

VOTES FOR WOMEN - WHEN WOMEN GOT THE VOTE IN CANADA

Here is a timeline for some of the events showing when women got the right to vote in Canada.

- 1791 The Constitutional Act gave the right to vote to all people in Lower Canada who possessed property qualifications. A few women such as Madame Papineau who met the property qualifications voted for about 50 years. Most would have been well-to-do widows.
- 1843 A law was passed depriving these women of the right to vote.
- 1883, 1884, 1885 Sir John A. Macdonald introduced suffrage bills, which included provision for widows and unmarried women with sufficient property to have the right to vote in federal elections. Eventually the sections enfranchising women were dropped but there had been widespread publicity and discussion of the idea.
- 1884 James French sent a letter to Winnipeg City Council suggesting that women should be able to vote in civic elections if they had the same qualifications as men.
- 1887 Winnipeg women who met the same qualifications as men were granted voting privileges for civic elections. Both men and women had to be property owners to vote at this time.
- 1888 Winnipeg women had the first opportunity to vote in local elections. 476 women were eligible; 80 women voted in this election.
- 1890 All women taxpayers in Manitoba could vote in school board elections and run as trustees.
- 1897 All women property owners in Manitoba could vote in municipal elections.
- 1906 The Manitoba Legislature passed a law barring married women from voting in municipal elections.
- 1907 The Manitoba Legislature restored the right of married women to vote in municipal elections - without debate.
- 1915 Elma Kennedy Brown was the first woman elected to Winnipeg School Board.
- 1916 On January 28, women in Manitoba got the right to vote and run for office.
On March 14, women in Saskatchewan got the right to vote and run for office.
On April 19, women in Alberta got the right to vote and run for office.
- 1916 Winnipeg women became eligible to hold office in civic government.

- 1917 Alice A. Holling is the first woman to run for Council. She was defeated. Annie Gale was the first woman in Canada to be elected to a city council. She was elected in Calgary.
- 1917 On April 5, women in British Columbia could vote and run for office.
On April 12, women in Ontario could vote and run for office
- On September 20, women relatives of members of the Canadian armed forces could vote.
- 1918 Nova Scotia women could vote.
On May 24, all women in Canada (except Aboriginal women) could vote federally.
- 1919 New Brunswick women become eligible to vote in provincial elections.
- 1921 Jessie Kirk was the first woman elected to City Council in Winnipeg.
- 1922 Prince Edward Island women become eligible to vote in provincial elections.
- 1925 Newfoundland grants women the right to vote in provincial elections.
- 1940 Quebec women could vote in provincial elections.
- 1942 On November 27, first election with adult suffrage in place for a civic election; all adult residents, men and women can vote, not just property owners.
- 1960 Aboriginal women in Canada received voting rights.
- 1992-1998 Susan A. Thompson was first woman mayor of Winnipeg.