when she opened the door and, making out that she was being assaulted, grabbed one of the policemen and yelled: "Rape! Rape!" The cops, startled by this unexpected counterattack, retired in some confusion to the jeers of the spectators.

In 1915, Ryan formed an alliance with a local blacksmith Gilbert Lacroix and they became a couple. Together they opened a roadhouse on the Hudson Bay Railway to service two mines in the boom district until the railway siding was moved. There were some rumours that they were deliberately cut out of the business because of Ryan's unladylike behaviour and liquor sales.

Ryan died in 1952 and she is buried in the Lakeside cemetery.

HOSTESS OF THE NORTH The Curtain Falls For Diamond Queen

THE PAS, Man. (Special)—Sophie Ryan, known by many in the north as the Diamond Queen, died early Monday in St. Anthony's hospital at The Pas. She was 72.

The name Diamond Queen is said to have originated from her youthful days as a dancer in Capetown, South Africa. The tale went that natives would throw raw diamonds at her feet as she danced. Sophie Ryan herself told her friends often of this native custom.

Sophie was one of the best-known women in Northern Manitoba. She came to The Pas before the first world war from Prince Albert and in 1915 moved to mile 82 on the Hudson Bay railway.

In 1917 she opened up a stopping place where she provided a welcome haven to hundreds of prospectors, mining engineers, trappers and freighters and just about every one else in the north travelling to and from the Beech Lake mining district which was in the midst of a boom at that time.

When the two mines in the boom district, the Laguna and Bingo, closed down the railway siding was moved to Wekusko at mile 81 in 1922.

Sophie Ryan stayed on at mile 82 and when her partner, Gilbert Lacroix who had been with her since she went north, died three years ago, she kept the little house alone until failing health forced her to leave.

Much of Sophie Ryan's past is not known, but it is believed that she was born in England.

Sophie had many friends among Canada and during a recent visit of members of the Manitoba legislature, she was among the people on the platform at the station at Wekusko where she was introduced to Premier Douglas Campbell. She shook hands but gave him no further thought as she scanned the faces in the rail car searching for someone she knew. Then she turned to the premier and said: "Premier, did you say? How come you're premier? Where's Bracken anyway?"

John Bracken, while premier of Manitoba, often visited the little town of Wekusko. It was he the Diamond Queen had looked for on that railway car.

Funeral services for Sophie Ryan have not yet been arranged, but burial will be at Lakeside cemetery, The Pas.

Susan A. Thompson, O.M., LL.D.

Susan Thompson is a well-known and highly regarded leader and made many firsts in Manitoba history. She is a proud Winnipegger, a proud Manitoban and a proud Canadian. Thompson was Winnipeg's first, so far only female mayor, elected in 1992 and again in 1995. Among other trailblazing achievements, she was the first woman to own her own family business, the first woman Rotarian in Manitoba, the first woman Consul General at the Canadian Consulate in Minneapolis, and the first woman and founding president of the University of Winnipeg Foundation.

In Thompson's autobiography "Her Worship: Moments in History, Moments in Time", she describes many moments that demonstrate her leadership and reflect the spirit of Nellie McClung. In fact, she shares a great story in a chapter leading up to her victory as mayor whereby all mayoral candidates attended a forum at the Walker Theatre. While sitting on the stage and waiting for her turn to speak, Thompson reflected on the fact that this was where Nellie McClung presented her parody about women's right to vote. She understood the significance of this great historical event for our province that took place in 1914, and for the first time in the campaign, allowed herself to think ahead and believe that history could be made again.



Thompson was faced with many issues during her time as mayor. Most significantly, she led the city of Winnipeg in a fight for its life during the 1997 Flood of the Century. With the help of a tremendous team from all levels of government, including the Canadian Armed Forces, Winnipeg was relatively unscathed once the crest reached the city. Thompson recalls this time as one that showed how strong and resilient the citizens of Winnipeg are and will always remember the kindness of others during this difficult time in the history of our city.

Among other achievements that has impacted our city is Thompson's hard work and determination as a fundraiser. As president and CEO of the University of Winnipeg Foundation, Thompson helped to achieve a record-breaking fundraising campaign, the largest in the university's history. And most recently, and still to this day, she is involved in fundraising for the Winnipeg Art Gallery's new Inuit Art Centre, Qaumajuq, which opened in March 2021. Thompson coordinated the opening.

As Thompson states in her book "Every chapter of my life has been done with 100 per cent commitment and devotion to the cause at hand."

Susan Hart-Kulbaba

Susan Hart-Kulbaba has devoted her personal and professional life to the eradication of gender-based discrimination, workers' rights and social justice for all. She was a member and then a staff person of the Retail Clerks Union (now United Food and Commercial Workers Local 832) and in 1985 became the first federation coordinator (now called executive director) of the Manitoba Federation of Labour. Here she was a driving force in the campaign to dedicate three of the MFL's executive council seats to women vice-presidents, ensuring that women's perspective would be included in policy discussions and decision making. In 1989, she became the first woman elected to the presidency of the MFL and carried her passion for improving the voices of women in their own unions and the lives of women in the workplace throughout her six-year tenure. The executive council was expanded to accommodate vice-president seats for Aboriginal workers and Workers of Colour.

In order to realize social justice goals, she built relationships with community groups: Choices, the Action Canada Network, the Medicare Alert Coalition, the Coalition to Save Our Services, the Manitoba Childcare Coalition, the Coalition for Fairness, the Manitoba Council of Health Care Unions, the Gay and Lesbian Resource Centre, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Osborne House, Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women and the United Way.

She continues to be a passionate advocate for those discriminated against and for women, especially around the topics of violence against women, child care, pay equity and women's health. Hart-Kulbaba has never been afraid to speak truth to power, regardless of the consequences. When possible, she uses logic, laced with a dose of humour. Where not possible, she uses actions, including political action. A trademark of her leadership style is her ability to work in partnership with like-minded individuals and/or organizations. As a result of her courageous stances, she is one of the decision makers in Manitoba.



Tabitha Langel

Tall Grass Prairie Bread Company is well-known in and around Winnipeg for its gooey cinnamon buns and its organic local baking and preserves, located at the Forks and in the Wolseley neighbourhood. Tabitha Langel is one of the trailblazers behind the iconic company, which started three decades ago. Langel, a farm-born-and-raised former social worker, her husband Paul and Lyle Barkman, a Tall Grass co-founder are long-time members of the Grain of Wheat Church community in Wolseley. In the late 1980s, the church was studying food and land issues.

“Back then, farmers were still getting the same price for a bushel of wheat that they got a hundred years ago,” Langel told the Canadian Mennonite magazine. “A record number of small farms were being sold and agri-business was taking off.”



A small bread co-op grew out of the church’s concerns and its desire for a more communal life in its neighbourhood, using the local church’s kitchen. They baked bread every Saturday morning. Eventually, the group of bakers decided to invest in a mill and purchase grain directly from local organic farmers. The demand for bread became overwhelming which resulted in the business being formed with support from farmers and the church community. The original owners group consisted of five members, four from Grain of Wheat and one from St. Ignatius Church.

When the bank would not give Langel and her partners a loan to purchase a bakery, many in the bread co-op lent them money and they took out personal loans. They also had to keep their part-time jobs, but eventually, it became successful. Now, Tall Grass Prairie – the dream of Langel and her four original partners employs nearly 60 people. Langel and her partners continue to foster local trade, links with farmers and job creation.

Image Source: Winnipeg Free Press

Tannis Mindell

As a career civil servant with the Government of Manitoba, Tannis Mindell's work often went unnoticed by the public, primarily because she has never been one to seek the limelight. Throughout her career, particularly in the early years, she often found herself as the only woman in the room. As she worked her way through the ranks of the civil service, she brought a woman's perspective to important decisions that often impacted the lives of Manitobans.

Mindell's first job after graduating from the University of Manitoba was as a summer student with the Department of Continuing Education and Manpower (a name which would never pass muster today). Mindell continued her rise through the ranks of the civil service, eventually being appointed Deputy Minister of Family Services and then Family Services and Housing.

In 2003, Mindell was appointed Secretary to Treasury Board, the first woman in that role in Manitoba's history, and a role she kept for eight years before retiring in 2011. The Secretary of Treasury Board is one of the most difficult jobs in the civil service, as it means enacting the mandate of the governing party, while also being keenly aware that real Manitobans are impacted by any increases or decreases in spending. As the first woman Secretary to Treasury Board, she led by example, showing that women are more than capable of holding the top jobs in government, and the next two Secretaries to Treasury Board were also women.



Mindell led by example, exemplifying hard work, fairness and honesty, while inspiring her staff to fulfill their responsibilities in a positive way. Her management style was collaborative, not confrontational, but also straightforward and pragmatic. During her time in Treasury Board, she worked with other Deputy Ministers to make often difficult processes more cooperative, with a concerted effort toward meeting common goals. With an eye toward the future generation of Civil Servants, and despite increasing responsibilities in some of the most challenging senior positions in government, she continued to identify and mentor future leaders throughout her career.

Following her retirement from the civil service, Mindell was appointed as chair of the Board of the newly amalgamated Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Corporation. She led the Corporation through its challenging first years bringing together two formerly separate entities before retiring fully in 2016.

In addition to her career as a civil servant, Mindell has spent much time working for causes close to her heart and community. She has been a board member for the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, as well as a member of the selection committee for the Loran Scholarship which provides four-year undergraduate scholarships to students based on character, service and the promise of leadership. She has served as co-chair of the preview event for the Art ian Bloom installation at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Rady Jewish Community Centre and is an active fundraiser for the Riverview Health Centre Foundation.

Tannis Richardson, C.M., LL.D.

Tannis Richardson is a storyteller, an advocate, a teacher by example and has used her resources, energy and determination to make a difference in many areas of this prairie province that she loves so much. Her philanthropic givings reach deeply into the community locally and internationally, making it possible for many programs to be initiated and sustained and so many people have benefitted.

Her leadership contributions have had a positive impact on many groups as she served as a chair, advisor, campaign leader, spokesperson or advocate. Whether it was for an organization, her children's schools, a national or international association her leadership modelled the roles admirably and we all learned.

She has served in the health field in such areas as cardiovascular disease, kidney health, Aids research and had several breakthroughs with Juvenile Diabetes research and with establishing needed funding partners and changes in health care provisions.



Tannis Richardson supports arts and culture in so many ways: Assiniboine Park, Chief Peguis Heritage Park, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Art Gallery, Manitoba Opera Association, Rainbow Stage, Western Canada Aviation Museum, Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg, Canadian Association of Youth Orchestras and The Sistema program at WSO for music lessons for inner-city students. Our province has world class models as a result of this support.

Richardson is creative and generates great ideas. She has a "yes" view of life welcoming knowledge about a worthy endeavour and giving countless hours to make it happen. She was one of the early members of the Winnipeg Art Gallery and has stayed in touch and continued her support in many ways over the years.

A trailblazer is inquisitive, intuitive, challenging and challenged, curious, fearless, inclusive, independent and undaunted. Richardson can stand alone against all odds and can inspire and engage, lead and build a team with an open mind and get the job done. This describes Tannis Richardson and along with her many endeavours, she is truly a wonderful example of a trailblazer.

Taylor Morriseau

Taylor Morriseau is an Indigenous scholar and PhD candidate in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Manitoba. She is also a member of the Diabetes Research Envisioned and Accomplished in Manitoba (DREAM) Theme within the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba. In 2018, she was awarded a CIHR Vanier Scholarship to examine gene-environment interactions underlying type 2 diabetes among Indigenous youth. Her research integrates basic science and pre-clinical tools with Indigenous knowledge on traditional foods in pursuit of culturally safe therapeutic strategies.

Morriseau is proud to represent her own community, Peguis First Nation, in her commitment to broader scientific and societal challenges encompassing Indigenous health, genomics and science policy. She is an alumna of Equal Voice's Daughters of the Vote, Indigenize the Senate, the Summer Internship for Indigenous Peoples in Genomics (SING) and currently serves on the inaugural Chief Science Advisor's Youth Council and the Institute Advisory Board for CIHR's Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH). This reflects her commitment to building a more equitable scientific landscape that reflects the diversity and unique needs of the next generation.



In 2019, she was one of two women from the University of Manitoba named as Canada's Most Powerful Women Top 100 by Women's Executive Network (WXN). Launched in 2003, WXN's annual awards celebrate the incredible accomplishments of 100 Canadian women who have achieved great things for our society. Her research and mentorship efforts have also been recognized by numerous distinctions, including a University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumni Award, Corporate Knights Top 30 under 30 Sustainability Leaders, a CBC Manitoba Future 40 Award and the inaugural TD Bank Group Student Award. She continues to utilize this platform to advocate for Indigenous health equity at the local, national and international levels.

Thanadelthur/Tthainaltth'er

(1697-1717)

Thanadelthur was born in 1697 and played a crucial role in the expansion of the fur trade in the early 1700s. At a time when Dene and Cree were traditional enemies, Thanadelthur was able to forge a peace between the two Nations. She was a brave, intelligent, Dene woman who when in her teens was captured by the Cree in a raid on her encampment in 1713. She was enslaved for more than a year. She escaped and came across the HBC York Factory Fort which was governed by Governor James Knight who needed a translator to help him negotiate with the Cree and the Dene.

Knight relied on Thanadelthur's bravery and tenacity to help shape peace between the rivaling two nations. Thanadelthur's efforts allowed the Hudson's Bay Company to expand their fur trade monopoly from the area of York Factory, on the Hayes River, into the far North.

Unfortunately, Thanadelthur's life was cut short because of illness but her contribution in the making of peace between the Dene and Cree had a lasting impact on both Nations, and the HBC and her inspiring story survives in Dene oral tradition and the journals of the Hudson's Bay Company. Through oral history, the Dene people talk about how beautiful she was and that she chose a red jacket. The colour red is very significant in the telling of the story of Thanadelthur and her contact with the HBC.



On August 13, 2017, a 300-year commemoration took place in Churchill, Manitoba. Many people of the Dene and Cree descent congregated in Churchill to honour and commemorate Thanadelthur, many of them wore red. For her contribution to Manitoba and Canadian history, Thanadelthur is commemorated as a Person of National Historic Significance in 2000, and a Historical Role Model for the Youth in 2002.

The Very Reverend the Hon. Lois M. Wilson, C.C., OOnt

Lois Wilson is a minister, author, diplomat, former senator and advocate for human rights in the church, Canadian parliament and the world.

After graduating from United College (now The University of Winnipeg) in 1947 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master's in Divinity (1950) and raising four children, Wilson was ordained as a minister in the United Church of Canada in 1965, where she ministered alongside her husband in Winnipeg, (1954-1960), Thunder Bay, (1960-1969), Hamilton (1969-1978) and Kingston (1978-1980).

Her impact within the United Church has been vast. Wilson was active in the World Council of Churches as a regional president and was also an advocate for the ecumenical movement (the unity of Christian churches). She is widely known for being the first woman moderator of the United Church of Canada from 1980-1982, paving the way -- as she often did -- for progressive developments within the church and its governance.

From 1983 to 1989 she served as co-director of the Ecumenical Forum of Canada and also served as a president of the Canadian Council of Churches (1976-1979) as well as the World Council of Churches (1983-1991).

She is recognized as a Companion of the Order of Canada and received the U.N. Pearson Peace Prize. Her efforts to see the world bettered did not only exist within her ministry at her church but expanded into the political and cultural world.

She is also a member of the Order of Ontario and a director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, which honoured her in 2014 for her public engagement. In 1998, Wilson was appointed to the Canadian Senate upon the recommendation of Jean Chrétien. She served in the chamber as an Independent until her retirement in 2002. She served as Chancellor of Lakehead University from 1991 to 2000.

Wilson has authored 10 books on topics such as ethics, interpretations of biblical stories and feminism. She has received 14 honorary degrees, including one from the United States. Lois Wilson, through speaking, writing, and advocating, has made a large impact on the development of Canadian human rights and social justice.



Theresa Oswald

Theresa Oswald, like Nellie McClung, began her career as a teacher. Oswald brought a magical combination of intellect, creativity, and verve to Glenlawn Collegiate where she taught English for 11 years. She was a natural choice to promote student leadership as the Coordinator of Glenlawn's Student Leadership Program. Oswald later taught at Hastings School prior to her promotion to the vice principalship of Victor Mager School. Oswald cannot help but to inspire, mentor and empower others to do their best work, just as she did with her students and colleagues.

Oswald, like McClung, is a powerful orator who uses wit, humour and heart to shine a light on issues. No stranger to loss, setback and controversy, Oswald has always followed her moral compass, doing what she feels is the right thing, even when the path is not smooth or unanimously popular. McClung would agree with a favorite quote of Oswald's: "Well behaved women rarely make history."

Oswald has accomplished several 'firsts' throughout her careers. She was the first NDP candidate to win the Seine River riding. She was the first female Minister for Healthy Living in Manitoba. She was the first female chair of the Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet, and the first cabinet minister in Manitoba to give birth while holding office. She was the first female Minister of Health in Manitoba and remains the longest consecutive serving Minister of Health in Canada since the introduction of Medicare. She is currently the first female CEO of Doctors Manitoba.



There is no shortage of accomplishments in those firsts. As Minister of Health, Oswald advocated for the construction of Manitoba's first mental health ER, an urgent care clinic dedicated to cancer patients, and the new Women's Hospital. She worked tirelessly to fund oral cancer drugs, introduce a fertility tax credit, promote organ donation and require defibrillators in public places. She oversaw record increases in the number of physicians and nurses practicing in Manitoba.

In February 2013, Oswald was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work driving the government to fully fund oral cancer drugs. Tellingly, she was nominated by the Canadian Cancer Society, the only Health Minister in Canada to be chosen by CCS to receive the award.

Although she downplays this, Oswald has lived experience with challenges faced by working women, including breast-feeding her infant son Jack in her legislative office and juggling family priorities with a hectic schedule. Oswald humbly recognizes that her late husband Sam's strength permitted successful coparenting that many women cannot rely upon, and now, as a single parent, compassion for women's struggles is more than ever in her heart.

Oswald is not just admired as a trailblazer, she is cherished as a woman with humanity, vitality, and the sense to keep her priorities straight. Her friendships are deep and lasting. She brings fun with her, even to work.

Brave, wise leadership coupled with a brilliant mind and spiced with infectious joie de vivre.

Tina Jones, O.M.

Tina Jones is a highly successful entrepreneur, community builder and philanthropist. She is the owner of Jones & Company Wine Merchants and principal of Wine and Drinks College Manitoba (WDCM). Jones is also partner in The Rink Training Centre, and partner in Winnipeg's Green Carrot Juice Company.

Jones's life and work have centred in Manitoba, where her community service, innovation and accomplishments have been recognized with the Order of Manitoba, Manitoba's highest honour (2020). She has been named by the Women's Executive Network as one of Canada's 100 most powerful women (2018); the Association of Fundraising Professionals Manitoba has named her Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year (2017); and the University of Manitoba honoured her with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2018.

In all her endeavors she works in every way toward equity; she understands the immigrant experience, she mentors women starting out in business, she empowers women, and indeed everyone she encounters, to achieve great things, she works toward reform, she uses her power and influence to effect more change and she works tirelessly for what she believes is right.



Image Source: Thomas Fricke

Jones and her sister were the first women to hold a private wine store license in the province. Jones founded Wine and Drinks College Manitoba (WDCM), the partner school that has grown from the Jones & Company endeavor. WDCM is the first private wine-focused educational institution in Manitoba certified by the Canadian government and the first institution in Manitoba to offer courses and programs through or accredited by the Wine and Spirits Education Trust (London, UK), the Wine Scholar Guild (USA) and the Canadian Association of Professional Sommeliers (affiliated with the Association de la Sommellerie Internationale, based in Paris, France).

As a builder of sports in Manitoba, Jones has made a remarkable contribution through The Rink to help build a first-of-its kind \$25-million facility in south Winnipeg and to develop multi-faceted hockey programming opportunities as innovative as they are successful. While this suite of sports business developments is world-class and innovative in and of itself, the impact on women is immense. With her leadership, The Rink programming has also developed women's and girls' programming at the same time as the development of the men's and boys' programs.

As board member of the Health Sciences Centre Foundation since 2013 and chair since 2015, Jones is credited with fundraising more than \$50 million in the last five years, including an exceptional \$17.5 million in revenue in 2018-19.

In her business work, she applies social justice as part of what she does. In her community work, she is ready to apply hours of her own energy and significant contributions of her own money before asking others to do the same. She has changed the fabric of our province for the better in this community work, in her sports leadership, and in her innovative businesses and mentorship. The impact of her work will continue to be felt for a long time to come.

Tina Keeper, O.M., M.S.M., B.A., Litt.D.

Tina Keeper is a Cree woman who is a member of Norway House First Nation in Northern Manitoba. She is a film, television and theatre producer, actor, activist and former member of parliament. She discovered her passion for the arts at the Winnipeg Indian and Métis Friendship Centre back in 1980, and it flourished through the acting program at the University of Winnipeg.

Keeper won a Gemini award for acting in 1997 for her portrayal of RCMP Officer Michelle Kenidi in the long-running television series *North of 60*. She was the first Indigenous person to win a Gemini for a leading role on a dramatic TV series in Canada. In her role as an honorary witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Keeper was a producer with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's highly acclaimed production of "Going Home Star," guided by Indian Residential School Survivors. Keeper was also the MP for the federal riding of Churchill from 2006-2008. She was the first Indigenous woman to serve as a MP in Manitoba.

Keeper has a BA in theatre from the University of Winnipeg and trained at the Centre for Indigenous Theatre, the Banff Centre and the Sundance Institute. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, is a member of the advisory Committee to Urban Shaman Gallery, is on the advisory committee to Red Cross Manitoba, was an honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and is a member of the Order of Manitoba and Canadians for a New Partnership. Keeper is a recipient of an Aboriginal Achievement Award, a Gemini Award, a Meritorious Service Medal, a Canadian Civil Liberties Association award for Public Engagement, a Canadian Screen Awards Lifetime Achievement award, a University of Winnipeg Distinguished Alumni Award and an Honourary Doctorate of Letters from Wilfred Laurier University.



Tracy Patterson

Tracy Patterson has been a trailblazer in the Winnipeg Police Service in many ways. Patterson's work in the Community Relations Unit (CRU) changed opinions, perspectives and greatly influenced a more informed and considerate approach to the LGBTQ2+ community at every level in the Winnipeg Police Service.

Patterson's biggest contribution to changing the culture within the service has always been who she is. She's always willing to have a conversation about tough issues, she gives people space to figure things out and she's also been the first openly gay officer that many have known. Patterson has started conversations that allow the police to better respond to the LGBTQ2+ community. Although unintentional, some had an insensitivity toward individuals in the LGBTQ2+ community because they didn't understand some of the community realities.

Even though there is some contention when the topic of the LGBTQ2+ community and police comes up now, Patterson was the officer who was responsible for the police taking part in Pride in 2013 to 2017. She singlehandedly made the most significant strides towards linking the LGBTQ2+ community and the police community. She's also done ground-breaking work with youth and individuals at Graffiti Gallery to build bridges between police and those with complex relationships with police.

One of the most significant shifts in culture is attributed to the LGBTQ2+ training. She was the one who developed and implemented training for the WPS. The training provides information about LGBTQ2+ history, experience, including her own and appropriate language. This training is mandatory for all police and civilian supervisors, as well as new recruits and cadets.

Patterson has helped her police colleagues understand things better. Watching an increasing divide between her LGBTQ2+ community and her police family has been very hard for Patterson.

Because of Patterson's efforts, police members and civilian staff have a place to feel comfortable to talk about their own gender, sexual identity or the gender and/or sexual identity of their own family members.

This wasn't possible until Patterson came along.



Verna J. Kirkness, C.M., O.M.

Verna Jane Kirkness is a member of the Fisher River Cree Nation, pioneer and lifelong advocate of excellence in Indigenous education who has been influential in Canadian Indigenous policy and practice. She has inspired countless students and educators in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and furthered institutions of distinction in Indigenous education for future generations.

It all began as a childhood dream for Kirkness who loved school and secretly dreamed of becoming a teacher. With no role models, over the course of her education on the reserve, she managed to keep her dream alive by becoming a teacher, a principal, a counsellor, a supervisor of schools, a curriculum consultant, then entering the area of policy development in the 1970s. She became the first education director of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood (Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs) followed by her position as education director for the National Indian Brotherhood (Assembly of First Nations). With these organizations she played a key role in developing new directions in both the policies of the Manitoba Chiefs, *Wahbung: Our Tomorrows* (1971) and in 1972 national landmark policy of Indian Control of Indian Education. These two major works have shaped the educational agenda of First Nations education in Manitoba and across the country to the present day.



In 1981, Kirkness continued her career at the University of British Columbia as the Director of the Native Indian Teacher Education Program. This led to other appointments where she worked to extend new programs, cultural enrichment, access and support services to Indigenous students. She created the Ts'kel Graduate Program and became the first director of the First Nations House of Learning and was instrumental in the conception and construction of the First Nations Longhouse, which serves as a home away from home for Indigenous students. She is an associate professor emeritus of the University of British Columbia.

Kirkness is the author of several books including her autobiography: *Creating Space, My Life and Work in Indigenous Education* (2013). As well, she has contributed chapters to books and articles in a number of education journals in Canada and internationally. Probably the most widely read is the article co-authored with Dr. Ray Barnhardt entitled *First Nations and Higher Education: The Four R's - Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility* first published in 1993 in *Knowledge Across Cultures: Universities East and West*, published in English, French and Chinese.

Kirkness has received numerous awards spanning more than five decades. Among them are the Golden Eagle Feather Award (1988) Canadian Educator of the Year (1990), National Aboriginal Achievement Award (1994), Canadian Who's Who (2001), Order of Canada (1998), Order of Manitoba (2007), the Queen's Diamond Jubilee (2012) and honorary doctorates. The Verna J. Kirkness Institute of Higher Learning at Fisher River (2002) and Verna J. Kirkness Science and Engineering Program have been named in her honor (2008). Among the honours she has received are Eagle Feathers, the highest honour conferred by Aboriginal people.

Wilma Derksen, O.M.

If you are Manitoban, you know this story: the story of Candace Derksen.

In November 1984, Wilma and Cliff Derksen's 13-year-old daughter, Candace, went missing on her way home from school in Winnipeg, Canada. It wasn't until 22 years later, in 2011, that a suspect was identified and eventually he was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced. However, upon appeal, he was subject to a second trial which ended in an acquittal on October 18, 2017.

It's been over 34 years since Candace was abducted. Her story still lives on. And today, her legacy shines brighter than ever. Cliff and Wilma will never have "closure" but they do have forgiveness. And what Wilma Derksen and her family have since gone on to do is remarkable, unprecedented and simply beautiful. Derksen has influenced victims, offenders and the community by telling her story. She's also had an impact by facilitating support group of survivors of homicide, organizing dialogues between victims and inmates in prison, conducting trainings, giving lectures, participating in panel discussions, presenting her insights to the justice system and addressing victims' needs at restorative justice conferences throughout Canada and the United States.



Derksen is a coach/therapist, an instructor at life story writing, a pastor at Maplecrest Church and a published author. She remains a consultant for Manitoba Justice. She is a consultant for the Correction Services Canada, the RCMP, the Law Commission of Canada and the Solicitor General.

She has help found numerous programs, including Child Find Manitoba, Family Survivors of Homicide, Safe Justice Encounters, Voice of Resilience, Victim Companions, Candace House and the Paying Forward Project.

Derksen is an international speaker and consultant on victimization and criminal justice. She has presented to hundreds of audiences who describe her as inspiring and insightful. She is often sought out to be a plenary speaker in conferences, she has led numerous trainings and workshops for non-profit organizations as well as the business sector, she has provided inspirational talks for fundraisers and other events and she is an experienced group facilitator. Her words are often used by numerous media channels, some of which include the Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, the American Broadcasting Company (ABC), Chatelaine, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), and all Manitoba media outlets.

Wilma Derksen's real passion has always been to be known as an author. It was this writing passion that helped her find expression for her grief. She is a graduate of Creative Communication from Red River Community College, has worked as a Western Regional Editor for ten years, authored six books regarding trauma and murder, and published two historical novels. Now as a Certified Executive Coach, she is using her coaching opportunities to help others find the story within themselves.

In 2018, Derksen saw the opening of Candace house, a place she spearheaded that provides comfort, support and refuge for victims and survivors of crime, within walking distance of the law courts building in Winnipeg so victims of serious crime have a place for comfort.

GROUPS

Council of Women of Winnipeg

The Council of Women of Winnipeg (CWW), established in 1894, has for the last 125 years worked to improve the quality of life for women and their families in the city. It is a vibrant, pro-active, nonpartisan, nonprofit volunteer council of women, reflective of the diversity of society, influencing political decision-making and public attitudes. Today there are federate (groups/organizations) members, as well as individual members. The CWW was instrumental in the creation of the Children's Hospital in 1907, supported the establishment of city libraries, playgrounds and recreation centres, presenting briefs to city council, holding public forums on civic elections and most recently has been involved in water/ waste issues, housing, violence in the city, transportation reform, sustainable development and urban sprawl. The Council of Women of Winnipeg is a federate member of the Provincial Council of Women (PCWM) and in turn part of the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) and the International Council of Women (ICN). The ICN is one of the few nonpartisan, non-governmental, voluntary organizations with standing at the United Nations -- a voice for women around the world

Founding President was Lady Agnes Schultz (nee Farquerson) wife of the Lt. Governor of Manitoba, Sir John Schultz. Other presidents and members included Annie Bond, a nurse and philanthropist who established the Children's Hospital, Nellie McClung who represented the Political Equality League (PEL), Margaret McWilliams, a journalist and lecturer, and wife of Lt. Governor of Manitoba Roland McWilliams, Cora Hind, agricultural journalist for the Manitoba Free Press and Edith Rogers, the first woman MLA elected in Manitoba in 1920.



Council of Women of Winnipeg Inc.

In 1999 the CWW was the winner of the YW-YMCA "Women of Distinction Award," a fitting tribute to the women of Winnipeg who continue to advocate for the welfare of all Winnipeggers.

Founders of the first Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Thrift shops – Selma Loewen, Sara Stoesz, Linie Friesen, Susan Giesbrecht, Agatha Friesen, Justina Baerg and more.

Teachers. Entrepreneurs. Wives. Mothers. Thrifters. Trailblazers. These resilient Mennonite women mobilized their communities to help those in need locally and globally. Their creativity, determination and drive to make a difference sparked a network of MCC Thrift shops with locations across Canada, the United States and even inspired a thrift shop in Lebanon. In 1972, Selma Loewen, Sara Stoesz, Linie Friesen, Susan Giesbrecht, Agatha Friesen and Justina Baerg opened the very first volunteer-run thrift shops in support of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC); a non-profit organization that works locally and globally alongside communities to meet basic human needs and work for peace and justice.

In the early 1970s, MCC's material resources aid program shifted its scope. The second-hand clothing collected from Mennonite congregations in Manitoba to be sent worldwide was no longer viable as attention shifted to supporting local economies in developing nations. Loewen gathered her friends

together, and they brainstormed what to do about the bundles of good-quality clothing they had been collecting from their church congregations. Out of that conversation came a creative and timeless solution: to sell the clothing and give the profit to support MCC's global relief, development and peacebuilding efforts.



Left to right are Linie Friesen, Selma Loewen, Susan Giesbrecht and Sara Stoesz, the four women initially responsible for starting the MCC Self Help Centre in Altona in 1972, now the Altona MCC Gift & Thrift Shop. (MCC photo)

The team brought their idea of a thrift shop to the women's group at the Altona Mennonite, Bergthaler Mennonite and Evangelical Mennonite Mission churches. Together they fundraised \$125 to cover the first month of the shop's rent and called it the Altona Community Self Help Centre. Opening the doors to the public in 1972, they exceeded expectations and collected \$1,000 in the first six weeks of sales.

This "mustard seed" of an idea sprouted quickly after their store opened. Around the same time, Steinbach's Agatha Friesen gathered the presidents of different women's groups, and together they organized and opened the second thrift shop for MCC in Manitoba. The Altona and Steinbach shops both held grand openings in the spring of 1972.

Similar plans were in motion under Justina Baerg's leadership, who opened MCC's first thrift shops in Winnipeg's west end neighbourhood. Thanks to her energy and initiative, a thrift shop opened on Watt St. in July 1972, and a second shop opened on Sargent Ave. in November of that same year. From there, it was only a matter of time before MCC Thrift shops were opening across the province and country. Communities embraced these thrift shops as a creative and engaging solution to local issues of poverty and isolation while also bringing people together to bolster their own neighbourhoods and support communities worldwide.

Today, there are 16 MCC Thrift shops throughout the province, contributing nearly \$3 million annually toward MCC's work in Manitoba and worldwide. Currently, there are nearly 100 shops in Canada and the United States, and together they contribute \$19 million annually towards MCC's local and global relief, development and peace projects.

Founders of the Manitoba Speech and Hearing Association – Isabel Richard and 11 others

The Manitoba Speech and Hearing Association (MSHA) was established in 1958 by a group of women who had a forward looking vision. These women were passionate about their profession and sought to take steps to protect the public by regulating the practice and setting standards for education, experience and continuing education for speech and hearing therapy. After much lobbying of government, the Manitoba Legislature passed “An Act respecting the Practice of Speech and Hearing Therapy” in 1961.

This was a significant accomplishment, as Manitoba passed the very first legislation in North America to regulate the professions now known as Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. The driving force behind this remarkable group of trailblazing women was Isabel Richard, who worked at the Child Guidance Clinic from 1942 until 1972. She recruited many to the profession and mentored many more. Not only was she a founder of the Manitoba association, she was also a founder of the Canadian association and served as its first president in 1964.

There were eleven more involved in the start of the association and along with Isabel Richard are considered founders of the association. They are Idell Brady, Mary Jane Cairns, Lila Ellis, Muriel Lyons, Mabel McQuillan, Alice Mellor, Marion Mills, Margaret Morse, Angela Murphy, Christina Rickards and Marijke Vogel. Margaret Morse is the only founder still living.



Photo of Founders: (please note, – it does not have all the founders in it, and has 2 early members who are not considered founders.) Back Row from left: Margaret Houston, Lila Ellis, Marion Mills, Marion Neild, Idell Brady, Mary Jane Cairns Front Row from left: Margaret Morse, Isabel Richard, Alice Mellor

The association was fortunate in having a core of native Manitobans who were educated in the United States but returned to work in Manitoba. The founders established a solid foundation for the association. In addition, all 12 founding members of the Manitoba association were charter members of the Canadian Speech and Hearing Association established in 1964.

The founder's accomplishments and contributions to the profession are numerous. For example, Morse started the program at Children's Hospital in 1952, and Lyons started the first service in rural Manitoba in the Rolling River School Division in 1967.

There were some important events in the early years in the profession. Murphy said that the legislation in 1961 was the culmination of many hours of work which started as early as 1955 when clinicians came together to share their expertise and help their colleagues with puzzling cases. Lyons talked about committee meetings at the Manitoba legislature and spending a Saturday with other members sending out brochures and information to each member of the legislature. Brady's husband, Bert, proposed the “men's auxiliary” to MSHA. He later said there was great pride in the accomplishments of the early members of MSHA.

These women made countless contributions to the profession and we are proud to recognize them as Manitoba Trailblazers in the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology.

Founding Board of Directors of Women’s Health Clinic - Ellen Kruger, Linda Taylor, Paula Harris, Paula Gardner, Brenda Brand, Madame Justice Niki Garson, Robert Janz, Dr. Kathryn Edmunds, Dr.C. Yuen, Irene Bilan.

The opening of Women’s Health Clinic forty years ago was truly a trailblazing time for reproductive rights in Manitoba. Since then, thousands of people have walked through the organization’s doors to be met with support, respect and empowering care.

In 1981, contraceptive supplies were very limited and not easily obtained. There was the birth control pill but twenty years after its creation, many doctors were still reluctant to prescribe it; no one could be certain if a request for it would be received without judgment or shame. The growing women’s movement continued to challenge gender-based sexual restraints but unmarried women were even less likely to get the pill. Condoms were available but not always accessible to women. In the event of unplanned pregnancy, finding non-judgmental information about abortion was extremely difficult. Legal but with extreme restrictions and limited access, abortion was only available in few hospitals, requiring the signatures of two doctors and the approval of an abortion committee. From its earliest days, the founders of Women’s Health Clinic aspired to provide abortions at the clinic – a vision that took many years and dedicated work to fulfill.

The women – and a few men – who founded WHC were committed, energetic and determined to challenge the way health care especially reproductive health care was offered in this province.

When the clinic opened there was \$30,000 in the bank, two part time doctors, an executive director and a receptionist. Pregnancy Information Service volunteers at Klinik had been offering birth control and abortion counselling for many years in a non-judgmental and caring way, and these volunteers formed a large part of the ongoing resources at Women’s Health Clinic.

Within a very short time, the demand for medical services, counselling, referrals and educational resources were so high, the Clinic had to move to a larger space. The commitment of the community and the advocacy of the women’s movement meant that relatively quickly, governments, foundations and others moved to fund parts of the service.

Today, Women’s Health Clinic has grown into a multi-faceted clinic that provides health services, education and advocacy. It provides reproductive health services including IUD insertion, birth control, abortion services, STI prevention and treatment. It also offers teen clinics and counselling for teens of all genders. Its commitment includes providing free birth control and safer sex supplies which empowers people to have control over their bodies while eliminating cost as a barrier. A Provincial Eating Disorder Prevention and Recovery Program provides individual and group counselling and dietitian services through a non-weight based approach. Pre- and postnatal classes and parenting groups in communities across Winnipeg and low-risk, mid-wife led births at the Birth Centre are also provided which the clinic manages. The clinic continues to advocate for expanded and timely services to all who need them, while sharing skills, tools and information with other providers to empower whole communities.

The values of the founding board, choice, inclusion, social justice, innovation and integrity continue to be at the heart of the work of Women’s Health Clinic.



Top Left: Ellen Kruger, Linda Taylor, Paula Harris, Paula Gardner, Bottom Left: Brenda Brand, Robert Janz, Dr. Kathryn Edmunds, Madame Justice Niki Garson, Missing: Irene Bilan, Dr Yuen (deceased)

Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE

The Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE is a collective of women who have made an impact in the development of Manitoba over the past 105 years. It is a part of a larger women's charitable organization, IODE Canada, that is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community service and citizenship programs.

As service organizations folded, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter, which had its inaugural meeting in 1916, remains the only chapter left in Winnipeg of the 48 original chapters.

The present vibrancy and longevity of the organization can be attributed to the strong role models of the many women who forged its history. As well, the chapter has been flexible to change as the organization modernized.

In 1916, the membership of the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter was made up of Icelandic immigrant women, who wanted to contribute to Canadian society in a substantive way by supporting the home front during World War I, the mission of IODE at that time. The women volunteered in the war effort by providing assistance to the women and children left behind by sending letters, goods and clothing to the soldiers in Europe and raising funds to help service members' families when the soldiers returned.



In the aftermath of the world wars, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter published two landmark memorial books recording the short biographies of over 3000 World War I and World War II veterans of Icelandic descent in North America. Today, these books have been digitized at the University of Manitoba where they are widely used for research. Also, the chapter supported the first Canadian Field of Honour which was established during World War I at Brookside Cemetery in Winnipeg through the efforts of IODE.

Collectively, these IODE women have volunteered to make an enormous impact on thousands of Manitobans. Since 1936, the Chapter has awarded over 550 post-secondary scholarships to Manitoba students. Thousands have benefited from their service work with veterans and their families and by supporting inner city schools, northern programs, as well as homeless shelters. Members have knitted countless hats, scarves and mitts, donated African djembe drums to an immigrant after-school program, made weighted vests for special needs children and collected books for inner city youth. Through their citizenship program, they have welcomed new Canadians, honoured exemplary citizens and recognized our veterans on Remembrance Day. Although the membership has become ethnically diverse, it continues its Icelandic connection by annually celebrating Jon Sigurdsson Day on June 17 at the Jon Sigurdsson Statue at the Manitoba Legislative grounds.

In 2010, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter received the Mayor's Volunteer Service Award from then-mayor Samuel Katz.

In celebration of its 1916 Centennial year, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter raised \$10,000 for the new Children's Rehabilitation Centre. That same year Mayor Brian Bowman presented the Chapter with a Community Service Award to honour its work over the past 100 years.

As it continues to support the community, the Jon Sigurdsson Chapter IODE looks forward to a new decade and the many that will follow.

Manitoba Women's Institute

During its 105 years, the indomitable spirit of Nellie McClung, a speaker at the first annual convention held in 1911, is often invoked to encourage Manitoba Women's Institute (MWI) members to carry on with their valuable work "for home and country." The MWI supported the suffragist movement that resulted in Manitoba women receiving the right to vote in 1916. It lobbied to bring about the passage of the 1916 Manitoba Dower Law to protect the property rights of a wife. It worked hard to make health care and public health programs accessible for rural people and safe houses accessible for abused women. MWI educated women to be better homemakers believing "a nation cannot rise above the level of its homes." MWI was at the forefront of the rural electrification program, of public restrooms in communities and of arts festivals and libraries. MWI is well known for its understanding of how to use "resolutions" to create change. Resolutions on relevant issues are locally formulated, provincially debated, and if adopted, forwarded to government and other agencies. MWI resolutions over the years have called for flashing lights and stop arms on school buses, white lines on highways and reflective tape on the sides of rail cars – all now standard practice. The organization's work is accomplished in many ways: directing resolutions and initiating dialogue with government; delivering planned programs to educate members; providing leadership skills and encouraging personal development; working with partners such as the Faculty of Human Ecology at the University of Manitoba, the Provincial Council of Women, and Keystone Agricultural Producers for the betterment of women and rural communities; and providing opportunities for networking with women from across the province, the country and the world. MWI welcomes women of all ethnic, religious and educational backgrounds.



Board of Directors

Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA)

Mentoring Artists for Women's Art (MAWA) is a Winnipeg-based artist-run centre that encourages the intellectual and creative development of women and non-binary people in the visual arts by providing education and critical dialogue. It is a thriving, intergenerational community devoted to shared knowledge and resources.

Since its inception in 1984, mentorship has been the core activity of the organization and the key strategy in redressing gender inequality. Senior artists share experiences, networks and know-how with emerging artists, ensuring that each artist does not have to "reinvent the wheel." This model of art education has proven to be nothing short of transformative, and many artists credit MAWA with being pivotal in their professional careers. MAWA has provided mentorships for hundreds of mentees in the year-long Foundation Mentorship Program, including some of the most esteemed artists in the country. For example, Reva Stone, recipient of the Governor General's Award for Visual and Media Art (the highest honour bestowed upon an artist in Canada), is a former MAWA mentee.

MAWA also provides other learning opportunities, such as artist talks, discussion groups, workshops in particular artistic skills, professional development workshops, lectures, critical writing opportunities, studio visits with established curators, film screenings, showcases, panel discussions, an artist in residence program and a resource centre/lending library. Programs are led by leaders of a wide variety of backgrounds and experience to ensure diverse points of view, spirited dialogue and a welcoming environment for everyone.



Special MAWA projects of the past few years include: the "Who Counts?" national symposium (2014); creation and publication of *Desire Change*, the first textbook about feminist art in Canada (2017); *Resilience*, a cross-country exhibition of works by 50 Indigenous women artists on billboards (2018); and *Resilience: 50 Indigenous Art Cards and Teaching Guide*, a tool to help educators K-12 integrate Indigeneity into the classroom through art.

Up to 300 paid members, 350 volunteers and 5,000 participants engage in MAWA programming and events each year. MAWA is an active hub where the ideals of community-building are enacted, making the art world a fairer place. It advocates for women and non-binary visual artists. It inspires creativity and reflection upon issues of equality of all kinds.

MAWA is a welcoming space, in which artists and the general public can learn and explore together.

"MAWA taught me I don't have to be someone who I think I'm supposed to be, but who I am. And that's really empowering. MAWA has given me confidence. to navigate the world of a professional artist." –Kelly Ruth, program participant.

"It's small and big things: laughter, joy, conversations; mothers, children, art; head nods and vigorous waves from across the room; and the nervous energy of emerging artists meeting the calm strong confidence of established artists. Ultimately, MAWA is the friends I have made, the work I have made, the knowledge and opportunities I've been gifted." –Becca Taylor, program participant.

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada (NCJWC)

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada (NCJWC) is a voluntary women's organization established in 1897, in the spirit of Judaism. NCJWC is dedicated to furthering human welfare in the Jewish and general communities locally, nationally and internationally. Through an integrated program of education, service and social action, NCJWC provides and stimulates as well as educates the individual and the community.

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Winnipeg Section was established in 1926 and began its work by assisting in the integration and settlement of immigrants to Winnipeg.

The Golden Age Club was established on March 16, 1949 and was the first senior citizen's drop-in centre in Canada. It opened in the basement of the Hebrew Sick Benefit Hall located on Selkirk Avenue, next to Gunn's Bakery. The club's purpose was to offer a meeting place where seniors could mingle with their contemporaries and take part in stimulating programs. Refreshments were served.

In 1965, NCJWC, Winnipeg purchased a building at 410 Pritchard Avenue which became Council House for the Golden Age Club. The building continued as a Monday to Thursday drop-in centre serving the needs of seniors by providing programs and outreach and social services.



By 1983 this property had outlived its usefulness. Temporary space was rented at 1720 Main Street until the property at 1588 Main Street and Smithfield Avenue was purchased in 1986. NCJWC, Winnipeg Section fundraised and developed this former Firestone Tire Store into the Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre (GSCLC). The building was completely renovated and officially opened in 1989. The facility expanded its programming and offered social, education and recreational programs for those 55 and over. Besides a large multi-use auditorium, there are meeting and board rooms, offices, and arts and crafts area, as well as a fully equipped kosher kitchen. This kosher kitchen provided and still provides Kosher Meals on Wheels as well as kosher catering in-house as well as take-out.

The Gwen Secter Creative Living Centre continues today, 70 years after its humble beginnings as the Golden Age Club on Selkirk Avenue. The GSCLC has its own board of directors made up mainly of members of the centre. NCJWC, Winnipeg Section sold the building to the GSCLC a few years ago and now they operate the program and the building independently.

The Junior League of Winnipeg

The Junior League of Winnipeg (JLW) began in 1928 with 56 members and although there were changes over the years to meet the needs of women in society, today it still has a presence in the community by continuing to fund community groups through the Junior League of Winnipeg Legacy Fund at the Winnipeg Foundation. The JLW surveyed the needs of the community and determined that a skilled volunteer group could make a difference. Its inaugural project was volunteer work at the Winnipeg General Hospital where members staffed a free canteen for outpatients and raised funds for food prepared for the staff. These funds grew to the point that they could purchase equipment for the hospital, the first being a radium bomb.

JLW members were instructed in organizational skills, parliamentary procedures and the rudiments of Robert's Rules of Order so as to have a knowledge of leadership skills to help build organizations and assist community groups in their endeavors. The League was then able to partner with members of community organizations and became volunteers to assist in the work of that organization and provide support funds for projects and sustainability. As early as 1930, the members volunteered 8,800 hours.

Throughout the years the work of the League focused on many different projects. Development and sustenance of community organizations; commitment to the health of the community; development and sustenance of the arts; support of educational activities in the community; contributions to the well-being of the community's children; and activities for the benefit of all women in the community.



L-R: Isobel Chester, Mrs. Phyllis MacAulay, Mrs. Helen Purves, Miss Dorinda Mutchmore, Miss Lillian Allen, Mrs. Eileen Abbott, Mrs. Clara Lander, Mrs. Patricia Guy

The major source of funds to the JLW was the Thrift Shop that opened in 1930. Not only did it serve the community with affordable goods, but these earnings provided needed funding dollars to develop and sustain community organizations until 1995. As well, the Festival of Trees and Lights gave great pleasure to children and families. In 1952, Logan Neighborhood House was established, and the League members taught dancing, sewing, dramatics, held sing songs, led Guides and Brownies, called on shut-ins and cooked Christmas dinner along with providing funds for its operation.

Advocacy was an underlying action call. In 1934, a conference was held with discussions on social conditions such as "Strategies on Environmental Control" and "Child Advocacy." In July 1980, the JLW was a delegate to the U.N. Mid-Decade Conference for Women in Copenhagen, one of 18 Canadian organizations. In 1986, the JLW co-chaired and facilitated a conference called "Winning Women: A Political Skills Workshop," with leading women in all

parties who gave non-partisan information to help women develop the necessary skills to run for public office. Two hundred women attended from 59 women's organizations in Manitoba. The success of the conference prompted the Globe and Mail to describe it as "a milestone of the 80's. "

As Nellie McClung said in 1917, "The country is yours, ladies. Politics is simply a public affair: yours and mine and everyone's."

The Nellie McClung Foundation with founding member Bette Mueller

The Nellie McClung Foundation began in 2002 with MLA Myrna Driedger, then critic for the Status of Women. She identified Nellie McClung as a significant and yet largely unrecognized contributor to the life of women in this province. She presented a private member's bill to create a foundation that would erect a monument for Nellie McClung at the Legislature and would serve to educate the public about McClung's achievements. The bill received unanimous approval in 2003 and was supported by the Manitou-Pembina Cultural and Heritage Committee. Their focus was primarily on Nellie McClung, who had married and taught school in Manitou.

The Nellie McClung Foundation was officially constituted on September 15, 2006. The monument was unveiled in 2010. The Nellie McClung Foundation has also been responsible for a number of other important events.

"Let Them Howl" By Sharon Bajer which has been performed several times. This play is a replication of the "mock-parliament" that featured Nellie McClung and her peers in the Political Equality League. The performance of the original play was a turning point in the struggle for suffrage.



Image Source: The Nellie McClung Foundation

Centennial Gala: Celebrating 100 Years of Manitoba Women's Right to Vote On January 28th, 1916 (some) Manitoba women were the first in Canada to be awarded the right to vote. This was celebrated by over 1000 women at a gala held in 2016. The Nellie Awards recognize the spirit of her life's work being advanced by women leaders of today. Five rural and five urban recipients received awards at the Centennial Gala.

Curriculum Material & Learning Resources: The Foundation has developed curriculum material and learning resources for teachers and students in grades 6, 9 and 11 classes as general guides and are available on the website.

The Nellie Legacy Awards: The Nellie Legacy Awards are special presentations to individuals who have gone above and beyond for social justice and women's and human rights. These recipients have devoted their life's work to advocating equality, societal change and the preservation of human rights. To date, two awards have been presented.

Faces and Places: This book is a walking tour guide of sites that held important women's stories. It promotes seeing women faces and learning their stories in places which may not have been recognized as having a link to the women who have helped make the history of these places.

150 Trailblazers: Over 350 nominations were received for Manitoba women who have made contributions to developing Manitoba.

The Foundation annually awards Nellie McClung Trailblazer Scholarships for female students considering careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), business, fine arts, or underrepresented trades. It has established Nellie McClung Foundation Endowment Fund at the Winnipeg Foundation. The Nellie McClung Foundation Legacy Award at Universities provides a bursary annually to a woman at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg who is undertaking a program in Political or Women's Studies.

Bette Mueller

Bette Mueller accomplished what Nellie McClung only dreamed of when Nellie said, "If I were young again – and I wish I could go back – I would spend my life as a teacher of young children..." Mueller did just that in dedicating her 40-plus-year career to making a difference in the lives of many thousands of her students.



Beginning in 1962, Mueller began teaching and blazed her first trail when she made the gutsy decision to teach after the birth of her two sons. In an era without maternity benefits or daycare, the socially unacceptable move demonstrated her courage to blaze trails. At the pinnacle of her career, in 1996, she became the first (and still the only) woman to ever serve as principal of Nellie McClung Collegiate in Manitou -- a place Nellie called home for nearly 20 years. McClung would be proud to see Mueller honoured not only as a 150 Trailblazer but as a woman who followed in her footsteps as an advocate for young women, as a leader at her namesake school, and as someone who has inspired and made a massive difference in the lives of many generations of Manitoba students.

The Partners of Patersons LLP

Patersons LLP is the largest exclusively women-owned and operated law firm in Manitoba. All three partners are women.

The partnership Jodi Wyman, a resident of Alexander, Manitoba; Kelli Potter, a resident of Virden, Manitoba; and Breena Murray, a resident of Brandon, Manitoba.

One of the unique qualities of this partnership group is its commitment to access to justice initiatives, particularly to provide legal services to persons living in rural and remote communities. Additionally, they undertake pro bono work which advances the interests of women and girls, persons with disabilities and vulnerable persons.

Jodi Wyman was the first lawyer in Westman to offer mediation and collaborative family law services to family law clients. Wyman was also appointed as Chair of the Canada Pension Plan Review Tribunal in 2000 and 2003, focussing on issues such as the fairness of the division of CPP credits and the impact of the division of CPP credits on spouses (predominantly women) who had limited or no work outside of the home during their marriages/domestic partnerships. Wyman is also a past president of the Brandon YWCA and received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. Wyman has served as both president and treasurer of the Western Manitoba Bar Association. She is a long-time volunteer for the Women's Resource Centre (Brandon).



Kelli Potter was born in Dauphin, Manitoba. She serviced rural communities including Selkirk, Beausejour, Pinawa, Pine Falls, Sagkeeng First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation. In the early stages of her career, Potter's practice focussed on providing services to clients of Indigenous heritage who were seeking fairness and transparency in their dealings with Child and Family Services offices and the return of their children to their home communities and the preservation of their children's connection to family and their Indigenous culture. In 2011, Potter relocated to the Westman area acting as a volunteer lawyer for the Women's Resource Centre Legal Clinic, president of the Western Manitoba Bar Association and a member of Manitoba Bar Council. One of her main focuses has been access to justice issues and making services available to persons residing outside of urban centres including those living in Waywayseecappo First Nation, Sioux Valley First Nation, Canupawakpa First Nation.

Breena Murray is a lifelong resident of Brandon, Manitoba. She was a member of the board of directors for the Women's Resource Centre (Brandon) during the years 2011 to 2015 also serving as the treasurer. She was instrumental in its major annual fundraiser, the Westman Corporate Challenge. Murray is a passionate advocate for girls in sport.

The employees of the firm are predominantly female and the firm has created a progressive parental leave policy. The partnership has created a Wellness Program which provides funding to its employees for fitness, mental health and self-care services expenses. The firm also offers its employees a retirement savings program and access to a firm-funded financial and insurance professional to assist employees with financial planning.

The Shameless Circle

The Shameless Circle was founded in December 2018, and since its inception, has received an overwhelming response. The Shameless Circle is a volunteer led, non-profit community organization, that brings together women who have experienced shame stemming from abusive relationships, mental health issues, exploitation and/or sexual orientation. It provides a safe space for women who suffer from isolation and are seeking a sense of community. Meetings are held every Sunday to engage participants in meaningful, self-empowering, free activities that help to regain a sense of community and belonging.

At The Shameless Circle, the vision is a world without shame. With this vision in mind, the mission is to help empower women by providing free community building workshops and financial assistance to women who have experienced shame stemming from various traumatic experiences. The goal is to continue providing free programming for women and kids to help them build a community of their own.

In December 2019, The Shameless Circle launched the Empower Me Fund (EMF). The EMF works as a one-time tool through which women can apply for financial support that would not otherwise be covered by another business or organization. When the applicant is selected through a needs-based system, their need will be addressed by the Empower Me Fund. This can mean assistance for any empowering thing, from college application fund assistance to access to mental wellness resources. Since the launch of the EMF, assistance has been provided to women through various means such as funds for driver's education lessons, clothing and gas gift cards, massages, family photography sessions, and many more.



Volunteers and community partners are central to the journey of providing community empowerment and healing. The Manitoba government and the Hon. Cathy Cox created a Proclamation that declares April 14th as Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Images Awareness Day.

The Shameless Circle is committed to helping women overcome barriers and get the help women need to empower themselves. Any service that helps a woman feel empowered and provides them with a sense of community.

We all know that overcoming difficult moments in life can be really challenging. The Shameless Circle wants to ensure women that they are here to assist them along this journey, by not only providing them with funds but also providing them with a much-needed support system. For this, they are actively seeking mentors to help support and guide women who are leaving abusive relationships or other traumatic experiences.

University Women's Club of Winnipeg

The University Women's Club of Winnipeg was founded in April 1909. The first members at this founding meeting were: Miss Margaret Johnson, Miss Lillian Baynon, Mrs. Hay Stead, Mrs. Ira Mackay, Miss I.C. McGregor, Mrs. C.J. Campbell, Miss Elsie E. Moore, Miss Grace Crawford, Dr L.F. McPhee-Greene, Miss Elsie Craig, Dr Mary Crawford, Mrs. P.D. Harris, Miss Margaret Springate, Miss A.M. Morrison, Mrs. H.R. Hadcock, Mrs. Roland Taylor, Mrs. B.J. Curry, Mrs. T.M Grover, Dr M. Ellen Douglass, Mrs. W.H. Thompson, Miss Maud Chisholm, Miss Edith Woodsworth and Miss E.L. Jones.

The club's early purpose was to advance the place of women in the community related to the industrial and societal changes that were occurring. Many opportunities were opening up for women. However, in 1909, women were not yet legally recognized as equal to men. Women did not have the vote, struggled to join recognized academic and business professions and had little influence on government to achieve change.

The first elected president was Dr Mary Crawford, the Chief Medical Inspector of Winnipeg schools. She took an active interest in women's suffrage. Under her leadership, club members "were in the front lines, working for things women now take for granted. They often belonged to other clubs, almost certainly church groups, often raised large families, were unselfish with their limited time, had none of today's household conveniences yet met the criteria for today's superwomen." In 1914, Dr Crawford participated in a "Mock Parliament" play that promoted the cause of votes for women, leading to the vote for (most) Manitoba women in 1916 and then for the rest of Canada.



In March 1919, four leaders in university organizations met in Winnipeg at a conference, creating the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). This national federation meant Canada would become one of the first countries to join in the emerging International Federation of University Women (IFUW). The first organizational meeting of CFUW was held at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg in August 1919. These clubs believed increasing educational opportunities for women and improving the overall status of all women in all areas of life were vital

L-R
Ruth Suderman (Scholarship)
Debby Brown (Co-Treasurer) Carolynne Presser (VP Management)
Dianne Shefford (Secretary) Ellen Peel (VP Activities) Sandy Millen (President) Maria Grajewska (Membership)
Linda Asper (Past President) Muriel Rhind (Bulletin) Sue Bishop (FRCH, Continuing Ed.) Agnes Collins (Constitution)
Sherratt Moffat (Program) Faye Hansen (House & Grounds) Pat Elliott (CFUW, Interest Groups)

steps in maintaining peace. CFUW today continues as a 100-year-old non-partisan organization with 100 clubs across Canada.

In October 1938, the membership voted to rent Ralph Connor House from the City of Winnipeg. The house, at 54 West Gate, was the former home of Reverend Charles Gordon and was in danger of demolition. UWC agreed they would upgrade it to serve as a clubhouse for meetings and club activities. In 1976, the UWC of Winnipeg received a Heritage Award for the preservation of Ralph Connor House.

In 2002, the UWC of Winnipeg received a Distinguished Service Award from Heritage Winnipeg for the preservation of 54 West Gate. Celebrations were held for the 90th Anniversary of Ralph Connor House and the 95th Anniversary of the UWC of Winnipeg. Ralph Connor House was designated as a national historic site of Canada in 2009.

The UWC of Winnipeg continues today as an organization of women leaders that work together. One of its projects, the UWC of Winnipeg Scholarship Trust Fund, continues to respond to changing needs and times. The fund currently supports 26 annual scholarships and bursaries given to young students advancing their educational goals.

Winnipeg Raging Grannies for Social Justice

Winnipeg Raging Grannies for Social Justice is the first and only group of its kind in Manitoba. Like other “gaggles” of Raging Grannies across Canada and the United States, they aim to raise public consciousness, expose hidden wrongs and challenge authority by non-violent actions, especially satirical songs.

Raging Grannies demonstrate awareness of political issues and knowledge about strategies for taking positive action. Although they dress in costumes that conjure up meek grandmothers in long skirts and wild flowered hats, they reveal the power of elders who have a vital political voice. Raging Grannies use humor and a light touch in order to claim public space for older women.

For more than 20 years, Winnipeg Raging Grannies have written and performed alternate lyrics to well-known melodies on a variety of themes: poverty, homelessness and housing, environmental sustainability and climate change, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, corporate globalization, child care, healthcare, human rights, solidarity with sex trade workers, war and peace, support for publicly owned infrastructure (e.g., the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation), refugee justice, workers’ rights, fair voting in elections, feminism and the empowerment of women and girls. Grannies research their topics and check facts before going public. While any granny may write a song, the gaggle works together to fine-tune the song so that it fits the need as truthfully and effectively as possible.



Image Source: Winnipeg Free Press

Winnipeg Raging Grannies are happiest when they join other communities and activist groups, such as the St. John’s High School Grandma Support Group, Meet Me at the Bell Tower, Communities Not Cuts and Manitoba Youth for Climate Action. Raging Grannies know that their presence validates the work of younger activists: “The Grannies are here!” Young women have often commented “We can’t wait to be Raging Grannies.”

Raging Grannies delight in learning, singing, silliness and laughter to make good trouble and to inspire future generations to keep working toward peace, justice and a bright, safe and sustainable future.

Women of the Fur Trade

The women of the fur trade were the Indigenous women who helped the early fur traders survive. They often were country wives, becoming the mothers of a new nation – the Métis. When a fur trader married an Indigenous woman in fur trade society, the trader would gain and strengthen trade relationships with Indigenous men and would “secure the trade of the tribe or band” to which the woman belonged.

The men could not have survived without these women; early settlers relied on them for everything from learning about preparation of skins for clothing to the growing and preservation of food. They were guides, they were peace makers, they gave advice about the furs, about trapping and about the fur trade. Their traditional job had often been market negotiators and they taught this skill to the traders. They also trapped smaller animals and were excellent fishers. They acted as interpreters and diplomats and were important liaisons between the traders and the indigenous peoples. Women provided a vital labour intensive skill – they dressed and produced finished hides.

Women became key members of the work force at trading forts. An essential domestic task performed by the women at the fur trade posts was to provide the men with moccasins, which were the most practical footwear for the wilderness. In winter they produced snowshoes that made winter travel possible, preparing the sinews and netting the intricate webbing for support. The traders were not familiar with winter traveling in deep snow and these snowshoes made winter survival possible. The women made other equipment for travel – from canoes to clothing.



Prince of Wales Fort at the mouth of the Churchill River, 1947. Prince of Wales Fort was the first historic site in the system to involve the protection of ruins as opposed to a commemoration by simple cairn or plaque. Source: National Archives of Canada

Matonabbee, a Dene guide who travelled with HBC explorer Samuel Hearne in the eighteenth century, urged Hearne to take Indigenous women with his teams on their journeys. In his 1771 journal, Hearne quotes Matonabbee as saying of women, “One of them can carry, or haul, as much as two men can do. They also pitch our tents, make and mend our clothing, keep us warm at night; and in fact, there is no such thing as travelling any considerable distance, or for any length of time, in this country, without their assistance.”

The crucial knowledge of the women about the plants of the country was invaluable – not only for food, but for medicine and growing food for consumption. Preservation of food, particularly pemmican was an important nourishment for travelling.

As the country wives had children and these children matured, these Métis children were often sent away to be educated. When they returned, having been educated in the ways of commerce, they became employed in the fur trade. Their heritage of both their father and mother’s cultures made them valued employees of the fur companies. They rapidly became the middlemen who moved freely between the two cultures: trusted and respected by both.

When European women arrived, they played a less prominent role in the fur trade itself, but they were suppliers of food and other supplies. The early women settlers relied on Indigenous women as mid-wives.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Les Soeurs Du Sauveur

In 1895, the Chanoinesses (renamed as the Soeurs du Sauveur in 1967) arrived from Lyon, France to Notre Dame de Lourdes, Manitoba Canada. A new parish had been founded there in 1891. Very soon, the pastor, Dom Paul Benoit, requested nuns for the education of the children and the care of the sick and the elderly.

Bishop Adelard Langevin contacted and reached an agreement with the religious order, the Chanoinesses, whose charism was an echo of the request by Paul Benoit: educate the children and care for the elderly.

The Chanoinesses arrived to engage in their mission work with determination and love.

In March 1950, the sisters purchased the rectory from the Roman Catholic Parish to accommodate the elderly. The rectory would be referred to as "little foyer". *

The plans for "foyers" at the time were gender specific. This meant the women lived in one place of the building and the men in another. Sr M. Celine, the superior of the Chanoinesses introduced a new idea: plan the rooms of the "foyer" so husband and wife could live as a couple in the new facility without being separated by gender.

This idea was welcomed and praised by the community of Notre Dame de Lourdes itself and by the people in the surrounding areas.

In 1960, Dr. Hubert Delaquis of Notre Dame de Lourdes convinced the government of Manitoba to build the "foyer." Furthermore, the legislature also approved the undertaking. A committee called "Les Amis du Foyer" took the project in hand. When Foyer Notre Dame opened in 1962 the new idea had been incorporated. Sr M. Celine (Zephirina Payette), Sr M. Bernard (Josephine Baril), Sr M. Jean (Marion McEachran) and Sr M. Laurent (Denise Jubinville) worked in the new facility. They brought with them the tenderness of Jesus through their respect, their compassion and their righteousness.



Photo of Foyer Notre-Dame (Soeurs du Sauveur / Sisters of the Saviour) in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes and Mr. and Mrs. Alexis Jamault, the first couple admitted at the foyer with Sr. M. Laurent, administer.

In 1952, Mgr Georges Cabana, formerly of the diocese of Saint Boniface was so impressed with the project, that he requested the Chanoinesses come to Sherbrooke, Quebec to establish the same type of "foyer" to accommodate both men and women, and especially as married couples.

In 1953, three Chanoinesses left Manitoba to open a "foyer" in Sherbrooke, PQ.

Missionary Oblate Sisters

The Missionary Oblate Sisters have been known for promoting the rights of women and families in the church and society. Promoting peace and non-violence in everyday life and taking a stance against prejudice, racial and religious discrimination and thus building life-giving relationships is one of their core beliefs. They work with other groups for a greater impact in bringing about systemic change for a better quality of life for all.



The Aulneau Renewal Centre is a registered bilingual not-for-profit organization located at 228 Hamel Ave in St. Boniface, Winnipeg. It was founded in 1979 as a mission of the Missionary Oblate Sisters of St. Boniface. In 1998, the organization was separately incorporated as a non-for-profit charitable organization and in 2012, it became a Sponsored Community of Service under the Compassion Network (previously known as the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba). In 1979, on the 75th anniversary of the Missionary Oblate congregation, the sisters opened the Aulneau Renewal Centre on the fourth floor of their Mother House in response to the growing need for psychological and spiritual counselling. What began as a labour of love and dedication to empowerment, growth and spiritual life, grew into a recognized service provider to the people of Manitoba.

Sister Agathe Dorge, SNJM

(1912 – 2008)

Sister Agathe Dorge was a francophone woman born November 24, 1912, in Ste Agathe. She enhanced the francophone culture with her leadership in song and liturgical music. She died in St. Boniface on December 11, 2008.

Sr. Agathe (Sr. Josaphat-de-Marie) entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary making her first profession of vows in 1932. After that she taught in the music field until the last years of her life. She made countless contributions to religious and secular culture as a piano and organ instructor and as a leader of choirs.

She composed two books (Psaumes et acclamations, 1988) that contain psalms and acclamations for every day of the week and all the Sundays of the Liturgical Years. These books are used in Francophone parishes of Canada and also in France, Belgium and in many francophone parishes of Africa. The psalm acclamations are still used in the monthly Novalis publication "Prions en Église". She has also composed numerous hymns and songs. All of these are preserved in Archival Fonds of St. Boniface.

She held numerous workshops for ALPEC (Animation Liturgique et Pastorale) in the 1980's to renew and enliven liturgical celebrations.

Her vision was to prepare leaders for the future who would take up the challenge to preserve and continue francophone culture and music and church leadership in music.

Sister Agathe helped to add to the francophone cultural scene in the 1970's through week-end workshop sessions of song and choir called Mélo-Mani. They were intended to uphold, preserve and encourage francophone choral and individual singing as well as to promote the joy of choral singing. For many years she prepared choirs to participate in "Festival de la bonne chanson" since its inauguration in 1956. This kind of musical participation greatly contributed to the evolution of French in Manitoba.

Sister Agathe was often called upon to be an adjudicator for the Manitoba Music Festivals. Her name is well-known in the francophone community and the music culture as a promoter of music in this province.



Image Source: La Liberté Fonds

Sister Angelica of Mary , SNJM

(1851 – 1920)

“A whole society can be transformed if the minds and hearts of young women are properly formed.” These words of Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, foundress of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), served as a constant challenge and inspiration to Sister Angelica of Mary.

Born Mary Kelly in 1851, in Key West, Florida, Sister Angelica pronounced her vows as a SNJM in 1874 in Montreal, Quebec. In 1895, Sister Angelica was named the leader of the SNJM, their schools and convents in Manitoba. During Sister Angelica’s 14 years in Manitoba, the number of Sisters ranged from thirty-eight to seventy-five. They taught hundreds of students in three rural, French language schools; in three urban, English language schools and in two girls’ schools – St. Mary’s Academy (1874) and St. Joseph’s Academy (1898).

As a builder and educator, Sister Angelica knew the foundation of any school was crucial. One of the most important steps Sister Angelica took to ensure a good education for all students was to see to the education of the sisters. Sister Angelica sent the sisters to programs, conferences and courses in Manitoba, Montreal, Minneapolis, Chicago and California. The sisters were encouraged, even expected, to be lifelong learners.



Another building block was in programming. All high school students taught by the SNJM used the courses and met the requirements from the provincial department of education. This ensured the acceptance of graduates from the schools to any university or college. A business course was introduced in 1904, at a time when women were just starting to join the work force as secretaries and book-keepers.

Probably one of the greatest risks Sister Angelica took was building a new St. Mary’s Academy. When the original site downtown became inadequate, a move became a necessity. In 1901 Sister Angelica bought fifteen acres in Fort Rouge, a development with only one house, on a mud road parallel to the Assiniboine River. Many people, including Archbishop Langevin, questioned her choice of land, considered “in the bush.” However, on April 17, 1902, the Manitoba Morning Free Press had a quarter of a page, with the architect’s sketch and full description stating, “A Magnificent Modern Academy will be erected on Wellington Crescent.” The new Academy incorporated much of Sister Angelica’s vision of an exceptional school for girls.

Sister Angelica had financial headaches to face. After the Manitoba Schools Act passed in 1890, all parish schools no longer received public funding. Sister Angelica managed as best as she could until 1904 and then she did the unthinkable—she charged tuition, \$3.75 a month. In some cases, tuition was paid with cords of wood, pounds of butter and bags of flour.

The year 1909 brought a new appointment for Sister Angelica and she moved to St. Mary’s Academy in Portland, Oregon.

What a blessing Sister Angelica was for hundreds of young Manitobans. She truly honored Mother Marie-Rose’s vision of “forming the minds and hearts of young women.”

Sister Angelica of Mary died in Montreal in 1920.

Sister Carol Peloquin, SNJM, C.M.

Sister Carol Peloquin was a volunteer and prison chaplain in Manitoba penal institutions such as Stoney Mountain Penitentiary and Rockwood Institute. About 17 years ago, she began a program called Next Step that offered inmates practical input on money management, addictions, nutrition and one-to-one meetings, prior to release and during parolees' first months in the community. As a nun in the order of the Sisters of the Holy Names, Sister Peloquin was able to organize volunteers and provide encouragement, friendship, and the life-skills needed by those about to be released on parole. This support ranged from assistance getting birth certificates, to employment, housing, social assistance, opportunities for further education and job training.

Sister Peloquin then noticed that many of the inmates in Manitoba's system often returned to prison, typically due to a lack of housing. Homeless prisoners would easily relapse into old patterns and a cycle of violence would culminate in their return to prison. Taking the initiative, without government aid or funding, she worked to set up a safe house called Quixote House, to act as a place for those without homes, recently released on parole, who needed a safe and sober living environment.



For the last 10 years it has operated as a real home for ex-offenders – those without income, without family, without hope and who have been released from prison but are still on parole. Residents in Quixote House have gone through the Next Step Program while still in the prison system. Once released, they can live in a modern, clean and supportive home to establish themselves in the community. Both Next Step and Quixote House receive no government funding to this day. They operate quietly in the city's downtown, providing help for homeless ex-offenders and allowing them to reintegrate and break the cycle of violence.

While the Next Step Program began the process of reintegration, and while Quixote House gave a family-like, safe-space for parolees, there was the question of what to do after someone had completed parole and found employment. There was a need for more space, another type of living-space, where successful ex-offenders could go after Quixote House. This was the creation of Massie House – right next door. It provides a continuation of Quixote House for those now living off parole, as a safe environment maintaining close ties to their peer-group.

The work of Sister Carol has been taken over by an independent registered charity – Future Hope which funds her work and Sister Carol has never retired. She continues to work with the prison system, and she is the admission's director for Future Hope facilitating the entry of ex-offenders. It has been estimated that because of her work, hundreds of ex-prisoners have found stable homes and beaten the cycle of violence and poverty. On a purely practical level this has saved the province millions of dollars in prison housing costs. On a more qualitative level, she has saved hundreds of lives.

Sister Geraldine MacNamara, SNJM, C.M., LL.B.

(1938 – 1984)

Geraldine MacNamara, known as Sister Mac, saw the needs of the inner city in Winnipeg and moved, with a small group of Roman Catholic nuns, to live in solidarity with those who had been marginalized and oppressed. She became a lawyer and started Rossbrook House as a diversion from the criminal justice system and a place where young people could experience hope. She was one of the first persons of white privilege to begin meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. She was a strong and passionate woman of action.

Geraldine MacNamara was born in 1938, in Toronto, Ontario, but lived and worked most of her life in Winnipeg. She attended the University of Manitoba and acquired a Bachelor of Arts in 1959, a Certificate of Education in 1960 and a Bachelor of Education in 1965. During this time, she was named President Alpha Delta Phi.

Her teaching career began at Norberry School in St. Vital and then entered the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. She studied for two years in Montreal, returned and continued to teach high school for the next seven years in Winnipeg, Flin Flon and St. Boniface.



MacNamara resumed her studies in the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba in 1971. Her LLB was awarded in 1974.

While living and working in the inner city, MacNamara became intimately acquainted with the youth of the area. She had a great deal of respect for these young people and knew that solutions to their problems and the power to bring about change in their lives rested within them. What they needed was a chance to make their dreams come true. In January 1976 Rossbrook House officially opened its doors. Its staff were drawn from the youth of the area. Together they created a “home away from home,” providing recreation, education, training, employment, socialization and vocational and legal counseling.

In 1978, she was named “Native Citizen of the Year,” the first non-Native person thus honoured. In 1983, she was presented with the University of Manitoba Distinguished Service Award and the Solicitor General’s Crime Prevention Award. She was awarded the Order of Canada in a special ceremony held by the Governor General at Rossbrook House.

Sister Mac died at the age of 45 on February 20th, 1984.

In 1985, a neighborhood playground was named Sister MacNamara Park. That same year, the Department of Education established an inner-city scholarship fund in her name. In 1986, the University of Winnipeg moved its child care worker program into MacNamara Hall and in 1990 the Winnipeg School Division named a new inner-city school, Sister MacNamara.

In 1997, Sister Mac was inducted into Winnipeg Citizens Hall of Fame created by the Winnipeg Real Estate Board. A bust of her can now be viewed along the formal garden’s walkway at Assiniboine Park among those of other prominent Winnipeggers.

Sister Jean Ell, SGM

Sister Jean Ell is a trailblazer in mental health. While working in the psychiatry unit at St Boniface Hospital, helping people in need with their mental health and addictions issues, Sister Jean Ell was “called” to do more and to do better, on their behalf. This led to two major innovations which would support Winnipeg’s mental health and addictions care for persons struggling – The McEwen Centre of St. Boniface Hospital and Sara Riel Inc.

Based on a plan that she took to the governing board, the McEwen Centre was established and provided day programs, group therapy sessions, drug and alcohol detox and cessation clinics, as well as a day care program.

Then in the early 1970s, after noticing that people who had been discharged were returning because of a lack of services in the community, Sister Jean Ell decided to work in earnest to establish a community service which would provide supports to people wanting to maintain their wellness after hospital discharge. This groundbreaking idea would see individuals moved away from the medical model and into recovery model – promoting life skills and personal growth focused on immediate needs for maintenance of social, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. In 1977, Sara Riel Inc. was established, named for the Grey Nun sister of Louis Riel.



Sister Jean started as the executive director, with the mandate to help the disadvantaged, particularly those who have had mental/emotional problems and to promote or carry on other charitable activities. The first phase was to establish a rehabilitation residence followed by a second phase of day programming. Sister Jean found a four-storey property at 210 Kenny Street, in St. Boniface.

The program initially helped young people who struggled. Families did not know where to go or how to help their children live independently. For the most part, families often hid their children because of shame and stigma. But at Sara Riel, these young adults learned to achieve and manage their symptoms.

Many times, throughout the years, Sister Jean was told her ideas would not work. Government would often say no to requests. But she persevered and would tackle those ideas anyways. In time, her success would be measured by the numbers of people who found their independence and recovery.

Over time, Sara Riel Inc. expanded even further to provide employment services, peer-led respite, community mentorship with support provided directly in the home, rehabilitation services, work placement programs, art and craft groups, psycho- education and support and counselling services.

From a program that started with 20 by 1982 there were 170 people and in 2019, over 600 people are supported annually each year.

In 1995, Sister Jean Ell retired from Sara Riel. In spring of 2000, she received the Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada in recognition of her significant contribution to the community. She was recognized for her contribution to Social Work with the Helen Mann 50th Anniversary Award in 2013.

Sister Léonne Dumesnil, SNJM, C.M.

Sister Léonne Dumesnil is a sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and she was an elementary school principal at Sacré Coeur elementary school; the first public French Immersion School in the Winnipeg School Division and in the province. She advocated for the need for French language training in Manitoba that went deeper than a surface understanding of communication. She knew that opening our eyes to culture, language and community would create a lifelong passion for learning and a group of youth that would continue to promote French education all over the province and indeed the country. These students would go on to live and work in French communities. Many of these students went on to become French language educators, translators for the government of Canada, lawyers using both official languages, university professors presently working in the French language, and CBC français talk show hosts.

Sister Léonne always paid special attention to all of her students, remembering their names, families and what they had gone on to in their educational endeavors. She participated in panel discussions regarding French language learning and its success and relevance in our society. She was interviewed by CBC Canada about her inspiration of language learning. She was always a guardian and promoter of her students and made them feel special, even though she taught thousands of students at Sacré Coeur. Indeed, in 2018 the Winnipeg school Division counted 4717 French Immersion students in their schools.



Sister Léonne was awarded the Order of Canada in 1980 for her outstanding contribution to education in Manitoba.

Her community continued to show faith in her abilities as a trailblazer and named her Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, a position that carries a great degree of responsibility and importance.

Image Source: La Liberté Fonds

Sister Luc d'Antioche, SNJM

(1877 –)

Sister Luc d'Antioche (Delphine Beuglet) was a trailblazing teacher when she started teaching in St. Boniface in 1900. In 1925, she became principal at the Académie St-Joseph, a position she held until 1941. Under her leadership, the school evolved immensely.

On March 19, 1929, Sister Luc d'Antioche successfully had the school recognized as a collegiate, a designation that comes with several privileges. She also encouraged girls to study sciences. To support her pupils, she had a chemistry lab and a physics lab set up in the school, with all the required equipment. She also created a section dedicated to home economics, where girls learned to cook, sew and weave. A business course was also available, granting professional training. Each year, executives from Great West Life and other large companies reached out to the Académie, looking for future secretaries.



Societe historique de Saint-Boniface SHSB79787 *Sister Luc d'Antioche*

On June 3, 1936, Sister Luc d'Antioche's dream came true: in collaboration with the University of Manitoba, a college for girls was created. Sydney E. Smith, then president of the University of Manitoba granted the Académie with an affiliation to the university. At the time, it was the only college for girls in all of Manitoba. For many teachers, it was an opportunity to further their education, in French, beyond their education certificate.

Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns)

Since they first set foot on the east bank of the Red River in 1844 on their journey by canoe from Lachine, Québec, the Grey Nuns of Manitoba have responded to their community. They have provided a wide range of health, education and social services throughout Manitoba and the North. Excellent businesswomen and managers, they are also women of love and compassion.

They were the first religious women to come west when Manitoba was not yet a province, nor even part of Canada. In response to the growing need to receive and care for the sick, the Sisters became incorporated in 1871, one of the first acts of incorporation in Manitoba, and opened St. Boniface Hospital, the first independent hospital in St. Boniface and in all of Western Canada. The four-bed house was located on the site of the current St. Boniface Hospital.

Over the following century, St. Boniface Hospital continued to expand under the Grey Nuns' leadership and quickly became known for several innovations in health, including performing the first heart surgery in Manitoba in 1959. Throughout the years, the Grey Nuns went on to establish several institutions that sought to respond to unmet needs.



Image Source: Courtesy of the Archives of the Grey Nuns of Montréal. The arrival of the Grey Nuns in St. Boniface on July 19, 1844.

Their mission of caring and compassion encompassed all of Manitoba, as once established in St. Boniface, the Grey Nuns turned to communities beyond the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, settling in St. Norbert and St. François-Xavier where they went to teach. Later, in 1867, the sisters travelled North, to Fort Providence on a health and education mission, to Chesterfield Inlet and on to Yellowknife. Their mission also expanded beyond present-day Manitoba to Alberta, in 1859.

Since 1844, roughly 1,100 Manitoban women joined the community, and after professing their vows, became nurses, teachers or directed works in Manitoba and elsewhere, while others left to take part in missions around the world, in Africa and South America.

Many of the works founded by the Grey Nuns have stood the test of time including the St. Boniface Hospital, Ste. Rose General Hospital, Centre Taché and Foyer Valade (now Actionmarguerite), Youville Centre, the Centre de santé Saint-Boniface Health Centre, Sara Riel, St. Amant and St. Mary's Academy which later transferred to the

Sisters of Jesus and Mary.

Acknowledging the harm done to Indigenous communities through residential schools has touched the Grey Nuns deeply as they were present in 52 residential schools. Since 2008, the Grey Nun congregation has worked with Indigenous communities, organizations such as the Clan Mothers and those who have been traumatized by the residential school experience, to help rebuild relationships with First Nations people in the spirit of reconciliation.

Foreseeing the decline in their numbers, the Grey Nuns in Manitoba have taken steps to ensure the sustainability of the institutions and works they established. They have stepped back from active governance but remain engaged in providing guidance and support to ensure their mission of care and compassion carries on for generations to come.

Sisters of Misericordia

Being a single mother in the late 1800s simply wasn't an option for many women. Rather than face community stigma and bring shame to their families, Winnipeg women who had babies out of wedlock frequently left their infants on church doorsteps.

Three Misericordia Sisters and a nurse arrived by train in Winnipeg on December 1, 1898, speaking little or no English and having very little money. The Sisters began their work in a house on Broadway Avenue, setting up a safe and healthy environment for single mothers and children. By February 1899, the Sisters' Home cared for 20 mothers and three additional Sisters had joined the staff.

The Sisters came to Winnipeg to provide care to the marginalized but were compelled by necessity to become fundraisers as well. The Sisters walked the streets of Winnipeg – and as far away as Minneapolis – in all seasons to ask for wood, food and money to support their work.

The Misericordia Sisters purchased property on Sherbrook Street and Ida (now Wolseley Avenue) and continued to follow their motto of Compassion of the Heart for Those in Need in their new location.



In July 1900, they expanded their provision of care by building a maternity hospital, passing on their knowledge of midwifery and how to safely deliver babies.

An additional home for single mothers and their children, as well as an orphanage for 100 children, was established in St. Norbert. The Sisters also opened the Misericordia School of Nursing in 1916 to staff their centres and other health-care sites.

Single mothers and their children lived at the Misericordia Hospital until 1958. Three houses were then used as temporary residences until 1965 when the Sisters opened Villa Rosa, a pre- and post-natal residence, on Wolseley Avenue.

Wolseley Family Place – a family resource drop-in centre – was established by the Sisters in 1988. It continues to provide “a broad range of programs and resources aimed at providing support, enhancing education, and fostering community ...working together to strengthen children and families on the challenging journey of living and growing.”

A 100-bed personal care home called Misericordia Place was built in 2000 on Furby Street. An illuminated cross atop Misericordia Health Centre was installed to commemorate the Sisters and their contribution to Manitoba. Their true legacy is in the intangible: instilling a mission of caring, respect and trust so powerful that it will forever guide those working in Misericordia organizations.

Today, from Montreal, the Misericordia Sisters continue to be actively involved in the facilities they established in Winnipeg.

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, (SNJM) in Manitoba embody the definition of “trailblazers”.

Eulalie Durocher, an ordinary woman who accomplished the extraordinary, founded this community of pioneer women in Quebec in 1843. She, and her two companions, Mélodie Dufresne and Henriette Céré dedicated their lives to educating young women deprived of taking their rightful place in society. Many of them were newcomers, trapped in poverty and surrounded by rampant alcohol abuse. The Sisters recognized their potential and launched a school that offered a well-rounded education, including the arts, grounded in faith and centered in justice. Within a short time, this small band of women had quadrupled in numbers and had established six schools.

In 1869, the Grey Nuns of Manitoba, wanting to focus on healthcare, reached out to the SNJMs, knowing their love of teaching and capacity to effect change.

In August 1874, Sisters Jean-de-Dieu, Marie-Florentine, Electa-du-Sacre-Coeur and Marie-Elie arrived in the Red River Settlement to assume responsibility for Maison Ste Marie (St. Mary's Academy). Their 59- day journey was long and treacherous, but they arrived strong as ever, with full hearts, ready to teach children in the Red River Settlement.



The Sisters were not only teachers, but also housekeepers, cooks, infirmarians and laundresses. Despite their heavy workload, the dire poverty and the freezing cold, they embraced the future with courage and hope because of the children and youth who led the way. As true educators, they constantly upgraded themselves by taking courses, and attending conferences. They were committed to providing the best education possible to the students entrusted to their care.

From 1874 to 1970, the SNJMs founded 24 English and bilingual schools. During this time, they served over 200,000 students from pre-kindergarten to university in public and private schools throughout Winnipeg and in rural and northern Manitoba. Long before it was popular, the Sisters initiated French Immersion classes at St. Joseph Academy in the 1930's. Later, in 1973, the Winnipeg School Division asked Sister Leonne Dumesnil to spearhead the first French Immersion School in Winnipeg, Sacre-Coeur School.

Apart from establishing numerous schools, the Sisters and Associates initiated several charities which focused on marginalized people: refugees, immigrants, homeless, inner-city youth, trafficked women and children, impoverished families. Some examples are: Rossbrook House (1976), a safe place that ensures “no child who does not want to be alone ever has to be”; Esther House (1997), a safe home that empowers women in recovery from addiction; Next Step (2001), a weekly program that supports newly released offenders; Holy Names House of Peace (2004), a home that empowers newcomer women to begin life anew; and Artbeat Studio (2004) that provides programs for mental health and healing through creative endeavors.

The SNJM s are passionate leaders and advocates. They have touched and enriched the lives of so many people from all walks of life.

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate (SSMI)

In 1902, four Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate accepted the challenge to leave their homeland, present-day Ukraine, to join the growing number of Ukrainian immigrants in Canada, serving their needs, while adjusting themselves to a new language and culture in pioneer days. In 1905, two of them came to Winnipeg. A daughter of the immigrants joined them upon their arrival, receiving her formation as a Sister Servant as they began their mission. Soon they were teaching in a primary/elementary school in the St. Nicholas Church basement. In 1911 St. Nicholas School was built and flourished to the early 1960s. During the Spanish flu, the Sisters cared for many in their homes.

By 1960, St. Nicholas School in Winnipeg needed to be replaced. Immaculate Heart of Mary School was opened in September 1963. The school, 110 years later, continues to fulfill the mission of the 1905 trailblazers.

In 1910, Sisters Servants came to Sifton, and they began teaching in 1912. They counselled the new settlers, cared for the sick and welcomed orphans. After fire destroyed their home in 1924, they left but returned in 1935 to offer home care for the sick and teach, conducting choirs and teaching handicrafts and culinary arts. From 1941 to 1955 they accepted elderly into their home.



In 1928, the SSMI came to Dauphin to serve in the parish, teaching children and youth and even some adults English. For nearly two decades the Sisters visited patients in the hospital, often acting as interpreters and ministering to the dying. They also gave home care as requested by the sick, infirm and elderly in rural areas.

In 1947 the Sisters purchased RCAF units, which were relocated to Dauphin and transformed into a personal care home for this region. Despite a fire, their work continued. At the end of 2015, the Sisters bade farewell to the home as changing times made it necessary to transfer ownership to Prairie Mountain Health. The SSMI mission in Dauphin and area was celebrated by the unveiling of a bronze sculpture of two pioneer Sisters Servants opposite St. Paul's Home Chapel July 31, 2016.

At their fourth SSMI mission to Portage la Prairie (1936-1943), the Sisters conducted a fruitful and varied parish apostolate. They conducted a day nursery school, taught children and youth. In the summer they taught over 900 children and youth in rural parishes and they visited the sick and elderly.

In 1956 the SSMI purchased the former Children's Hospital and the Nurses' Residence. By 1957, the hospital was converted to a personal care home Holy Family Home. It continues to welcome the infirm and elderly to this day.

The nurses' residence was converted to a home of the Sisters. The Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy (1957-1963) for high school girls, church vestry, School of Music, Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Centre (1977-1988) were also located there. This Centre was moved to the Archeparchial Chancery and continued to serve local and rural parishes in Winnipeg until 2003.

The Institute of the Sisters of Service of Canada

Under the motto of "I Have Come to Serve," the Sisters of Service broke new ground as a non-traditional community of Roman Catholic women. Established in 1922 to serve rural Canada west of the Ontario border, the 125 permanent members encountered opposition and skepticism. Instead of convents, they lived in modest accommodation, dressed in a simple grey uniform and a hat and kept their names. As teachers, nurses and social workers, they provided a social safety net for immigrant women and families before and after the First World War.

The first rural mission was opened in Camp Morton (1924-1988) by two teachers and a district nurse and was followed in Manitoba by a women's hostel (1926-1979) in Winnipeg and a teaching mission (1971-1979) in Churchill.

In the one-room schoolhouses of the Camp Morton area, a total of 15 Sisters taught at King Edward School No. 1, 10 Sisters at King Edward School No. 2 and six Sisters at the Bismarck school, Berlo until 1967. For 35 years, Sister Lena Renaud, a respected teacher, tireless community and parish worker, brought practical education into King Edward School 2 (1953-1960), Bismarck school, Berlo (1960-1967) and Gimli (1967-1983 through 4-H Club activities, carpentry, hockey and baseball. Active in the Manitoba Teachers Society, she received Manitoba History Society's centennial medal in 1971.



For 15 years, three Sisters of Service provided free nursing care in the Camp Morton area until Johnson Memorial Hospital in Gimli was opened in 1939. The first district nurse, Sister Catherine Wymbys grew up in Brandon, graduated in nursing from Saint Boniface General Hospital and received a medal of honour from the French government for nursing in the field hospitals during the First World War. Her nursing successor Sister Agnes Brunning also looked after the horse stable.

The doors of a hostel for immigrant women were opened in April 1926 at 62 Hargrave Street in Winnipeg, assisted by the Winnipeg branch of the Catholic Women League. Sisters welcomed at railway stations, provided home-like accommodation, support and care in collaboration with government and other social agencies. As superior (1932-1945), Sister Eva Chartrand, who had owned a millinery shop, introduced a practical training course for the women entering domestic service. Sister Chartrand placed 220 young women in properly paid positions while 143 attended the in-residence cooking classes. In 1973, the Winnipeg YMCA assumed the management of Hargrave House with Sister Agnes Sheehan, a social worker at a Child Guidance Clinic (1968-1973), as director. The project was the first Canadian partnership of the YWCA and a Catholic religious community. Sister Marilyn MacDonald, a social worker caring for Indigenous children, worked for the Winnipeg Children's Aid Society (1971-1973) in the field unit, located in the Indian and Metis Friendship Centre.

In Churchill, Sisters Patsy Flynn and Marilyn Gillespie taught at Duke of Marlborough school while Sister Anita Hartman taught at Hearne Hall school (1971-1972) before embarking on her heartfelt calling of teaching music.