

Fact Sheet for *The First Canadian Woman To*

- Nov 03, 1867 Emily Stowe opened a medical practice in Toronto becoming the first woman to practice medicine in Canada. Even though she had studied homeopathic medicine at the New York Medical College for Women and earned a medical degree she was denied a medical licence by Ontario's College of Physicians and Surgeons until 1880.
- May 12, 1875 Jenny Trout was the first woman to be licenced to practice medicine in Ontario.
- May 25, 1875 Grace Lockhart was the first woman in the British Empire to earn a bachelor's degree when she received a BSc and literature degree from Mount Allison College in Sackville, New Brunswick.
- 1883 26 year old Augusta Stowe-Gullen graduated from the Toronto School of Medicine. She was the first woman to graduate from a Canadian medical school.
- 1886 Sara Jeannette Duncan was the first woman employed full time by the Toronto Globe. She wrote using the name "Garth Grafton".
- 1888 Helen Gregory MacGill was the only woman in her class and the first female graduate of Toronto's Trinity College when she was awarded a B.A. and an M.A. degree in 1888. She then worked as a reporter. In 1917 she became the third woman in Canada to become a judge when she was appointed to the Juvenile Court in Vancouver.
- 1889 Eliza Ritchie graduated from Dalhousie in 1887 and 2 years later obtained her PhD from Cornell in the United States. She was probably the first Canadian woman to earn a doctorate. She taught at Wellesley College in Massachusetts and returned to Dalhousie in 1901 to teach philosophy.
- 1891 Carrie Matilda Derick, earned degrees at McGill (BA, 1890; MA, 1896). She became the first woman on McGill's academic staff when she received an appointment as a botany demonstrator in 1891. She was the first woman in Canada to be made a full professor when she became professor of morphological botany at McGill in 1912.
- Feb 02, 1897 The Law Society of Upper Canada admitted Clara Brett Martin making her the first woman in the law profession in the British Empire.
- Jun 07, 1900 Irma Levasseur became Quebec's the first woman doctor and woman pediatrician. She would help establish the Hôpital de l'Enfant-Jésus in Québec City and the Hôpital Sainte-Justine in Montréal.
- 1903 Annie L. Jack who was Canada's first professional woman garden writer is best remembered for her 1903 book "The Canadian Garden: A Pocket Help for the Amateur".
- Jan 01, 1916 Emily Murphy was appointed a magistrate in Edmonton, Alberta. She was the first woman to hold such a post in the British Commonwealth.
- Jan 28, 1916 Manitoba was the first province to allow women to vote in provincial elections.
- 1916 Isabella Preston was the first professional woman hybridist in Canada. She gained world renown when she developed the "George C. Creelman" lily.

- Jun 17, 1917 Albertans Louise McKinney and Roberta MacAdams were the first Canadian women elected to a provincial legislature.
- Jul 09, 1917 Helen Gregory MacGill was the first woman appointed as a judge in British Columbia.
- Jan 22, 1918 Mary Ellen Smith became the first woman elected to the British Columbia Legislature.
- Jul 29, 1919 Sarah Ramsland became the first women elected to Saskatchewan's Legislature.
- 1920 Esther Hill became Canada's first woman architect when she graduated from the University of Toronto.
- Jan 25, 1921 Mary Ellen Smith became the first woman Cabinet minister in the British Empire when she was appointed to the BC provincial Cabinet by Liberal Premier John Oliver.
- Dec 06, 1921 Agnes Macphail was the first woman elected to the House of Commons. She was elected as a member of the Progressive Party of Canada and would later be a member of the CCF Party.
- Feb 20, 1930 Cairine Wilson became Canada's first woman Senator when she was appointed by PM King.
- 1937 Paleontologist Alice Wilson was the first woman elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.
- Jan 10, 1942 Elizabeth Monk and Suzanne Fillion were the first women admitted to Québec's bar.
- May 18, 1943 Elizabeth Lawrie Smellie became the first woman colonel in the Canadian Army while she was serving as Matron-in-Chief of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.
- Dec 12, 1949 Nancy Hodges was the first woman to hold the post of Speaker in the British Commonwealth when she was named Speaker of the BC Legislature.
- 1951 Social worker Charlotte Whitton became the first woman mayor of a major Canadian city in 1951 when she was elected to that post. She was re-elected in 1952 and 1954, and again in 1960 and 1962.
- Jan 09, 1953 Marguerite Pitre was the last woman to be hanged in Canada. She had been convicted for her role in a plot to crash a Québec Airways DC-3 which killed 23 people. This was North America's first plane crash caused by a criminal act.
- Jun 21, 1957 When John Diefenbaker was sworn in as Canada's 13th Prime Minister he appointed Ellen Fairclough as a Secretary of State. This made her the first woman to serve in the federal cabinet.
- Jan 14, 1961 Gertrude Guerin was elected chief of the Musqueam Indian Band making her the first woman chief in Canada.
- Feb 16, 1965 Marjorie White became the first Aboriginal woman to be appointed a citizenship judge in BC.
- Nov 08, 1965 Grace MacInnis became BC's first woman Member of Parliament when she was elected to Parliament for the NDP.
- 1971 Artist Joyce Wieland was the first living Canadian woman to have her work shown at a major exhibition of The National Art Gallery of Canada.
- Aug 30, 1972 Rosemary Brown was the first woman of African descent to be elected to a Canadian provincial legislature. She served as a NDP representative in BC's legislature for 1972 until 1986.

- Oct 30, 1972 Monique Bégin, Albanie Morin and Jeanne Sauve became the first woman from Quebec to be elected to Parliament when they were one of 109 Liberals elected in the 29th general election.
- Jan 17, 1974 Pauline McGibbon was the first woman to hold the position of lieutenant-governor in Canada when she was appointed lieutenant-governor of Ontario.
- Apr 10, 1974 Pauline McGibbon was sworn in as the 22nd Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. She was the first woman to hold such a post in Canada.
- Sep 12, 1974 Louise Lapointe was selected as Speaker in the Senate. She was the first francophone woman to serve in this role in Parliament.
- Sep 16, 1974 The RCMP accepted its first 4 women recruits making them the first to join the force.
- Oct 25, 1974 Pauline Jewett became the first woman appointed president of a major Canadian university when she accepted that position at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC.
- Nov 27, 1974 Jeanne Sauvé was appointed federal Minister of State for Science and Technology by Pierre Trudeau. She was the first female Cabinet member from Quebec.
- 1975 Gloria George was the first woman to become president of a major aboriginal political organization - the Native Council of Canada.
- Feb 18, 1975 Sylvia Ostry became the first woman to hold Deputy Minister rank in Canada when she was appointed to that role in the federal government's Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.
- Sep 11, 1975 Nicole Juteau became the Quebec's first policewoman. She would work in Shawinigan as a night-time patrol officer.
- Jul 1976 Trapshooter Susan Natrass was the first woman to participate in a shooting event at the Olympics. Until 1992 shooting events were open to both sexes.
- Sep 08, 1977 Cindy Nicholas became the first woman to complete a double crossing of the English Channel. She would swim the channel 19 times in her career.
- 1979 Flora MacDonald was the first woman to be Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs.
- 1980 Dr Lois Wilson was the first woman elected moderator of Canada's United Church.
- Apr 14, 1980 Jeanne Sauvé was appointed Speaker of the House of Commons. She was the first woman to hold this office.
- Feb 13, 1981 Captains Leah Mosher, Nora Bottomley and Dee Brasseur graduated as the first women to qualify as pilots in the Canadian Air Force.
- 1982 Iona Campagnolo was the first woman elected as president of the national Liberal Party. She held the office until 1986. She would later become the Lieutenant Governor of BC.
- Mar 04, 1982 Bertha Wilson was the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. She was the author of the Court's ruling that overturned Criminal code restrictions on abortions.
- Oct 31, 1982 Marguerite Bourgeoys was canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. She sailed from France for Canada in 1653. In 1658 opened a girls' school in a stable on Montréal Island. She would recruit French and Canadian girls as teachers, organize a boarding school for girls in Montréal, a school for native girls on the Sulpician reserve of La Montagne, and a domestic arts school. By 1698 the sisters she led became a recognized noncloistered religious community that now numbers several thousand.

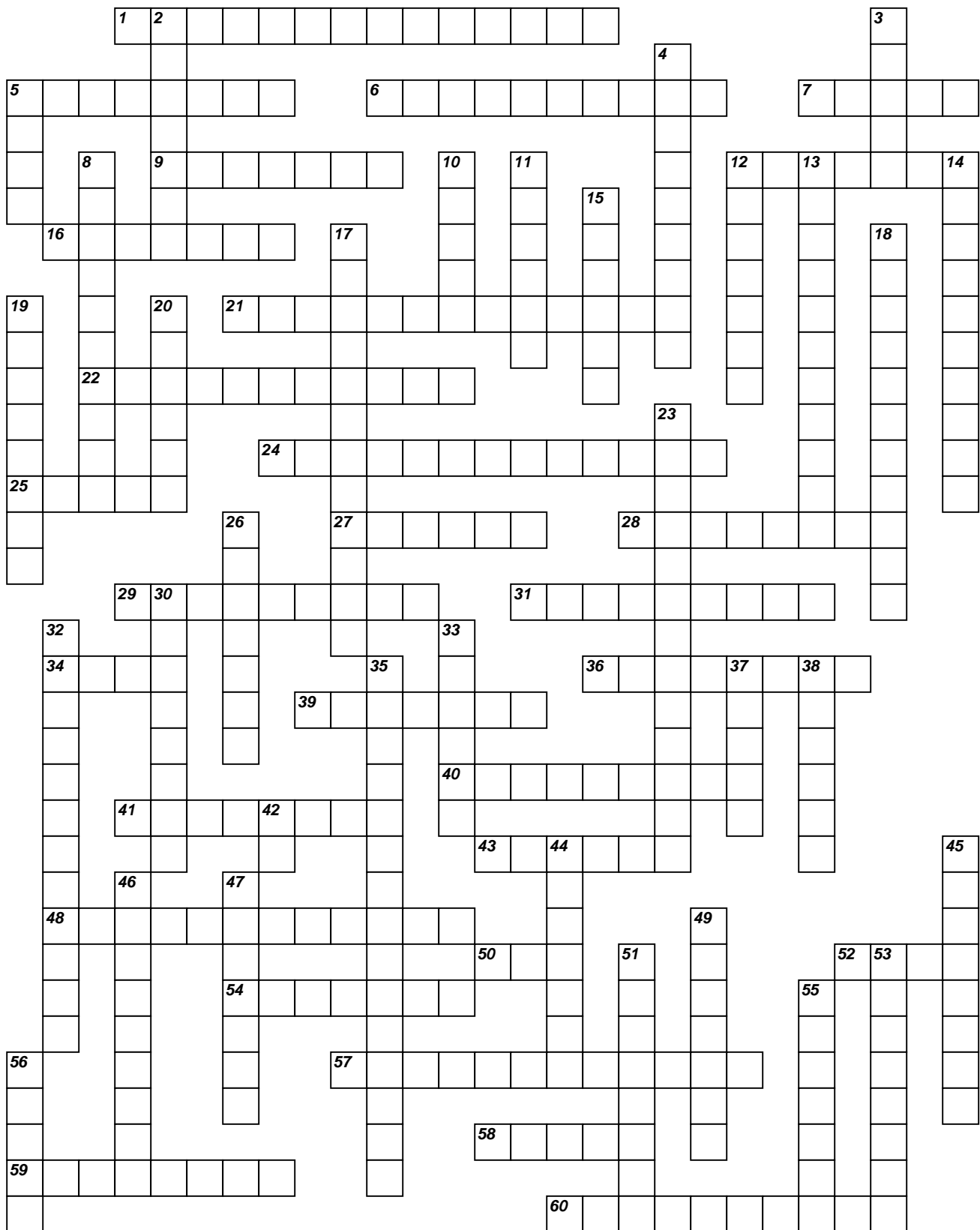
- May 14, 1984 Jeanne Mathilde Sauvé was sworn in as Canada's 23rd Governor General. She was the first woman to hold this post.
- May 01, 1986 Union activist Shirley Carr became president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. She was the first woman to hold the position.
- May 20, 1986 Albertan Sharon Wood became the first North American woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest.
- Nov 21, 1988 Ethel Blondin-Andrews became the first Native woman elected to Parliament when she won the Western Arctic seat for the Liberals in the 1988 general election. She served as Opposition critic for Aboriginal Affairs. When the Liberals came to power in 1993 she was appointed Secretary of State, Training and Youth.
- Dec 02, 1989 Audrey McLaughlin was elected leader of the New Democratic Party becoming the first woman to head a national political party. She replaced Ed Broadbent.
- Apr 02, 1991 Rita Johnson succeeded Bill Vander Zalm as leader of BC's Social Credit Party and as Premier of BC. She was the first woman to hold such a role in Canada. Several months later she and the Social Credit Party were defeated in a provincial election
- 1992 Roberta Bondar was one of Canada's first astronauts. She became the first Canadian woman in space in 1992 as a payload specialist on a space mission aboard the Shuttle Discovery.
- Aug 16, 1992 Jocelyne Gros-Louis was elected Grand Chief of the Hurons of Lorretville, Quebec making her the first woman to be elected leader of a First Nation in Canada.
- Sep 23, 1992 Manon Rhéaume played goalie in a NHL game for the Tampa Bay Lightning. She was the first woman to play goal for an NHL team.
- Mar 29, 1993 Catherine Callbeck became the first woman to lead a political party to victory in a general election. She led the PEI Liberal Party to a landslide victory (31 out of 32 seats).
- Jun 13, 1993 Kim Campbell was elected leader of the federal Progressive Conservative Party replacing Brian Mulroney. When she was sworn in as Canada's 19th Prime Minister she would become the first woman head of state in North America.
- Oct 10, 1995 Christine Silverberg became the first woman police chief of a major Canadian city when she assumed that role in Calgary.
- Oct 07, 1999 Adrienne Louise Clarkson became the first non-white Canadian to be appointed to the role of Canada's Governor General. At the request of Prime Minister Paul Martin she extended her tenure as Governor General until September 27, 2005 when she was succeeded by Michaëlle Jean.
- Jan 07, 2000 Beverley McLachlin was sworn in as Chief Justice of Canada's Supreme Court. Earlier she had been the first woman appointed to the BC Court of Appeal and the first woman to serve as a BC Supreme Court Justice.

Many of the items in this fact sheet are from www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com.
Check out this website for all sorts of interesting information about Canada.



The First Canadian Woman To

Version A



The First Canadian Woman To

Version A

ACROSS

- 1 (2 words) The first Native woman elected to Parliament.
- 5 The first woman to lead a political party to victory in a general election.
- 6 (2 words) The first woman to be hired full time as reporter by the Toronto Globe.
- 7 Marguerite Bourgeous was Canada's first _____.
- 9 The first woman to play goal for an NHL team.
- 12 Bertha Wilson was the first woman appointed to the this Canadian court.
- 16 Cindy Nicholas was the first woman to make a "double crossing" of this _____ Channel.
- 21 (2 words) The first woman appointed as president of a major Canadian university.
- 22 (2 words) The first woman premier of a Canadian province.
- 24 (2 words) The first woman in the British Empire to earn a bachelor's degree.
- 25 The first woman to hold Deputy Minister rank in Canada.
- 27 She was the first woman to become president of the Native Council of Canada.
- 28 Louise _____ was the first francophone woman to serve as Speaker of the Senate.
- 29 One of the first three women to qualify as pilots in the Canadian Air Force.
- 31 (2 words) Canada's first professional woman garden writer.
- 34 The first professional woman hybridist in Canada gained fame for developing a variety of this kind of flower.
- 36 One of the first three women to qualify as pilots in the Canadian Air Force.
- 39 Elizabeth Smellie was the first woman to attain this rank in the Canadian Army.
- 40 Esther Hill became Canada's first woman _____.
- 41 The first woman to be sworn in as a Lt. Governor in Canada.
- 43 One of the first three women to qualify as pilots in the Canadian Air Force.
- 48 (2 words) The first woman on McGill's academic staff when she was appointed as a botany demonstrator.
- 50 Elizabeth Monk was one of the first two women elected to the Quebec _____.
- 52 (4 words) This organization recruited if first four female members.
- 54 Rosemary Brown was the first woman of _____ descent to be elected to a Canadian provincial legislature.
- 57 (2 words) One of the first three woman from Quebec to be elected to Parliament.
- 58 Albanie _____ was one of the first three woman from Quebec to be elected to Parliament.
- 59 The first women elected to Saskatchewan's Legislature.
- 60 The first woman to head a national political party.

DOWN

- 2 Iona Campagnolo was the first woman elected as national president of the _____ Party.
- 3 The first Aboriginal woman appointed as a citizenship judge in BC.
- 4 (2 words) The first woman elected to the British Columbia Legislature.
- 5 The first woman president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.
- 8 (2 words) The first woman licenced to practice medicine in Ontario.
- 10 Helen MacGill was the first woman appointed a _____ in BC.
- 11 Jeanne Sauve was the first woman from this province to be an member of the federal Cabinet.
- 12 Nancy Hodges was the first of these in the British Commonwealth when she was appointed in BC's Legislature.

The First Canadian Woman To

Version A

- 13 Nicole Juteau became the Quebec's first _____.
- 14 (2 words) The first woman to practice medicine in Canada.
- 15 Beverley McLachlin was the first woman appointed to the BC Court of _____.
- 17 (2 words) The first female graduate of Toronto's Trinity College.
- 18 (2 words) The first woman head of state in North America and Canada's 19th Prime Minister.
- 19 The first province to allow women to vote in provincial elections.
- 20 Carrie Derick was the first Canadian woman to be a full professor when she became professor of _____ at McGill in 1912.
- 23 (2 words) Quebec's the first woman doctor and woman pediatrician.
- 26 This province appointed Pauline McGibbon as the first woman lieutenant-governor in Canada.
- 30 Susan Nattrass was the first woman to participate in a shooting event at these games.
- 32 (2 words) She was probably the first Canadian woman to earn a doctorate.
- 33 The first Canadian woman in space.
- 35 (2 words) The first woman to serve in the federal cabinet.
- 37 She was the first woman Cabinet minister in the British Empire.
- 38 Lois Wilson was the first woman moderator of Canada's _____ Church.
- 42 (2 words) Beverley McLachlin was the first woman to serve as a Supreme Court Justice in this province.
- 44 Beverley McLachlin was the first woman appointed Chief Justice of Canada's _____ Court.
- 45 The first woman elected to the House of Commons.
- 46 (2 words) The first woman to be elected leader of a First Nation in Canada.
- 47 Cairine Wilson was Canada's first woman _____.
- 49 Suzanne _____ was one of the first two women elected to the Quebec bar.
- 51 Flora MacDonald was Canada's first woman Secretary of State for _____ Affairs.
- 53 The first non-white Canadian to be appointed Governor General.
- 55 Jeanne Sauve was the first woman to serve as Canada's Governor _____.
- 56 The last woman to be hanged in Canada.

