

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**CELEBRATING WOMEN OF
EXCELLENCE**

2017

WANGARI MATTHAI

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER



“We’re constantly being bombarded by problems that we face and sometimes we can get completely overwhelmed. [But] we should always feel like a hummingbird. I may feel insignificant, but I don’t want to be like the other animals watching the planet go down the drain. I’ll be a hummingbird, I’ll do the best I can”.

[wangari.greenbeltmovement.org/]

WILMA MANKILLER

FIRST FEMALE CHIEF OF THE CHEROKEE NATION



"Women in leadership roles can help restore balance and wholeness to our communities"

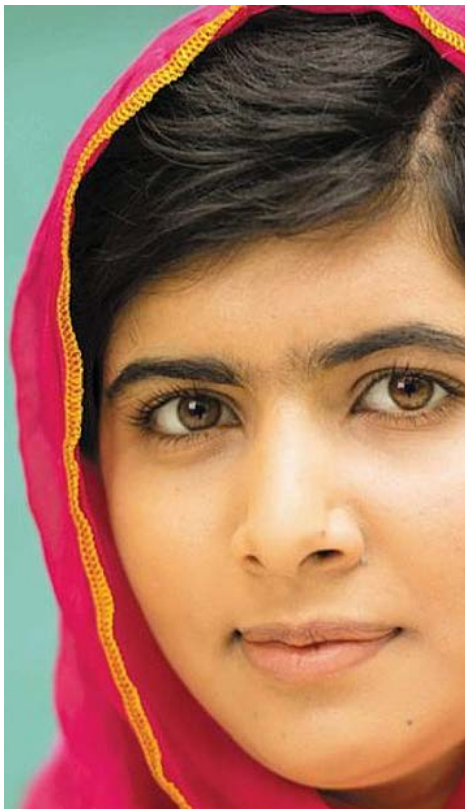
http://www.feminist.com/ourinnerlives/wv_mankiller.html

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS MALALA YOUSAFZAI, THE YOUNGEST RECIPIENT OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Campaigned for the rights of girls to have an education and had written a diary for the BBC Urdu service when the Pakistan Taliban controlled her home area of Swat in 2009.

[<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-19908409>].



"I want to change
the political system
so there is justice
and equality and
change in the status
of girls and women

... and still she rise

RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER

“What I treasure most in life is being able to dream. During my most difficult moments and complex situations I have been able to dream of a more beautiful future”.

[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1992/tum-bio.html].



MARY ELLEN TURPEL-LAFOND

FIRST ABORIGINAL CANADIAN WOMAN TO BE ON THE BENCH IN SASKATCHEWAN

“It is one of our traditions that there should be balance between men and women. That doesn't mean we should always be in front of men, but that their needs to be a balance. Women need to know that they can succeed”.



VERA WANG

AMERICAN FASHION DESIGNER



“When you have a passion for something then you tend not only to be better at it, but you work harder too”.

Vera Wang

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER WAFA DABBAGH THE FIRST MUSLIM WOMAN WEARING A HEAD COVERING TO ENLIST AND SERVE IN THE CANADIAN FORCES



1962 - 2012

"I want other Canadians to know that there are people serving Canada who are not white with blond hair and blue eyes. We are all working together, white, black, Asian, Arab and Aboriginal - and I'm one small face among them."

Wafa Dabbagh

In 2010, she received an Operational Service Medal, and in 2012, the Diamond Jubilee Medal. Sadly, Lieutenant-Commander Dabbagh succumbed to cancer in 2012.

CLAUDIA L. GORDON

THE FIRST DEAF AFRICAN AMERICAN FEMALE ATTORNEY IN THE UNITED STATES

By my junior year in high school, I made it known to all that I would go to law school and become an attorney. Many shrugged off my grand intention as wishful thinking. Some cited my deafness as an obstacle rendering it impractical if not impossible to pursue a law degree. Thanks to the values that were instilled in me during my formative years, I understood then that those voices of doubt neither dictated my worth nor my capacity. I want to contribute to a better society where there is more understanding and acceptance of people with disabilities and where the same opportunities are provided for all.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/08/30/meet-women-administration-claudia-gordon>



JENNA TALACKOVA

THE FIRST TRANSGENDERED PERSON TO COMPETE IN A MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT

This Canadian supermodel and TV personality first rose to fame when she joined the Miss Universe Canadian pageant last 2012, only to be subsequently disqualified after someone recognized her as transgender. Now, the 26-year-old beauty is a trans rights advocate and led Vancouver's 2012 Pride parade as Pride Parade grand marshal



MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK

CHINESE HEAD OF THE CHINESE NATIONALISTIC GOVERNMENT IN EXILE ON TAIWAN



We write our own destiny; we become what we do.

MEASHA BRUEGGERGOSMAN WINNING JUNO AWARD WINNER FOR CLASSICAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR.



Brueggergosman's powerful performances have earned her much international recognition.

From the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the International Tattoo in Nova Scotia to the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Cincinatti Opera and the International Beethoven Festival in Bonn, her voice and interpretation have amazed listeners.

<http://www.blackhistorycanada.ca/profiles.php?themeid=20&id=19>

MUNA ABUSULAYMANNAMED NAMED YOUNG LEADER BY THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN 2004

AbuSulayman is a Saudi Muslim business woman, media personality and full-time mum to her two daughters. With her role in the spotlight, Muna AbuSulayman often speaks up and writes about issues surrounding women's rights, society, community development and east-west dialogue.



MYRA A. FREEMAN

THE FIRST FEMALE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN NOVA SCOTIA

Through her service as Nova Scotia's 30th Lieutenant Governor, Honorary Captain (Royal Canadian Navy) and former Director of the RCMP Foundation, the International Women's Forum of Canada, and the Advisory Board of Coady International Institute, she has served in leadership capacities and provided a greater awareness of community to the public.



BALJIT SETHI

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IMMIGRANT AND MULTICULTURAL SERVICES SOCIETY OF PRINCE GEORGE

- Baljit Sethi came to Canada from India in 1972. She is the founder and executive director of the Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society of Prince George, which provides settlement services to communities in Northern British Columbia.
- Many of the programs Ms. Sethi developed throughout her nearly 40-year career continue to be used to promote multiculturalism and equality.
- She is also an advocate for immigrant women and has become an inspiration to many people.
- Her contributions have been recognized with many awards, including the Order of British Columbia and the Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism in the lifetime achievement category.



VIOLA DESMOND

THE FIRST CANADIAN WOMAN TO GRACE FRONT OF BANKNOTE

- Civil Rights Activist, Viola Desmond, was born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- In 1946, Viola went to jail for refusing to move from the 'Whites only' section of a movie theatre in New Glasgow.
- Viola is sometimes referred to as the 'Canadian Rosa Parks'.
- Viola is featured on a stamp from Canada Post since 2012.



ADRIENNE CLARKSON

THE FIRST CHINESE IMMIGRANT APPOINTED AS GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

- ◉ Adrienne Clarkson, journalist and author was one of television's first female on-camera personalities.
- ◉ She had an award-winning 18-year career with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as host-interviewer for the programs Take Thirty, Adrienne at Large and the fifth estate.
- ◉ She served as Ontario's agent-general in Paris from 1982 to 1987 and publisher of McClelland & Stewart from 1987 to 1989.
- ◉ On September 8, 1999, Ms. Clarkson became the Governor General. Among her successes in the vice-regal position were forging stronger ties between Canada and its northern Aboriginal population and bringing a sense of modernity to the traditional role.



MAYANN ELIZABTH FRANCIS

THE FIRST FEMALE OMBUDSMAN OF NOVA SCOTIA AND THE FIRST AFRICAN-CANADIAN TO HOLD THE POSITION OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN NOVA SCOTIA

- Francis became the Assistant Deputy Minister with the Ontario Women's Directorate before accepting the position of Director.
- Francis served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.



"Be prepared to seize opportunities as they present themselves"

LAVERNE COX

THE FIRST OPENLY TRANSGENDER PERSON TO APPEAR ON THE COVER OF TIME MAGAZINE



- ◉ Laverne Cox is an American actress, reality television star, television producer, and LGBT advocate.
- ◉ In April 2014, Cox was honored by GLAAD with its Stephen F. Kolzak Award for her work as an advocate for the transgender community.
- ◉ On June 9, 2014, Laverne Cox became the first openly transgender person to appear on the cover of TIME magazine.

VIVIENNE POY

THE FIRST CANADIAN OF ASIAN DESCENT APPOINTED TO THE SENATE OF CANADA



- ◉ Senator Vivienne Poy is an entrepreneur, author, historian and fashion designer. She was integral to establishing May as Asian Heritage Month in Canada.
- ◉ Ms. Poy was appointed to the Senate in 1998 and in 2001 proposed a motion to designate May as Asian Heritage Month. in May 2002,
- ◉ Senator Poy served as Chancellor of the University of Toronto from 2003 to 2006 and is active in many community and cultural organizations.

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/asian/people.asp>

HUMAIRA AWAIS

THE FIRST PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PUNJAB



- ◉ Humaira Awais Shahid is a working journalist, human rights activist, and former legislator. She focuses primarily on human rights issues, and has been advocating, writing, and legislating against human rights abuses
- ◉ Shahid is the first parliamentarian of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab to pass a law (and repeal a former one) as a private member. This achievement took more than four years in parliament, with opposition from government benches, administrative departments, and the cabinet. Her legislation, the Punjab Private Money Lending Act, 2007, prohibited interest-based private money lending in Punjab, Pakistan, and her law was replicated and adopted by the Provincial Assembly of the North-West Frontier Province. She also moved two ground breaking resolutions against Acid Attacks and customary practice of forced marriages Vani.