

Terms, Groups / Organizations Related to the Struggle for Rights

activist /activism	Activism refers to taking action. It means standing up and taking action for our beliefs. An activist is a person who takes action to bring about change. An activist may fight for various social and political causes. Some common causes are racial equality, low-income families, and the plight of the homeless.
allegations	An allegation is a statement asserting something without proof.
Board of Governors of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation C.B.C.)	From 1936 to 1958, the C.B.C. (Canadian Broadcasting corporation) was headed by a board of governors. In the beginning, it was made up of nine members representing the various sections of Canada. Nellie McClung was the sole female on the first Board of Directors.
campaign	A political campaign refers to the organized effort of a political party to win an election. Parties and party members campaign to convince the electorate – the voters to vote for their specific party and/or their ideas.
Canadian Senate	The Upper House of the Canadian Parliament located in Ottawa; its members are appointed. Women could not be appointed to the Canadian Senate until they were recognized as “Persons” under Canadian Law in 1929 (The Person’s Case).
Canadian Supreme Court	The Canadian Supreme Court is Canada’s highest court and is located in the capital city of Ottawa. It is now the final court of appeal in Canada. Until 1949, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London

	was the final court of appeal for Canadians.
Canadian Women's Press Club	The Winnipeg Branch founded in 1907, held weekly meetings. E. Cora Hind was the first President, and other prominent Manitoban members were Lillian Beynon Thomas (first Secretary), Nellie McClung, and Francis Marion Beynon. The women were activists wishing to bring about better conditions for women and children.
compensation	Compensation is usually something that is received in return for something else. Wages and other financial benefits earned from labour.
constituency	In Canada, a constituency is a place or geographical area that is represented in the House of Commons by a member of parliament, or in provincial and territory elections an area represented by a member of the provincial or territory legislative assembly.
corruption	Corruption refers dishonest, evil, or bad behaviour.
delegation	A delegation is a small group of people who speak for the larger group.
election	An election refers to a time when people vote in order to choose someone for a political or official job.
electorate	The people who are allowed (have the right) to vote in an election.
enfranchisement	Gaining the right to vote.
Famous Five	A group of 5 women, Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Irene Parlby, whose efforts led to Canadian women being regarded as Persons under Canadian Law in 1928.
feminist	A person who believes in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes.
House of Commons	The Lower House of the Canadian Parliament located in Ottawa; its members are elected.
Japanese internment	During times of war or crisis, a government may

camps	decide to force certain groups of people who might be regarded as enemies to leave their homes and live in special guarded areas. These areas have been referred to as internment camps. For instance, in Canada during World War I, thousands of Japanese Canadians were forced to leave their homes and some were housed to live in Internment Camps.*
Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council	The Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council was Canada's final court of appeal in 1929 and was located in England.
League of Nations	League of Nations was an international organization started after World War I to stop countries going to war. It was replaced by the United Nations.
Legislature or Legislative Assembly	The place where provincial laws are passed.
Member of Parliament (MP)	An MP is a person elected to sit in the House of Commons.
militant	Militant refers to being ready and willing to fight -generally to support a cause.
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) refers to a person elected to a provincial government.
opposition	In government, the opposition refers to the Political Party or the elected people who oppose the Government in Power. The Official Opposition is the party with the second largest number of seats.
Persons Case	The Court Case (1929) that decided that women in Canada were "persons" according to Canadian law. For many years, Canadian women were not considered to be "persons" under the law. This meant that women could not serve in the Canadian Senate. Some people also believed that, if women were not "persons" under the law, they should not be judges.* In 1927, a group of Canadian women, Emily Murphy,

	Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney, decided that the law must be changed. They wrote to the Supreme Court to ask if the word person included women. The Supreme Court replied that, under the law, it did not. Next, they contacted Canada's highest Court of Appeals. That court was the Privy Council in England. The Privy Council ruled that women were "persons." The five women became known as the Famous Five. * Emily Murphy was appointed a magistrate in Alberta in 1916. On her first day of court, a lawyer, Eardley Jackson, challenged her position as a judge. He argued that women were not "persons" under the British North America Act of 1867. His argument was based on a British Common Law ruling of 1876, which stated, "women were eligible for pains and penalties, but not rights and privileges." The Alberta Supreme Court later settled the issue for Alberta by ruling that women were persons. This ruling, however, only applied to Alberta.
petition	A petition is a document that is signed by people who want a government or other group in authority to take an action or make a change.
Petition for the vote for women – 1915 -1916	The Liberals had promised to grant the vote to women of Manitoba if they could present the legislature with a petition signed by 17,000 people. By the end of 1915, the Political Equality League (PEL) submitted a petition with 39,584 signatures. A second petition circulated by 94-year-old Amelia Burdett of Sturgeon Creek was signed by 4,250 people.
Political Equality League (PEL)	Political Equality League, founded in 1912 in Winnipeg, was a group of women and some men in Manitoba who campaigned for the vote for women as well as other reforms such as improved living and working conditions for women and children. The members published pamphlets, spoke to groups, circulated petitions, and made a presentation to the

	Legislature. Members included Dr. Mary Crawford, Nellie McClung, E. Cora Hind, Frances Marion Beynon, Lillian Beynon Thomas, Winona Flett, and Lynn Flett.
politics	Politics are the activities associated with governing or influencing people.
prejudice	Prejudice refers to an opinion, often negative, about something, someone or a group of people not based on facts. It is an opinion or judgment that disregards the facts. Racism is an example of prejudice.
Prohibition	Prohibition refers to the action of forbidding something - an order or law that forbids something to happen.
referendum	A referendum refers to a direct vote on one issue. In Canada, a referendum is binding. Referendums can be held at any level of government, but are more common at the provincial or local level.
reform	Reform refers to making changes to a social, political, or economic practice or institution to attempt to improve it.
Riding	The term generally used for a Federal Political area. In Canada, a Riding is a place or geographical area that is represented in the House of Commons by a member of parliament, or in provincial and territory elections an area represented by a member of the provincial or territory legislative assembly.
Senate	The Senate is the Upper house of the Canadian Parliament located in Ottawa; its members are appointed. Until October 18, 1929, only men could be appointed to the Canadian Senate. On October 18th, 1929 because of the Person's Case, women were considered to be "persons" under Canadian law making them eligible to be appointed to the Canadian Senate.
Senator	A person who is appointed to the Senate is a Senator.

suffrage	Suffrage is the right to vote in an election.
suffragist	A woman who campaigned for the vote for women was known as suffragist.
temperance movement	Temperance refers to a movement to ban the use of alcohol.
vote	To vote means to express the will or a preference in a matter by ballot, raising a hand or by voice. In Canada in Municipal, Provincial, and Federal elections, people vote through a secret ballot.
Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.)	The Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) was a group who worked for social reform that would improve the lives of women and children. Its members believed that the excessive use of alcohol caused problems in society and in families and, as a result, the W.C.T.U. wished to have the use of alcohol banned. They also believed that women must have the right to vote.
Women's Parliament or Mock Parliament	The Women's Parliament or the Mock Parliament was a play about a "Women's Parliament" put on in the Walker Theatre in Winnipeg by the Political quality League. Nellie McClung took the part of the Premier. Men brought a petition to "the premier" asking for the vote. They were refused. Nellie (as the Premier) used the same arguments to deny them the vote as Premier Roblin had used against women. "If men were all so intelligent as these representatives of the downtrodden sex seem to be, it might not do any harm to give them the vote. But all men are not intelligent. There is no use giving men votes. They wouldn't use them. They would let them spoil and go to waste. Then again some men would vote too much ---" Hallett and Davis, p.125