



2022 Nellie McClung Trailblazer Scholarship recipients

THE NELLIE MCCLUNG FOUNDATION

annual report

2022-2023

Fiscal year April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023

Our Purpose

The Nellie McClung Foundation, while honouring the legacy of past trailblazers, works to empower, inspire, and celebrate girl and women leaders in the community.

Our Values

Equal Rights

Educating and providing varied resources, history and experiences that inspire equal participation in leadership roles.

Honouring Legacy

Embedding the values that were reflected by those earlier women and men who fought for equality.

Leadership Development

Providing resources and educational opportunities to encourage women to identify and develop their talents and to exercise leadership.

Social Responsibility

Enhancing social awareness which challenges individuals to support equality.

Community Focus

Promoting the right and privilege to lead within the community.

Celebrating Success

Providing opportunities to recognize and celebrate the talents and leadership of women.

Our Vision

Manitoba girls and women are empowered leaders in the community.

HONOURARY PATRON

The Honourable Janice C. Filmon, O.C., O.M.
Lieutenant Governor, Province of Manitoba

FOUNDER

Hon. Myrna Driedger

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane Sparrow, Chair
Doris Mae Oulton, Past Chair
Judith Chambers, Vice Chair
Shona Connelly
Bonnie Procyshyn
Connie Yunyk
Joy Loewen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dana Driedger

Message from the Board Chair



The Nellie McClung Foundation (NMF) began its fiscal year by beginning to take action on the goals set forth in the five-year strategic plan developed in 2021. The goals aim to ensure the Foundation's ongoing success and sustainability. The strategic plan focuses on three main areas; **leadership and awareness, community impact, and organizational capacity.**

This year's annual report showcases some of the key initiatives that took place in 2022 to support the strategic plan. Including the launch of the 'Yes I Can' leadership initiative with a video series that premiered on October 11th, 2022, for the 10th anniversary of International Day of the Girl. Special thank you to Mindscape Studios for their generous support of the videos and continued partnership in the leadership program.

The Foundation was again able to provide ten (10) scholarships to self-identified female students. To celebrate, a recognition event was hosted at Government House with the Honourable Janice Filmon officiating the presentation ceremony. It will be an experience remembered and cherished not only by the scholarship recipients, but by everyone in attendance.

With community impact being an area of focus, a goal for 2022 was to strengthen our relationship with the Nellie McClung Heritage Site. In Summer of 2022, we were graciously invited to visit the historical Nellie's Homes and experience the "I Do" exhibit. Thank you to Barbara Biggar and the board of the heritage site for their kind hospitality.

With organizational capacity being a priority, the Foundation was pleased to welcome two new Board members: Connie Yunyk and Joy Loewen. They are wonderful additions to the Board bringing their great talent and expertise and we look forward to working with them.

As we reflect on the achievements and the future goals of the NMF, special recognition and thank you is extended to the dynamic NMF Board of Directors and to our Executive Director, Dana Driedger, for their continued commitment to ensure the ongoing success and sustainability of the Nellie McClung Foundation.

As we look to the year ahead, 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Foundation. To recognize the occasion we are proud to present the 20th Anniversary Gala, in support of the 'Yes I Can' Leadership initiative. The gala will take place on December 4th, 2023, at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. It promises to be a celebratory night recognizing the accomplishments of the past 20 years and onwards as we raise funds to help empower girls and women in Manitoba to become leaders in their community. The event will also feature keynote speaker the Honourable Janice Filmon, former Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba and founding Chair of the Nellie McClung Foundation.

A special acknowledgement to all of our donors and sponsors, it is only through your support that the Nellie McClung Foundation can look to the future and be confident that it can continue to be an influence and create positive changes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Sparrow". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Diane Sparrow, Board Chair

Strategic Objectives

The Nellie McClung Foundation has accomplished much since its inception: the construction of a 'Nellie and her "famous" friends' monument on the Manitoba Legislative grounds; a well-documented website; curriculum materials on Nellie and women's suffrage to support teachers and students; scholarships for both art projects and STEAM recipients; a Trailblazer speaking series, and the creation of both the 'Nellie Awards' (to celebrate 100 years for most Manitoba Women getting the vote) and the 150 Trailblazer Awards.

Our work continues and our strategic plan lays out a roadmap for the Foundation's continued evolution over the next five years. To that end, there are three areas of focus that are priority for the next five years:

Leadership and Awareness
Community Impact
Organizational Capacity

The following key initiatives took place in 2022 to support our strategic plan:

Leadership and Awareness

Create Programs Focused on Leadership and Increasing Awareness of the Achievements of Girls and Women

The Foundation is well-positioned to increase its impact through the creation of programming centred around empowering girls and women and to focus its scholarships on leadership.



In 2022, in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl, the Nellie McClung Foundation recognized the occasion with the launch of a video series called 'Yes I Can' featuring the stories of five dynamic young women aged 16-25.

Many studies have shown that young girls can lose confidence as they go through their teen years. Because of this, we need to find ways to help girls see what their future could look like and inspire them to believe 'Yes I Can'.

Leadership and Awareness

The video series was created to highlight the inspirational work that these women have already accomplished at such a young age and to recognize how important it is to share their stories so other younger girls can look up to them and know that their dreams are achievable.

The video series was made possible through the generous support of Mindscape Studios.



A watch party was held November 2022 to showcase the inaugural 'Yes I Can' video series. Graciously hosted by Inn at the Forks, the watch party invited the participants and their families to watch the videos on the 'big screen' and celebrate with the team that made it all possible.

The 'Yes I Can' video series can be found at nelliemcclungfoundation.com/yesican



Leadership and Awareness

Offer scholarships, bursaries and awards to recognize and inspire leadership in girls and women

In 2022, the Foundation was successful in again providing \$13,750 in scholarships to ten (10) self-identified female high school and post secondary students. To celebrate, a recognition event was hosted at Government House with the Honourable Janice Filmon officiating the presentation ceremony.

Community Impact

Extend Our Reach Through Greater Inclusiveness and Partnerships within the Province of Manitoba

Partnerships are critical to the Foundation given the organization's limited resources. Proactively seeking partnership opportunities will extend our reach, increase engagement, and impact long-term sustainability.



In Summer 2022, the Foundation sought to strengthen its existing relationship with the Nellie McClung Heritage Sites. We were graciously invited to Manitou in the Summer of 2022 to visit the historical Nellie's Homes and experience the "I Do" exhibit. The exhibit showcases 150 Years of Wedding Gowns & Dresses, with a 30-gown collection covering styles from 1867 to 2020.

The Nellie McClung Heritage site is a must-see!



Organizational Capacity

Increase Organizational Capacity to Support the Work of the Foundation

In 2022, The Foundation in its quest to access funding, employed Grant Advance, a technology company that offers accessibility to a wide range of funding opportunities plus provides support to improve the application process for granting.

Continued Programming

Faces and Places: Trailblazing Women of Manitoba Walking Guide Book

Buried in many of the monuments and murals in Manitoba are the stories of women who helped make Manitoba's history and whose achievements were critical to the development of this province. We developed this book to develop a history book/guide that promotes visiting the places, seeing the faces and remembering the stories of Manitoba women who have made history—and whose lives so well-lived proved that, by working together and supporting one another, we can all make change for the better. The book is available at McNally Robinson.

Curriculum Material & Learning Resources

Produced curriculum material and learning resources for teachers and students using the material researched and the Manitoba Social Studies Curriculum Documents for Grades 6, 9 and 11 classes as general guides.

The Winnipeg Foundation Nellie McClung Foundation Endowment Fund

Originally established to support a monument commemorating Nellie McClung on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature. Ninety percent of initial gifts to the fund went directly to completing the monument. The remaining ten percent and any gift after completion is pooled and invested. The income generated is distributed to support the work of the Nellie McClung Foundation as well as the Nellie McClung Trailblazer scholarships.

NMF Bursary Awards at Universities

Established by the Nellie McClung Foundation, gifts to this fund are invested in perpetuity and the annual income generated provides a bursary of \$1,500 annually to a woman at the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg who are undertaking a program in Political or Women's Studies that will help towards the advancement of Women.

'Let Them Howl' By Sharon Bajer Mock Parliament Play

This play is a retelling and re-enactment of the famous 'mock-parliament' play 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 and most people think that there is a script that can be used to tell this wonderful story, alas there is not, until now.

Playwright Sharon Bajer, has brought together Nellie's writings and news from the day to create this cheeky story of a group of women who took on the roles of men and assured the audience, in mocking what they had just heard from the Premier, "Nice men do not want to vote."

It has been purposefully designed – both in length and in style- to be used in classrooms and for groups who want to take the 'voting' message to their colleagues.

The inaugural performance of the play took place on October 18, 2015, with 31 of Winnipeg's women leaders participating in it's reading. An encore performance was held at the Burton Cumming's Theatre (originally the Walker Theatre) on January 20, 2019 performed by students from Winnipeg. Since then, the play has been performed by groups of students and organizations to audiences across Canada.

Continued Programming

Nellie McClung Trailblazer Scholarships

These awards are for self-identified female students considering careers in the exciting fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), business or underrepresented trades. Careers in these areas offer excellent job opportunities, great earning potential and stimulating work environments. Each year five (5) awards of \$1,000 are granted to self-identified female students in grade 12 who have demonstrated an aptitude in an area of study that could lead to further education and/or careers in STEAM, business or underrepresented trades programs. Five (5) additional awards of \$1,750 are granted to self-identified female students who are in their first year of post-secondary study in STEAM, business or underrepresented trades programs.

Selection criteria for both of these awards will ensure the diversity of Manitoba's population is reflected, including awards to students from Indigenous, northern and rural communities.



Nellie McClung and the Famous 5 Monument

The Nellie McClung Foundation monument featuring Nellie McClung and the 'Famous 5' sits on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature, and was sculpted by Winnipeg artist Helen Granger Young.

The scene we have chosen with Nellie among the 'Famous Five' accomplishes all of this: it depicts her at the very pinnacle— the most symbolic moment— of her political career, alongside a handful of women whose shared ideas and beliefs she had passionately championed around the world. In this scene, Nellie McClung is putting her own name to the petition that supported the idea that the time had come for women to be recognized as persons. She was a pivotal figure in these efforts; framed by these important women, she is the pivotal figure in this scene.



'Yes I Can' Watch Party

The Nellie McClung **Foundation**

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