



THE NELLIE MCCLUNG FOUNDATION

# Annual Report 2018-2020

THE *Nellie* McCLUNG FOUNDATION

# Report to the Community

As we prepare this annual report, we reflect, not only on how much the organization has changed in the past three years, but also the world. As we all cope with the impacts of COVID-19, we reminisce of the days when we could gather as a community to enjoy one another's company. While we have not been able to do so in person in the last year, we have not let this hamper our purpose to promote Nellie's legacy being carried out by female leaders of today.

In 2019, we released **Faces and Places: Trailblazing Women of Manitoba**, a walking tour guide of the monuments and murals in Manitoba that hold the stories of women who helped make Manitoba's history and whose achievements were critical to the development of this province. This ninety four page book is packed with women's stories and interesting destinations. We were pleased with the reaction to the book, which stayed on the McNally Robinson best-seller book list for three weeks.

As well in 2019, we put out a call to the community to submit to us nominations for the **150 Manitoba Women Trailblazer awards**. These awards were intended to be presented in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Manitoba becoming a province. We wanted to provide an opportunity to salute the contributions that Manitoba women have made to social justice, arts, sports, politics, community activities and promoting democracy while developing this great province. These Trailblazer Awards honour Nellie McClung's vision by recognizing the spirit of her life's work being advanced by women leaders of today or throughout Manitoba's history.

Because of the unforeseen circumstances we find ourselves in and the restrictions presently placed by COVID-19, we were unable to host an in-person event as originally planned in 2020. We still aim to publicly recognize the great accomplishments of all of the award recipients and will do so through a virtual book to be released in 2021.

Nellie McClung once said, "People must know the past to understand the present, and to face the future;". In 2020, we looked to the future, 100 years into the future to be exact. The Foundation provided artifacts to be included in a time capsule created by the Province of Manitoba to celebrate the Manitoba Legislature building's 100th birthday and Manitoba's 150th anniversary as a province. The time capsule will not be opened until July 2120.

Another significant change has been our new Executive Director, as of the summer of 2019. Under her leadership, we have begun developing a new strategic plan, put a donor plan in place, and with the full support of the board, intend to ensure organizational sustainability for years to come.

All of these changes and the continued forward momentum of the Foundation would not be possible if it wasn't for the guidance provided by an exemplary group of women who volunteer their time and expertise on our Board of Directors. We want to thank them for their continued support and unwavering dedication.

We also want to thank you, the community, for your ongoing support of The Nellie McClung Foundation. We look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Doris Mae Oulton  
Board Chair



Dana Driedger  
Executive Director

## PATRON

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dana Driedger

## OUR History

The Nellie McClung Foundation was created in order to acknowledge and raise awareness of the contributions of Nellie McClung and her famous friends. These were important Canadians who assisted in advancing the cause of women in this province and country, and who created opportunities for all citizens for generations to come.

The idea began in 2002 with MLA Myrna Driedger, then critic for the Status of Women. She identified Nellie as a significant but unrecognized contributor to the life of women in Manitoba. In speaking with grassroots women's organizations and individuals, it became clear that it was time to find some way to honour Nellie's contributions.

Through a Private Member's Bill, the Manitoba Legislature created a foundation that would erect a monument for Nellie McClung at the Legislature, serving to educate the public about her achievements. Together with founding Chair The Honourable Janice C. Filmon, O.C., O.M., MLA Driedger assembled an exemplary team of men and women who commissioned the artist and the foundry; reviewed and selected monument concepts; raised funds; managed promotions; and developed the site. The monument was finally unveiled in 2010.

## PAST Initiatives

### **Centennial Gala: Celebrating 100 Years Of Manitoba Women's Right To Vote**

A momentous Canadian human rights milestone took place on January 28th, 2016, it was 100 years ago on this day that some Manitoba women were the first in Canada to be awarded the right to vote. The Nellie McClung Foundation recognized the occasion with a year of celebration, beginning with the Centennial Gala: Celebration 100 Years of MB Women's Right to Vote, in partnership with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, taking place at the RBC Convention Centre, Winnipeg, MB.

### **The Nellie Awards**

The Nellie Awards honour Nellie McClung's vision by recognizing the spirit of her life's work being advanced by women leaders of today. An esteemed selection committee selected five rural and five urban recipients for ten Nellie Awards that were presented at the Centennial Gala: Celebrating 100 Years of MB Women's Right to Vote.

### **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.

### **West End Biz Women's Suffrage Mural**

The West End Biz Women's Suffrage Mural is located at 560 Sargent Avenue, Winnipeg, MB. The Nellie McClung Foundation worked as a partner to help develop the mural. The mural celebrates 100 years since the vote was first extended to some women in Manitoba in 1916. The mural portrays a scene from the play "The Women's Parliament," a performance organized by Manitoba Suffragists in 1914, created by local Winnipeg artist, Mandy Van Leeuwen.

### **Donation To The Nellie McClung Heritage Site**

The Nellie McClung Foundation donated \$15,000 to The Nellie McClung Heritage Site. The Nellie McClung Heritage Site is a dedicated organization that is committed to safeguarding two of Nellie's most important homes, which are offered as living classrooms to students and as a fascinating tourist attraction for Manitobans.

## ONGOING Initiatives

### **Nellie McClung Trailblazer Scholarships**

The Nellie McClung Foundation presents the Nellie McClung Trailblazer Scholarships. These awards are for female students considering careers in the exciting fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), business, fine arts, or underrepresented trades. Careers in these areas offer excellent job opportunities, great earning potential and stimulating work environments.

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.

### **Faces and Places: Trailblazing Women of Manitoba Walking Guide Book**

The NMF developed a walking guide book with author Judy Waytuik. On January 28, 2020, which coincided with the 104th anniversary of some Manitoba women becoming the first in Canada to get the vote, The Nellie McClung Foundation hosted the book launch for Faces & Places: Trailblazing Women of Manitoba at McNally Robinson Booksellers.

We were fortunate to have guest speakers which included Winnipeg Foundation's Cathy Auld, Senator Pat Bovey, former Lieutenant Governor Pearl McGonigal, and Speaker of the House Hon. Myrna Driedger. Each shared with the audience how important continuing to recognize the women who helped shape this province is.

We thank the Winnipeg Foundation for its generous support of this Nellie McClung Foundation project.

### **The Winnipeg Foundation Nellie McClung Foundation Endowment Fund**

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 an education website, events, awards and scholarships.

### **The Nellie McClung Foundation 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 is undertaking a program in Political or Women's Studies that will help towards the advancement of Women.

### **'Let Them Howl' By Sharon Bajer**

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 to audience across Canada

### **Developed 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.

### **Relaunched our Website - [nelliemcclungfoundation.com](http://nelliemcclungfoundation.com)**

In 2019, we relaunched our website. This extensive website contains information about Nellie McClung; the work of the Foundation; anecdotal timeliness about Nellie's history; as well as the history of women's rights in Canada, the political equality league and women's firsts. Along with the curriculum developed for educators.



# THE 150 MANITOBA WOMEN

## Trailblazers

In partnership with the Winnipeg Free Press, the Nellie McClung Foundation was proud to present the 150 Manitoba Women Trailblazer Awards; an opportunity to salute the contributions that women have made to social justice, arts, sports, politics, community activities and promoting democracy while continuing to develop this great province. The awards were announced on January 28, 2021, the 105th anniversary of most Manitoba women being the first in Canada to receive the right to vote.

These Trailblazer Awards honour Nellie McClung's vision by recognizing the spirit of her life's work being advanced by women leaders of today or throughout our history.

More than 300 nominations from the community were received for consideration. Each nomination was reviewed by an independent selection committee. The selection committee was overwhelmed with the accomplishments, contributions and sheer fortitude of all those nominated. It was a very difficult decision for them to select the 150 recipients from the number of women nominated. Truly every woman whose name was put forward is worthy of recognition.

Because of the unforeseen circumstances we find ourselves in and the restrictions presently placed by COVID-19, we will be unable to host an in-person event as originally planned. It is our goal to publicly recognize the great accomplishments of all of the award recipients and will do so through a virtual book to be released in 2021.

For more information and a full list of the recipients and nominees please visit [nelliemcclungfoundation.com](http://nelliemcclungfoundation.com).

## VALUED Partners



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## Winnipeg Free Press





## THE NELLIE MCCLUNG FOUNDATION

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