

PEI WOMEN IN POLITICS



- 1888** Unmarried women in Charlottetown win the right to vote in municipal elections.
- 1892** Unmarried women in Summerside win the right to vote in municipal elections.
- 1899** Women win the right to sit on School Boards in Charlottetown and Summerside.
- 1917** Women with close relatives in the armed forces win the right to vote in federal elections.
- 1918** Women over the age of 21 who are Canadian citizens win the right to vote in federal elections, with the exception of Aboriginal women.
- 1921** Island women win the right to vote in provincial elections.
- 1929** British Privy Council declares women to be "persons" able to serve in the Senate.
- 1951** Hilda Ramsay (CCF) from Indian River is the first female candidate to campaign for a seat in the provincial legislature.
- 1955** Elsie Inman is the first Island woman appointed to Senate.
- 1960** First Nation peoples living on reserve win the right to vote in federal elections without losing their registered Indian status.
- 1960** Mary Bernard is the first woman elected chief of the Lennox Island First Nation.
- 1961** Mary Margaret Smith MacDonald (PC) is the first Island woman, as well as the first woman east of Ottawa, elected to the House of Commons. To date, only one other PEI woman, Catherine Callbeck in 1988, has followed in her footsteps.
- 1968** Dorothy Corrigan is the first woman elected mayor of Charlottetown.
- 1970** Jean Canfield (Liberal) is the first woman elected to PEI's Legislative Assembly.
- 1972** Jean Canfield (Liberal) is the first woman in PEI appointed a Cabinet Minister. She was appointed without portfolio, responsible for the PEI Housing Authority.
- 1972** Margaret Bernard is elected first chief of the newly formed Abegweit Band.
- 1972** The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is created to bring about political action on issues of concern to women, including the election of women. Other similarly focused organizations, such as Women's Network PEI and East Prince Women's Information Association are later formed.
- 1979** Frances Perry is the first woman elected mayor of Summerside.
- 1983** Marion Reid (PC) is the first woman in PEI to hold the office of Speaker of the Provincial Legislative Assembly.

- 1990** Pat Mella (PC) is the first woman in PEI to become Leader of a provincial political party. She lead the PC party from 1990 – 1996.
- 1990** Marion Reid is appointed the first female Lieutenant Governor for Prince Edward Island.
- 1993** Catherine Callbeck (Liberal) is the first woman in PEI and Canada to be elected Premier.
- 1993** Pat Mella (PC) is the first woman in PEI to hold the position of Leader of the Official Opposition.
- 1993** 25% of the PEI Legislative Assembly is women.
- 2004** Lennox Island First Nation elects an all-female Band Council which includes Chief Darlene Bernard, Emily Bernard, Tabatha Thomas and Mary Moore Phillips.
- 2006** Olive Crane (PC) wins a by-election to bring the percentage of women in the PEI Legislature to a record breaking 26%.
- 2008** One third of PEI candidates in the 2008 Federal Election are women. Gail Shea (PC) becomes the third female MP in PEI history.
- 2010** Two of four political parties are led by women, including Olive Crane as Leader of the PC Party and Sharon Labchuk as Leader of the Green Party.

PEI WOMEN IN POLITICS QUIZ

1. What percentage of the PEI Legislative Assembly are women?
 - a) 15%
 - b) 25%
 - c) 30%
 - d) 5%
2. When did unmarried women in Summerside win the right to vote in municipal elections?
 - a) 1823
 - b) 1856
 - c) 1888
 - d) 1892
3. Who was the first female mayor elected of Charlottetown?
 - a) Jean Canfield
 - b) Margret Bernard
 - c) Dorothy Corrigan
 - d) Frances Perry
4. Women over what age who are Canadian citizens won the right to vote in federal elections in 1918?
 - a) 15
 - b) 21
 - c) 25
 - d) 19
5. What year was Elsie Inman to Senate?
 - a) 1955
 - b) 1976
 - c) 1945
 - d) 1970
6. When did Pat Mella lead the PC party?
 - a) 1991 – 1995
 - b) 1989 – 1990
 - c) 1990 – 1996
 - d) 2001 – 2004

7. Who was the first woman in PEI and Canada to be elected Premier?
 - a) Marion Reid
 - b) Pat Mella
 - c) Catherine Callbeck
 - d) Mary Bernard

8. What year did the British Privy Council declare women to be “persons” able to serve in the Senate?
 - a) 1910
 - b) 1929
 - c) 1960
 - d) 1935

9. Olive Crane wins a by-election to bring the percentage of women in the PEI Legislature to what percent?
 - a) 26%
 - b) 30%
 - c) 45%
 - d) 60%

10. How many political parties are led by women?
 - a) 3 of 4
 - b) 1 of 4
 - c) 2 of 4
 - d) 4 of 4

PEI WOMEN IN POLITICS ANSWERS

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. b
5. a
6. c
7. c
8. b
9. a
10. c