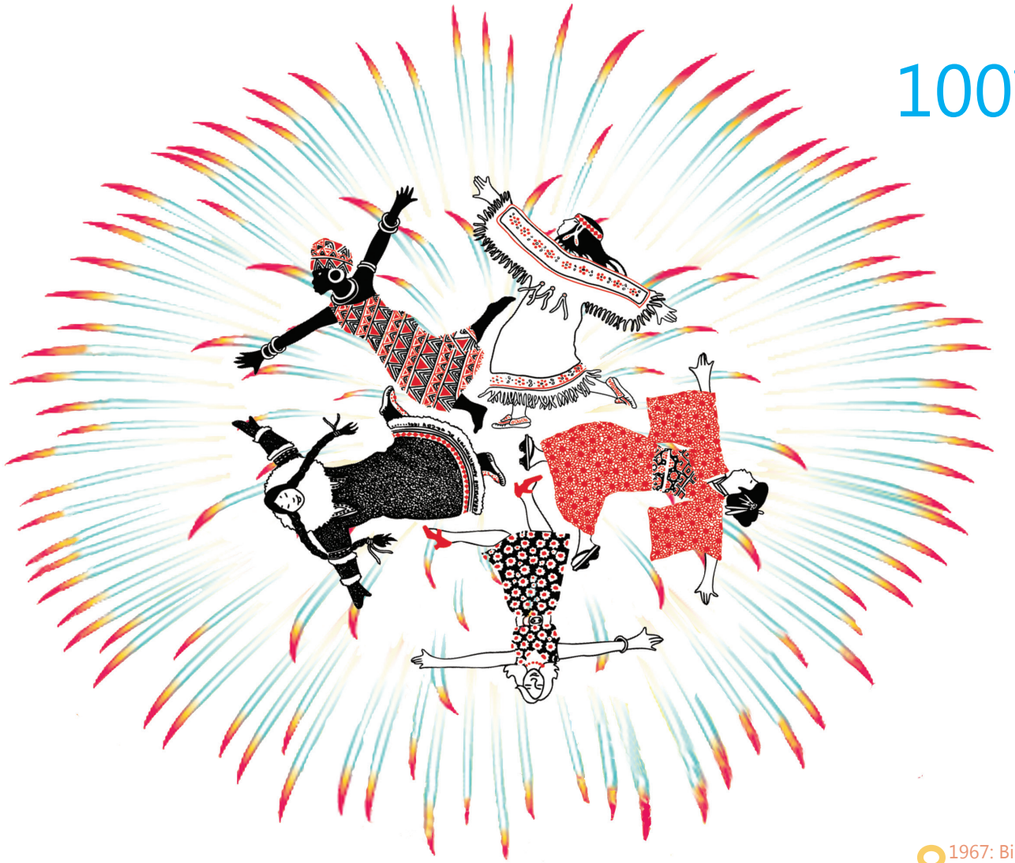
100th Anniversary of International Women's Day!



1911: First International Women's Day

1912: Bread and Roses Strike

1916: Emily Murphy becomes member of Canada's Judiciary.

1917: Women gained a limited right to vote. Women who had close relatives in the armed forces were allowed to vote on behalf of their male relatives.

1918: Women (except First Nations) were given the right to vote in federal elections

1929: The famous Five ask the Supreme Court of Canada to delcare that women are persons under the law. They were turned down. They appealed to the British Privy Council and won

1930: Cairine Mackay Wilson Canada's first woman senator. 1949 First Canadian woman delegate for the UN

1945: UN proclaims gender equality as a fundamental human right

1951: Vivian Roberts first NWT territorial female candidate

1960: First legalized contraceptive pill was for sale

1967: Bird Commission on the Status of Women is set up

1969: Life threatening abortions are legalized

1970: Lena Pedersen is the first female member of the NWT legislature

1971: All women obtain the right to serve as jurors

1974: Native Women's Association of Canada was created

1978: Native Women's Association of the NWT is created

1979: UN adopts CEDAW, which will be ratified by Canada in 1981

1980: Wives working in family businesses are recognized as employees

1981: New Civil Code and reforming family rights takes effect. Spousal equality is recognized. Women can retain their names and pass them on to children

1982: Harassment for any form of discrimination in the work place is prohibited

1982: Bertha Wilson first women appointed to Supreme Court of Canada

1985: Aboriginal women win back their rights to retain status if they marry non-aboriginal men.

1986: Reform to the Divorce Act makes marriage breakdown the sole reason for divorce. New regulations governing support payments and child custody.

1990: Status of Women Act creates the Status of Women Council of the NWT

1990: Centre for Northern Families/ Women's Society was formed in 1990 initially as a drop in centre where women could meet and talk

1991: Rita Johnsten is the first woman Premier to be elected in Canada (BC)

1991: Nellie Cournoyea is the first women Premier in all the territories

1992: Paule Gauthier is the first woman president of the Canadian Bar Association

1992: Jocelyne Gros-Louis becomes the first woman to be elected Grand Chief of a First Nation in Canada (the Huron-Wendat Nation)

1993: Kim Campbell is the first Prime Minister of Canada after winning the race to lead her party. Sheila Copps is the first woman appointed Deputy Prime Minister in Canada.

1993: Canada becomes the only county to allow women to claim refugee status is they fear persecution because of their sex

1997: Labor Standards Act amended to extend parental leave from 34 to 52 weeks

1999: The NWT Coalition Against Family Violence is created

2005: The Second Report on Gender-Based Analysis: Building Blocks for Success is presented to the Standing Committee

2007: First Campaign School for Women (SWC/NWT), 2010 was the second

2007: Territorial Women's Leadership Conference (SWC/NWT)

2007: Quebec's provincial cabinet is made up of equal number of women and men.

2007: Northern Women Mining, Oil and Gas research project supporting women in non-traditional trades begins

Future: Women Are Equal

2011: 100th International Women's Day

1910 | 1920 | 1930 | 1940 | 1950 | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010

1916: Women win the right to vote in provincial elections in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta

1917: Louise McKinney first women in a legislative office

1921: Agnes McPhail first women elected to Canada's parliament.

1928: Women are allowed to compete in the Olympic Games

1929: The Famous Five ask the Supreme Court of Canada to declare that women are persons under the law. They were turned down. They appealed to the British Privy Council and won

1932: Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw defies the law and opens the first birth control clinic in Canada

1956: Federal Cabinet makes a declaration on equal wages. Women are entitled to be paid the same wage as men for similar work

1957: Ellen Louks Fairclough is the first woman Cabinet Minister

1960: First Nations women and men obtain the right to vote in federal elections

1964: Married women are given full legal and property rights

1966: YWCA opens to serve women and families in the north

1969: Social Aid Act is adopted

1970: Amendment to Civil Code regarding rights to the natural child

1971: Federal unemployment insurance regime provides 15 weeks paid maternity leave

1973: First case dealing with discrimination by sex is heard by courts. Aboriginal women who marry non-aboriginal men continue to lose their status. (12 years until changed)

1979: Lise Payette is the first Minister of State for the Status of Women.

1980: Jeanne Sauve is the first woman Speaker of the House of Commons, 1983 she is the first woman to be named Governor General of Canada

1982: Section 28 is added to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. You cannot discriminate based on pregnancy

1983: Becomes a criminal offence for a man to rape his wife

1988: GNWT established the policy Equality of Men and Women in the NWT

1989: National Assembly adopts Act respecting economic equality of spouses.

1991: Louise Frechette becomes Canada's first woman Ambassador to the UN, 1998 she is the first Canadian woman to occupy the Deputy Secretary General post (second highest in the UN)

1997: Women's Voices in Leadership created a manual to help potential women leaders

2005: Emergency Protection Orders active in the NWT

2007: Kick back to the 60's Bra Burning

2010: Yellowknife has answered the national call for an Angel Street