



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8

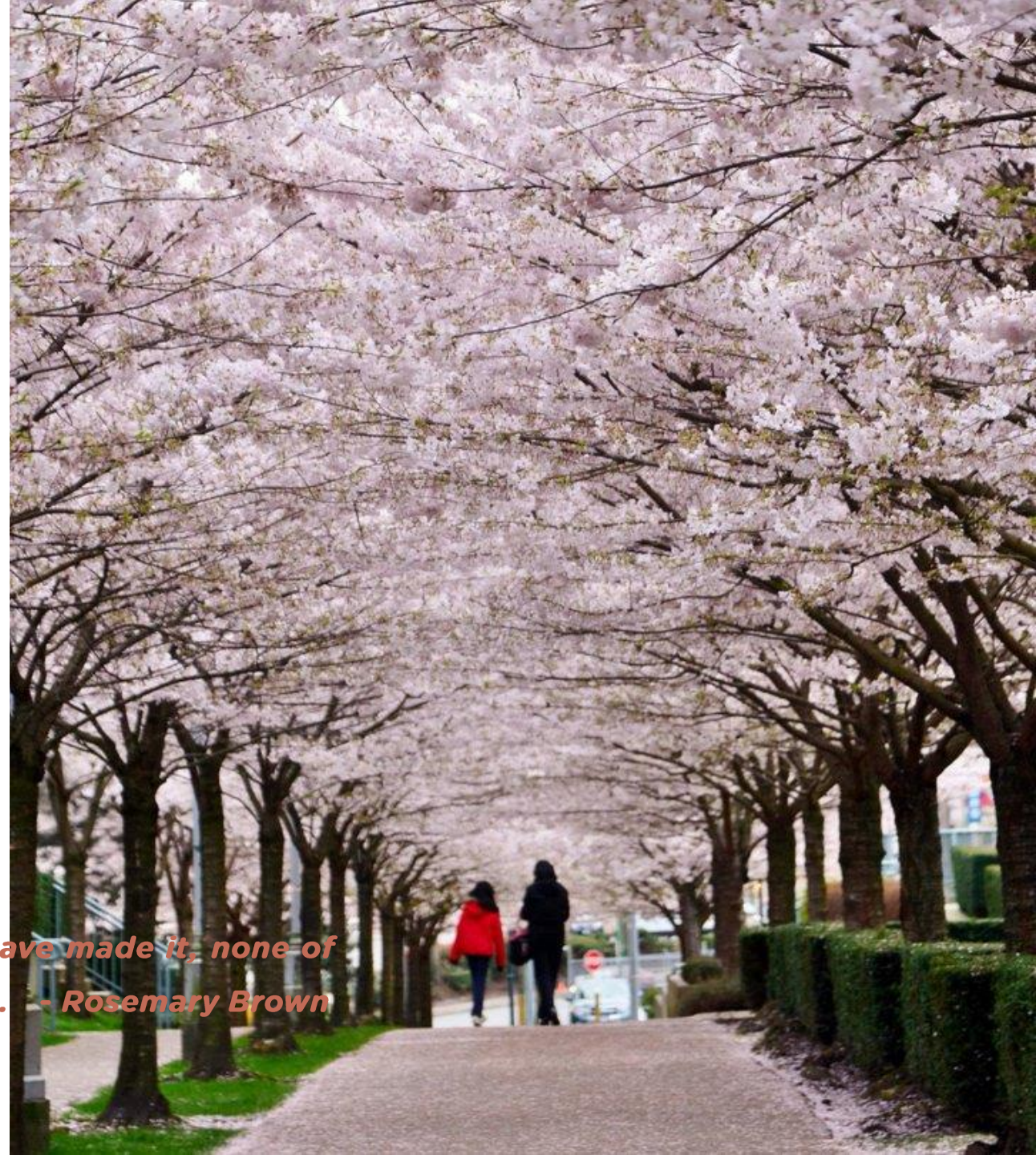


IWD at COV

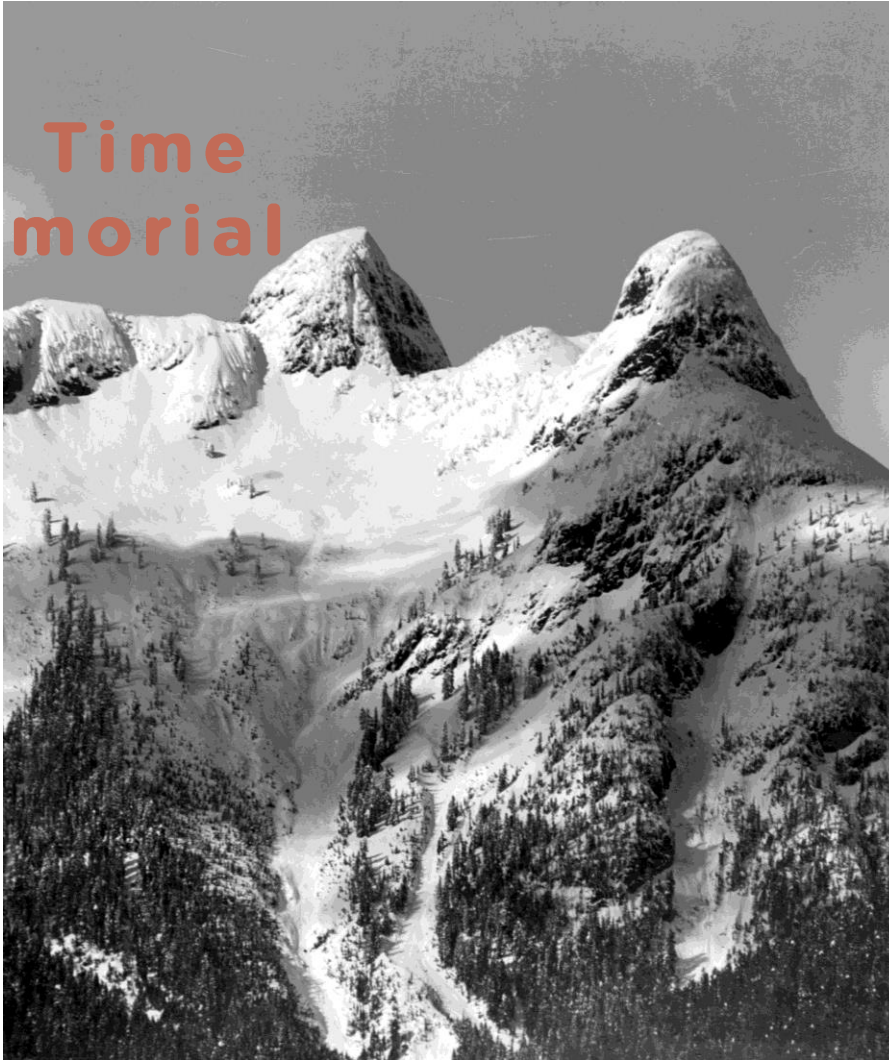
March 8 is International Women's Day, a global celebration of gender equity and those who seek to improve the lives of women and girls, Two Spirit, trans, non-binary and gender diverse peoples through cultural, legal, economic, and social change.

This year, we honour the contributions of our local change makers, from Vancouver's past and present, whose courage and commitment to gender equity are an inspiration for our future.

Until all of us have made it, none of us have made it. - Rosemary Brown



Since Time Immemorial



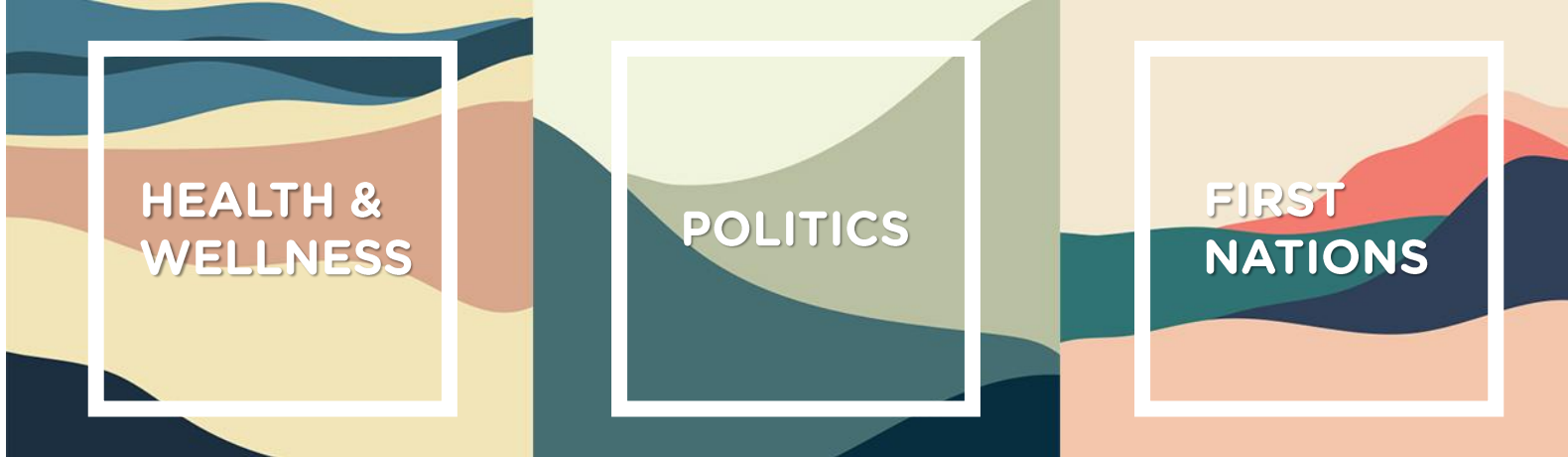
Ch'ich'iyúy Elxwikn

The Twin Sisters

What settlers and newcomers may know as “The Lions” are known to the Host Nations as Ch'ich'iyúy Elxwikn - “The Twin Sisters” - reminders of the values and kindness of Indigenous women.

We recognize the brilliance of the women who call this place home didn't begin with Vancouver's incorporation in 1886, nor did equality first arrive when women won the right to vote or were first elected to City Council.

Before settlers arrived, there was equality here. Indigenous women were leaders, land-owners, and matriarchs. Since time immemorial, the women and Two Spirit people of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations have built their communities, raised their children and grandchildren, and told their own stories on this land.



Advocacy is rarely a single issue fight. Many of the individuals and organizations featured here meet their goals by working across boundaries and being open to new or different perspectives, engaging with intersectional feminism.

Each individual or organization has been assigned a dominant colour scheme to correspond with where they are situated in the fight for equity. Some may correspond to two or three. It is a helpful reminder that we achieve more together.





Connection to our communities

Museum of Vancouver Collection: PA 184

Sophie

This painting, *Sophie with Berry Basket, Stanley Park* by Margaret Wake is from the collection at the Museum of Vancouver. Sophie, the subject, is seated, wearing a berry basket with a woven tumpline. The basket features a stone hammer design which is associated with the Mount Currie and Upper Squamish areas. Based on this, it is possible Sophie was from the Squamish Nation.

This painting is loaded with symbolism. Sophie is pictured in Stanley Park, the site of a village inhabited by First Nations people for thousands of years before settlers arrived. The limited information we have access to about Sophie speaks to the collective erasure of Indigenous women in the canon of women's rights. Our ability to determine that Sophie may have been from the Squamish Nation based on the basket design, the weaving of which would have been done by a woman, speaks to the role of Indigenous women – and all women – in our connection to our communities



***A rescue crew across
the inlet***

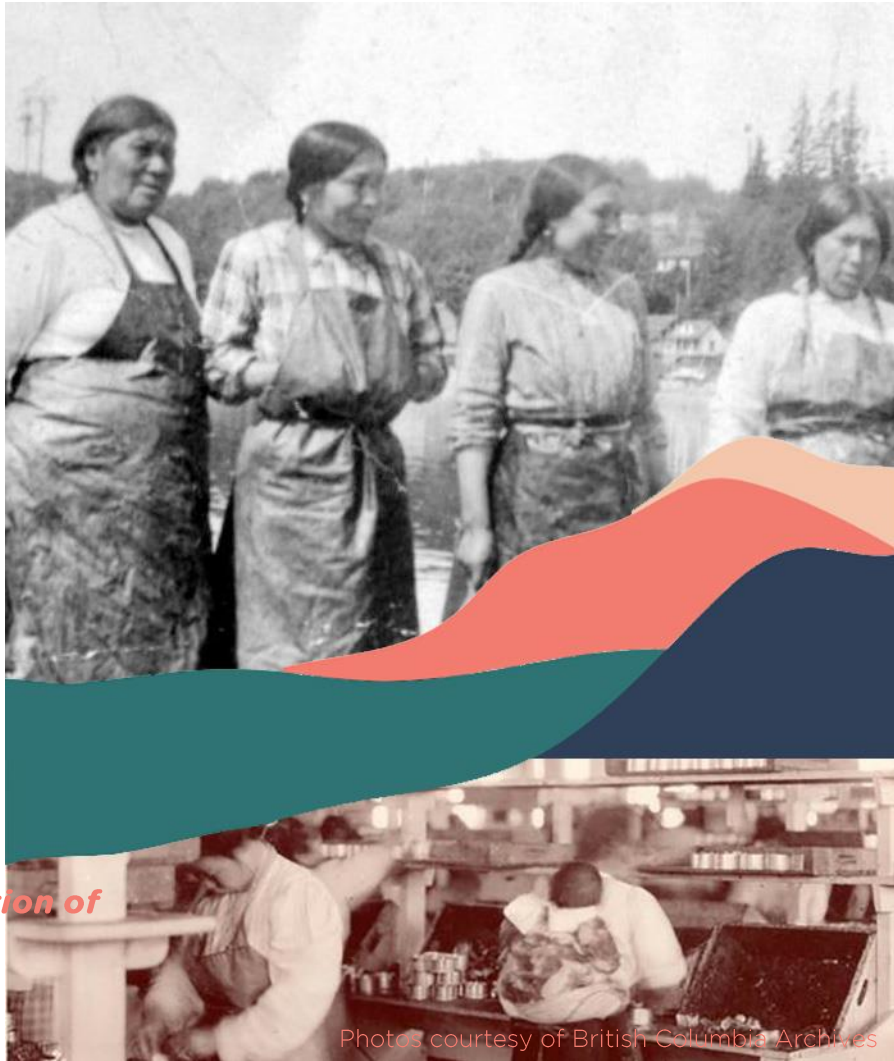
Photo courtesy of City of Vancouver Archives

Agnes Lacket Joe

Squamish

On 13 June, 1886 shortly after Vancouver had been officially incorporated as a city, it burned. Crews using a controlled burn to clear the land for railway expansion lost that control as a wind rose up. Within 45 minutes, the city was nearly levelled.

Seeing the devastation from across Burrard Inlet, Agnes Lacket Joe of the Squamish Nation paddled her canoe across the water. Joe and other Squamish paddlers rescued people who had taken refuge in the water, residents of a city that had forced Squamish families from their traditional lands to reserves on the north shore.



*The foundation of
an industry*

Photos courtesy of British Columbia Archives

Cannery Workers

Indigenous women played a critical role in the development of BC's fishing industry. Their labour fuelled the 223 salmon canneries that came and went in British Columbia since the first canning operation opened in 1867.

Unlike working-class white women in Vancouver, Indigenous women, along with the large number of Japanese women who also worked in the canneries, did not have access to childcare. Japanese mothers often carried their babies on their backs and the older children of Indigenous women often learned alongside their mothers or worked in the cannery lofts.



***First woman elected
to Vancouver City Council***

Helena Gutteridge

“Every reason that men advance for having the vote applies to women.”

Helena Gutteridge was born into a working-class family in London, England. She left her family at age 14 and worked as a cutter in the tailor's trade while earning her teaching certificate. By the time she arrived in Vancouver in 1911 at the age of 32, Gutteridge was both educated and attuned to the struggles of women and working-class people.

A driving force in the women's suffrage and labour movements, she forged alliances among diverse groups to affect social and political change for the benefit of women and workers. In 1937, she became the first woman elected to Vancouver City Council. Her advocacy laid important groundwork for issues still very relevant to Vancouver today: gender equality, equal pay, homelessness, and the need for safe, affordable housing for all.



Equal education for women

Photo courtesy of City of Vancouver Archives

Evelyn Story Lett

One of the first female graduates of the University of British Columbia, Evelyn Story Lett was a founding member of the UBC Alma Mater Society. She fought for the equal treatment of UBC's female students, ensuring women at UBC had the right to vote in 1914, even before women could vote in Canada.

A lifelong member of the University Women's Club of Vancouver, Lett was instrumental in raising the funds for a much-needed daycare facility at UBC. For this and her many other contributions to the community, Lett was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1997, one year before her death at the age of 102.



***First female judge
in British Columbia***



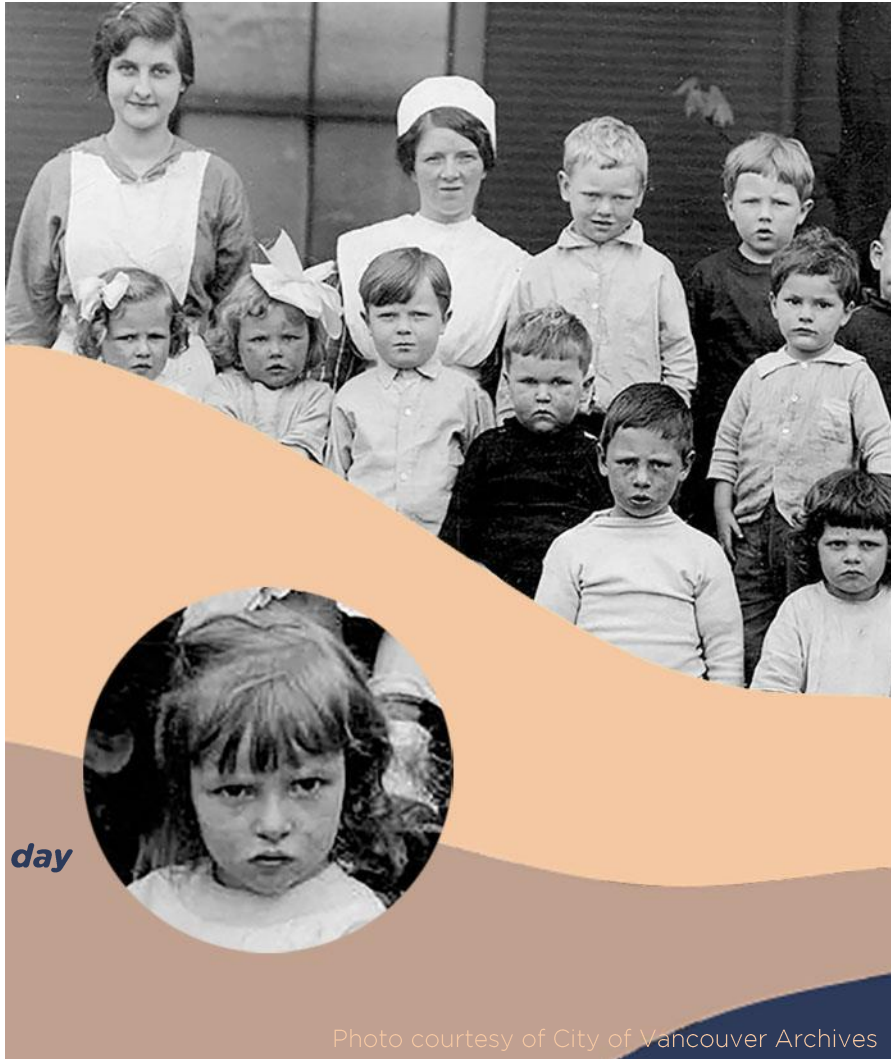
Photo courtesy of City of Vancouver Archives

Helen Gregory MacGill

Helen Gregory MacGill learned from her suffragist mother that women, especially those with wealth and connections, ought to seek gender equality as a means to improve society. MacGill put that lesson into practice as one of Vancouver's leading voices for women's right to vote.

MacGill also focused on women's issues as they related to the workforce. Under her guidance twelve women's organizations purchased a large building in the West End. The Vancouver Women's Building provided space for women's groups and childcare, as well as classes on writing and effective public speaking.

In 1917, MacGill was appointed to the Juvenile Court of Vancouver to deal with cases involving girls; she was the first female judge in the province. She retired in 1945 at age 81.



***Ten cent a day
childcare***

Photo courtesy of City of Vancouver Archives

The Crèche

Established in 1910, The Crèche provided daycare for the children of working families for ten cents a day. Originally located in the Vancouver Women's Building, the purchase of which was facilitated by such women as Helena Gutteridge and Helen Gregory MacGill, The Crèche was the first such public daycare in Canada.

In addition to offering childcare, The Crèche also housed an employment bureau where women could search for work. Filling an obvious need, The Crèche cared for 123 children and filled 2,000 working positions within eight months of its opening.

The Crèche put a stop to its employment services in 1919, focusing instead on the interests of children in need. In 1932, The Crèche closed after the childcare portfolio was shifted to the Vancouver Day Nursery Association.



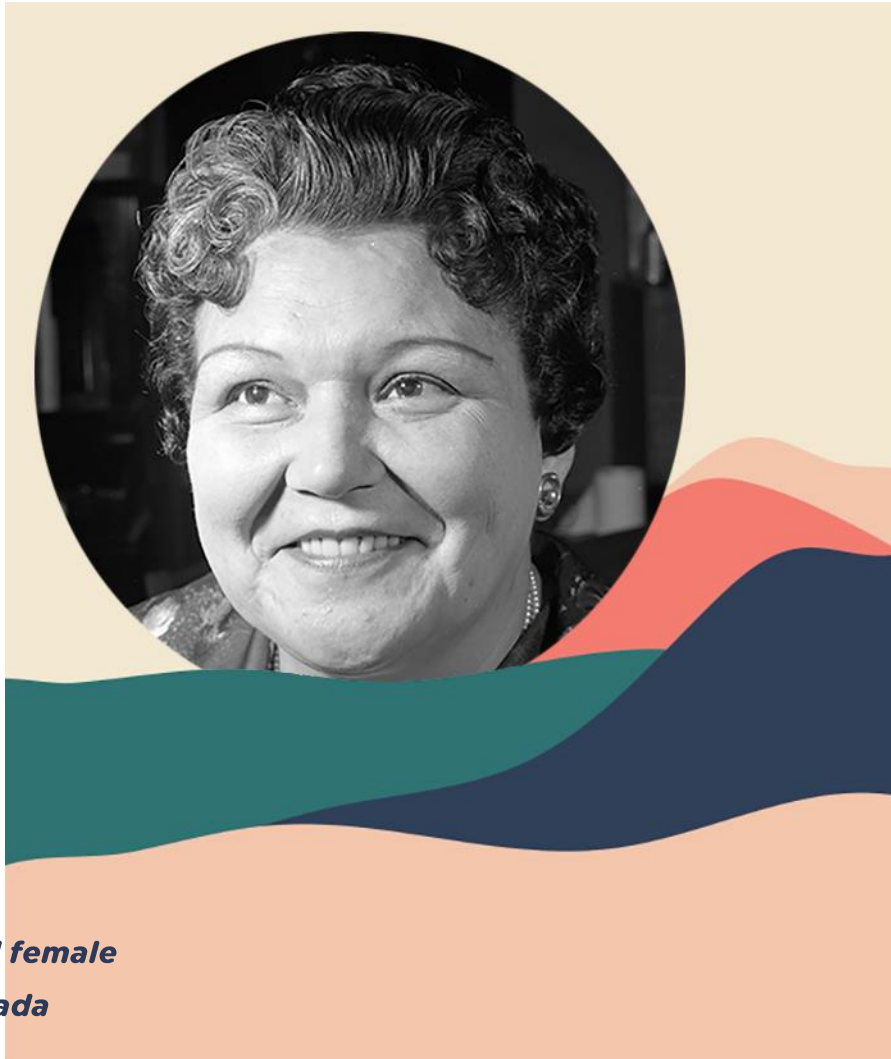
***First Chinese Canadian
teacher in the Vancouver School Board***

Vivian Jung

In 1945, Vivian Jung was a young teacher-in-training who needed a swimming lifesaving certificate to become a licensed teacher. She was denied access to Crystal Pool, the only public pool that continued to exclude Chinese and other racialized people. Her instructor and classmates insisted they would not enter the pool unless Vivian was allowed to enter.

In challenging the status quo, Jung and her fellow students helped dismantle racially discriminatory bylaws that had restricted and excluded people of colour from public spaces in British Columbia for decades.

Jung eventually became the first Chinese Canadian teacher hired by the Vancouver School Board to teach in the public school system.



***First elected female
Chief in Canada***

Gertrude Guerin

Squamish on her mother's side, Gertrude Guerin married into the Musqueam First Nation when she wed Victor Guerin in 1936.

It was within this community that Guerin became active in advocating for the rights of Indigenous people. This led to her election as Musqueam chief in 1959; she was the first woman to serve as an elected chief in Canada.

Keenly aware of Indigenous migration to urban centres to pursue economic opportunities, Guerin founded what is now the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, co-founded what is now the Native Education College, and was a founding member of the Vancouver Police and Native Liaison Society,

Guerin was also an appellant in the 1984 Supreme Court of Canada case *R. v. Guerin*, the ruling of which established the Federal government's fiduciary duty to First Nations.



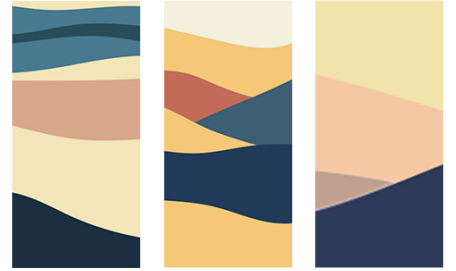
***“We’re here and
we’re not going to budge”***

Militant Mothers of Raymur

In 1971, the Militant Mothers of Raymur organized a series of blockades on the railway tracks to the east of Stamps Place in the Strathcona neighbourhood. Their demand was a safe railway crossing for their children, which they eventually achieved.

Among the mothers were: Carolyn Jerome, Alice Hamilton, Judith Stainsby, Jean Amos, Toni Cowlshaw, Ollie Strauman, Barbara Burnet, Joan Morelli, Sheila Turgeon, Muggs Sigurgeirson, Babs Cain, and Dorothy Cox.

Ray-Cam Cooperative Community Centre emerged from their grassroots activism, opening in 1976 as a social recreation centre and food co-operative. For over 40 years, the Centre has provided childcare, support, services, and recreation for children, youth, families and seniors living in the Downtown Eastside.



AUCE Local 1

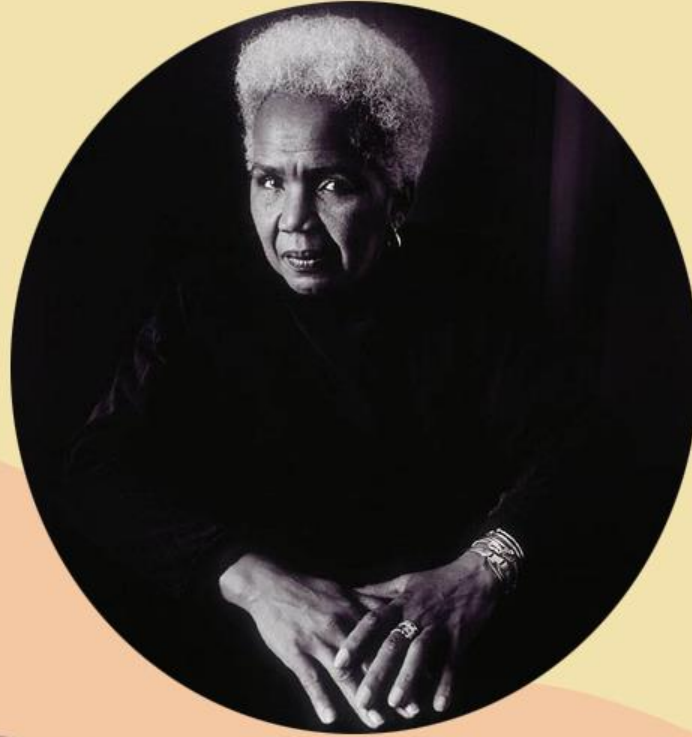
“No employee should lose her job or seniority in case of pregnancy.”

In 1974, years before other Canadian unions won maternity leave benefits in collective agreements, the Association of University & College Employees (AUCE) Local 1 at the University of British Columbia made history.

In its first collective agreement, UBC clerical and library workers achieved contract language that provided fully funded maternity leave for its members. It was a breakthrough not just for workers at UBC, but for families across the country.

***Leading the way for
maternity benefits***





***First Black woman
elected to a provincial legislature***

Rosemary Brown

“We must open the doors and we must see to it that they remain open so that others can pass through.”

Before embarking on her political career, Rosemary Brown earned her Masters of Social Work from the University of British Columbia. During her career as a social worker, Brown fought against racism and sexism, helping to found the British Columbia Association for Coloured People in 1956.

Elected to the British Columbia legislature in 1972, Brown’s ethos as a feminist social worker led her to advocate for the welfare of lower income, marginalized, and racialized communities.

Brown left public office in 1986 and was awarded both the Order of British Columbia and the Order of Canada before her death in 2008.



*Survival, strength,
sisterhood*

Downtown Eastside Women's Centre

Founded in 1978, the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre is one of the few safe spaces within the Downtown Eastside exclusively for self-identified women and their children. High levels of violence, homelessness, addictions and poverty characterize the DTES community. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, injustice and injury.

Led by Executive Director Alice Kendall, the mission of the DEWC is to provide a safe, non-judgmental environment for women from all walks of life, who live and/or work in the DTES. To achieve this goal, the Centre provides supportive surroundings with meals, counselling, advocacy, and programs which nurture and empower members.



*The violence stops
here*

Battered Women's Support Services

Since 1979, Battered Women's Support Services has provided support and advocacy for women who have experienced abuse. Part of a global feminist anti-violence movement, BWSS's long-term goal is the elimination of all violence against women and girls.

Since 2003, Angela Marie MacDougall has served as Executive Director of BWSS, using 30 years of experience as an advocate, activist, and frontline worker to raise the profile of the organization and to make headway in the battle against gender-based violence.

In early 2020, in anticipation of a COVID lockdown, MacDougall and the team at BWSS ramped up services to provide 24/7 support for those in need. By mid-April of 2020, BWSS had seen a 300 per cent increase in demand for services.



***Vancouver's first Black
school trustee***

Sadie Kuehn

"Equal treatment is for all of us because all are human."

Originally from the state of Georgia, Sadie Kuehn arrived in Vancouver via Kitimat, Midway, and Kamloops, BC. She began her advocacy work in Kitimat where she started women's groups and in Kamloops where she facilitated connections between Indigenous and non-Indigenous women.

In 1985, after having been in Vancouver for three years, Kuehn became the first Black school trustee to serve on the Vancouver School Board. Five years later she was elected president of COPE; she was the first person of colour to lead a civic party.

Drawing parallels between the Indigenous experience in Canada and the Black experience in the US, Kuehn fought and continues to fight to activate anti-racist policy and education in Vancouver's schools.

Lifelong public service

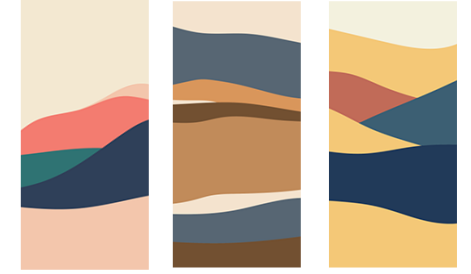


Wendy Au

With more than 30 years as a public servant and volunteer, Wendy's vision has been one of collaboration, innovation and inclusivity. She is currently a consultant for the City of Vancouver Chinatown Initiative. Wendy was the former Assistant City Manager and retired from City of Vancouver in June of 2018 after 39 years with the City.

Her participation has been integral to programs like the Vancouver Agreement, a ground breaking tri-level government agreement that focuses on improving conditions in the Downtown Eastside and the inner city. When confronted with rising Vietnamese gang membership not addressed by existing programs, she helped establish the collaborative Vietnamese Integration Project to reach high-risk youths.

She has earned the reputation as a tireless advocate for diversity and inclusion, especially in the Downtown Eastside. As a volunteer to a multiple of organizations, Wendy gives back to build and enhance her community.



***A bridge to healthier
possibilities***

Watari Counselling & Support Services Society

Watari was developed in 1986 as a response to the lack of services and programs for high-risk street-involved youth in Vancouver. Since then, Watari has helped thousands of people in the Downtown Eastside and surrounding communities, through youth and community programs, as well as through their counselling team.

Over the years, Watari has developed important programs for everyone needing support including Indigenous people and migrant workers. Their Latin American Group and Vietnamese Community Kitchen have become important staples in the community.

Watari is led by Executive Director Ingrid Mendez de Cruz. Before taking up the role in 2018, she served as Watari's Latin American drug & alcohol counsellor for 20 years.



barbara findlay, qc

"It is my conviction that unless we work as hard on the ways we are privileged - whether by white skin, by heterosexuality, by able-bodiedness, or by economic advantage - as we do on the ways we are oppressed, equality will never come."

Both within and without her capacity as a lawyer, barbara findlay lives her stated philosophy. A founding member of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference (SOGIC), a queer lawyer group within the Canadian Bar Association, findlay is also a founding member of the December 9 Coalition, a working coalition of leaders in the 2SLGBTQ+ community which engages in political action and advocacy work.

In addition to being appointed to Queen's Counsel, findlay has been honoured with an Award of Merit by the Sexual Diversity Studies Department at the University of Toronto, a HERO award by SOGIC, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.



She fought for everyone

Jamie Lee Hamilton

Becki Ross, professor at UBC's Department of Sociology and Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice described Jamie Lee Hamilton as someone who was at the "forefront of a confluence of very important community struggles, and had membership in all of those struggles."

An activist devoted to the issues faced by sex workers, Indigenous people, and the 2SLGBTQ+ community, Hamilton advocated fiercely for all, becoming the first trans person to run for public office in Canada, serving on the board of directors of the Greater Vancouver Native Cultural Society, and operating Grandma's House, a refuge where sex workers in the Downtown Eastside could access support services.

Though Grandma's House was shut down by the VPD in 2000, Hamilton continued her advocacy work until her death in 2019.

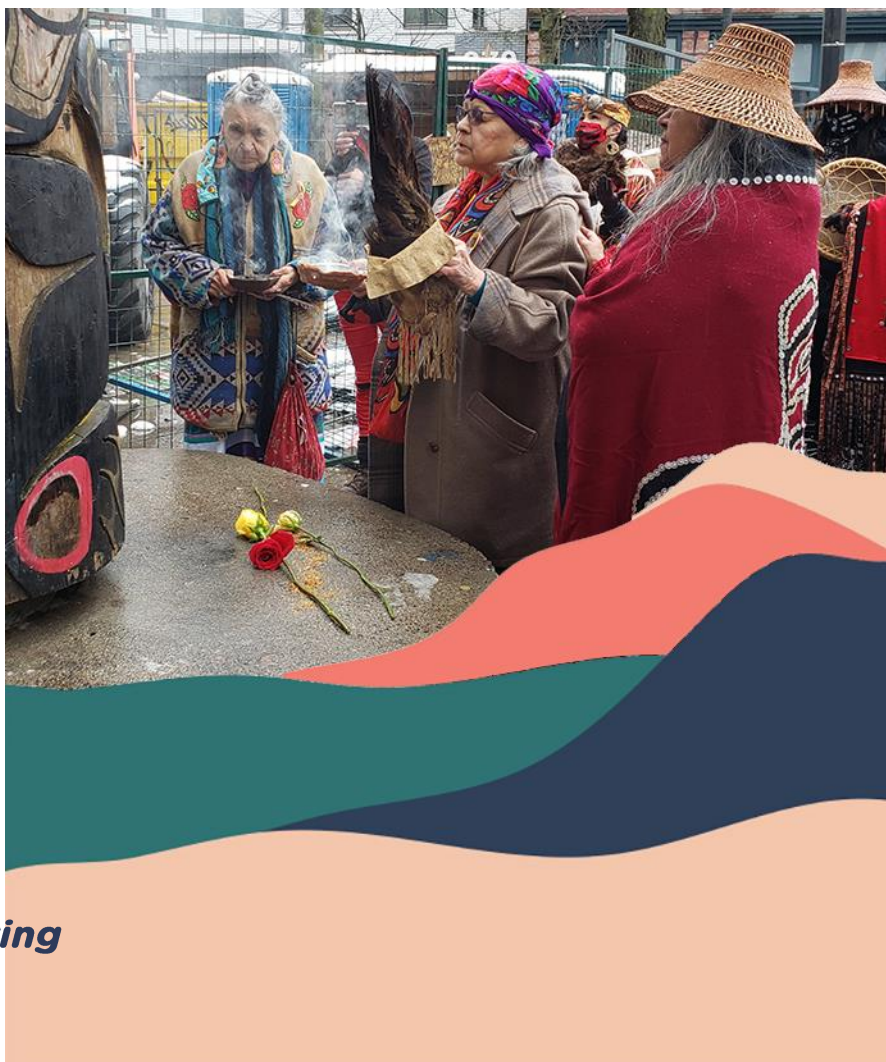
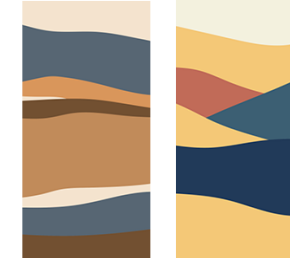
Trans inclusivity



Sandra LaFramboise

The years after Sandra LaFramboise came out at the age of twelve were largely bereft of support outside of queer and trans youth engaged in street-level sex work. After marching on Parliament Hill in 1974 to protest for gay rights and against police harassment, LaFramboise was motivated to continue this work and help construct a system of support.

After arriving in Vancouver in 1987, LaFramboise completed a psych-nurse diploma but discovered that most agencies in Vancouver did not want to provide services to trans women. This led to LaFramboise's fierce advocacy for trans women and the establishment of the High Risk Project, which provides services to trans women street level sex workers living with HIV/AIDS.



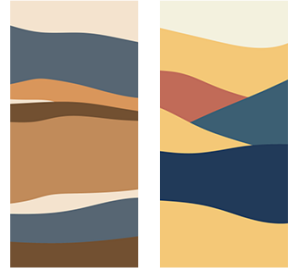
Remembering
MMIWG2S

Women's Memorial March

"Keep us safe, respect our culture and values."

The Women's Memorial March has its origins in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. What began in 1992 as an Indigenous women-led response to the murder of Cheryl Anne Joe has become an annual protest against the disproportional number of Indigenous women missing and murdered in the community.

The women's memorial march continues to honour the lives of missing and murdered women and all women's lives lost in the DTES. Increasing deaths of many vulnerable women from the DTES still leaves family, friends, loved ones, and community members with an overwhelming sense of grief and loss. Thank you to elders Rita Blind and Annie Johnston for allowing us to honour the Women's Memorial March in this space.



***Longest serving woman
in Canadian Parliament***



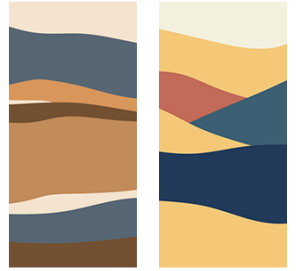
Hon. Hedy Fry

“Leave the world knowing you made it a better place.”

First elected to Canadian parliament in 1993, Hon. Hedy Fry is now the longest serving female MP in Canadian history. Before entering politics, Fry practiced family medicine at St. Paul's Hospital.

While practicing, she also served as president of the Vancouver Medical Association and the British Columbia Medical Association, successfully securing the first retirement plan for doctors in Canada.

As an MP, Fry has been a vocal advocate for women, the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and marginalized and racialized communities. She is a Special Representative for Gender Issues to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly as well as Head of the Canadian Delegation to the OSCEPA.



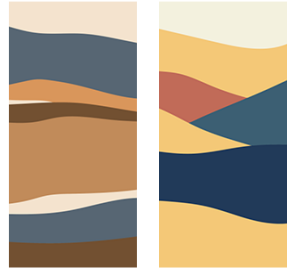
Cities for everyone

Ellen Woodsworth

Ellen Woodsworth is a writer, organizer, and international speaker and consultant on urban issues. A former Vancouver city councillor, Ellen is passionate about working for social justice, economic equality and environmentally sound planning.

Woodsworth works for cities to create social justice, economic equality, a creative culture and environmentally sustainable planning, using an equity/intersectional lens to ensure that cities work for everyone.

As the founder and External Chairperson of Women Transforming Cities she is working on a three year project funded by Status of Women Canada to examine systemic barriers to women's participation in local government.



***By, with, and for
sex workers***

PACE Society

PACE was started informally in a one bedroom apartment in Vancouver in 1994 by sex workers and their allies, who recognized that some services *for* sex workers were best delivered *by* sex workers.

A peer-driven society that seeks to reduce the harm and isolation associated with sex work through education, support, and advocacy, PACE works to increase the health, safety, and empowerment of sex workers of *all genders* by respecting their right to self-determination and supporting their self-identified needs.

PACE Society's hope is for long-term commitments to social change within all levels of government and individuals to eradicate systemic issues that create disproportionate levels of poverty, homelessness, health concerns and substance use within the Sex Work community so that individuals can make safe, healthy, and informed decisions in their lives.



Standing for culture

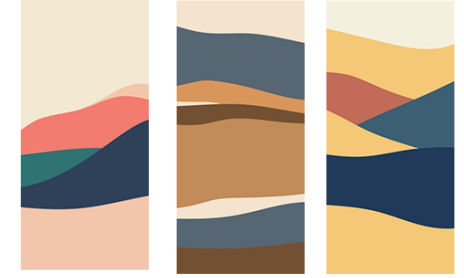
Cecilia Point

Musqueam

A member of the Musqueam Nation, Cecilia Point is a political activist who stood for over 200 days protecting her nation's ancestral burial site from development in 2012. Since then she has taken part in countless political actions advocating for human rights and the environment.

Cecilia has also dedicated many years to cultural preservation in the field of Aboriginal cultural and eco tourism. She currently holds the position of Director of Finance and Administration for the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada.

She is a facilitator for reconciliation workshops with the Bright New Day organization, and has been designated a public speaker for her nation.



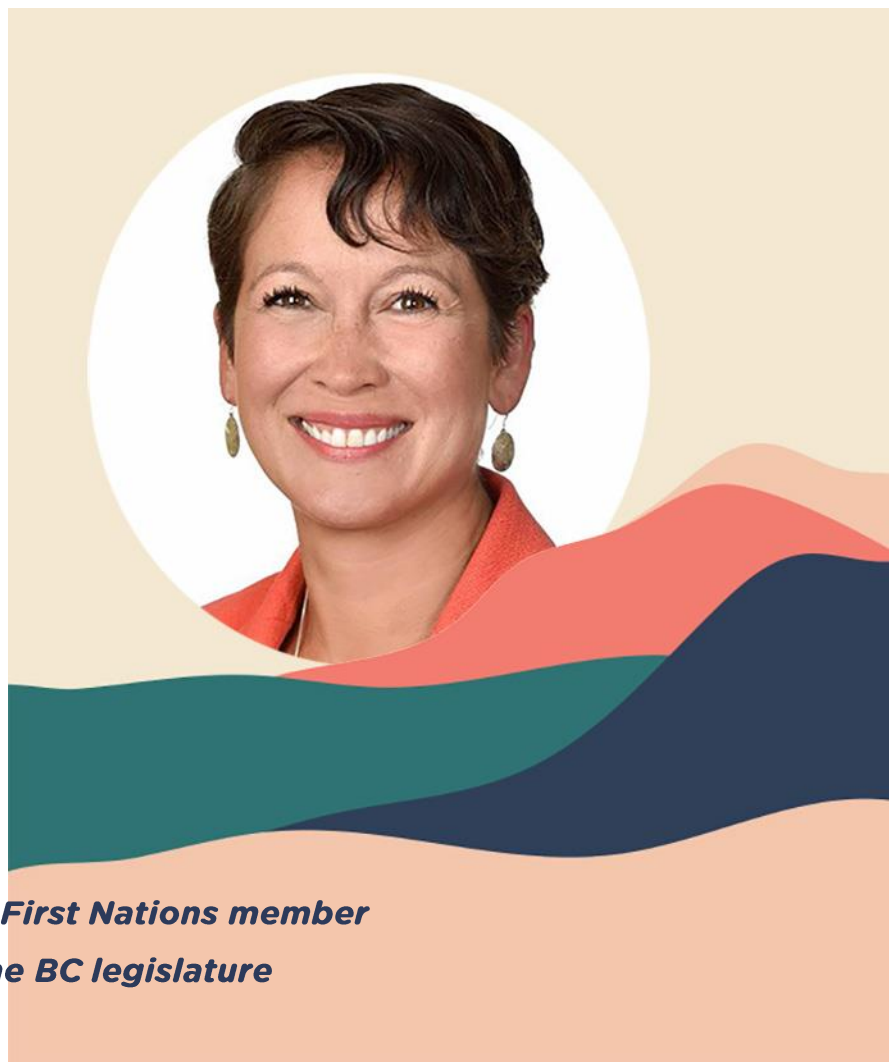
***A place where all
women are valued***

WISH Vancouver

WISH works to improve the health, safety, and well-being of self-identifying women who are involved in Vancouver's street-based sex trade. Women who engage in sex work are some of the most marginalized and vulnerable women in our society; those who engage in street-based sex work are even more at risk of social stigma, violence, and health crises.

WISH Drop-In Centre Society provides support to women who work in the street-based sex trade—80 per cent of whom are homeless or precariously housed, and half of whom are Indigenous. All live in poverty.

WISH is led by Executive Director Mebrat Beyene. With over twenty years of experience working in social justice and community development, Beyene has worked closely with organizations such as Status of Women Canada and is a recipient of the YWCA Metro Vancouver Women of Distinction Award.



***First female First Nations member
elected to the BC legislature***

Melanie Mark

Hli Haykwhl Wíl Xsgaak

Nisga'a, Gitksan, Cree, Ojibway

Melanie Mark was elected MLA for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant in 2016. She is the first female First Nations Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia and subsequent Cabinet Minister.

Prior to entering the legislature, Mark worked as an Advocate at the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth, an independent office of the legislature serving one of the province's most vulnerable populations. Family ties to Northern British Columbia have prompted Mark to work with organizations such as the Urban Native Youth Association and to co-found the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre.

She is the proud mother of two girls, Maya and Makayla.



**Women empowering
women**

Atira

Atira Women's Resource Society is accessible to anyone who identifies and lives full time as a woman and who experiences gendered violence and misogyny. They also support women struggling with substance use and or mental and spiritual wellness.

From low barrier housing for women fleeing from violence to outreach, daycare to education, the organization works to empower and support women affected by violence.

Janice Abbott, Executive Director since 2002, has led Atira from a single transition house located in South Surrey to a large multi-service agency with multiple properties throughout the Lower Mainland, two for-profit subsidiaries, a development arm, and more than 500 staff.



Decolonize everything

Michelle Nahanee

Ta7taliya

Squamish

Ta7taliya Michelle Nahanee is a decolonial facilitator & strategist catalyzing social change to transform colonial narratives & impacts through centred Indigeneity.

Michelle grew up in the Squamish Nation community called Eslha7an between the mountains and the ocean. She works within the intersection of class, race, culture and creativity focusing on social change through strategic communications and deep engagement. Michelle's collaborations have influenced opinions, changed behaviours and mobilized community action.

In 2018 she founded Nahanee Creative Inc., a small team of Squamish creative professionals. They are mothers and daughters, friends and mentors within a wider community of Indigenous-led businesses.



Decolonize what you love

Jada-Gabrielle Pape

Saanich, Snunemuxw

Jada-Gabrielle Pape is Coast Salish from the Saanich and Snunemuxw Nations on Vancouver Island. She has been working with urban and rural First Nations Communities and Peoples for almost thirty years. She is a specialist in decolonizing approaches and trainings and takes great care to bring forward the teachings of her Elders, Family, Community and Ancestors. Her work has brought her to train doctors, nurses, doulas, midwives, prison staff, prison inmates, sex workers, municipal governments and organizations, Chiefs and Counsels, non-profits, elementary and high school students and staff.

Jada is a curriculum consultant and designer and also a film director. She uses all her working skills to showcase the strengths of her people and repair some of the injury caused by colonialism. Her most important role in the world is as a single mother to an amazing sixteen-year-old daughter.



Built justice

Stephanie Allen

“Building replacement systems for when we dismantle oppressive ones.”

Stephanie Allen is an affordable housing specialist and organizational development professional with a focus on equitable city-building. She combines her expertise in market and community housing development with her background in government policy and stakeholder engagement to advance community building initiatives across the province.

Outside of work, Stephanie is a founding board member of the Hogan’s Alley Society, is on the interim board of the Federation of Black Canadians, and serves on the City of Vancouver’s Poverty Action Advisory Committee.



***A safe and just world for
2SLGBTQ+ people***

Photo courtesy of Daily Xtra

Chris Morrissey

Chris Morrissey is the co-founder of Rainbow Refugee, a non-profit society that supports people seeking refugee protection in Canada because of persecution based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or HIV/AIDS status.

Along with lawyer Rob Hughes, Morrissey founded the society in 2000 after facing great difficulty in sponsoring her life partner's immigration to Canada. Rainbow Refugee has since partnered with the federal government to direct a national, blended sponsorship program called the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Partnership.

Since 2011, the assistance partnership has helped groups in 25 cities across Canada to become active sponsors. In British Columbia alone, there are 20 active community sponsorship groups, which the society calls Circles of Hope.



Lead matriarch

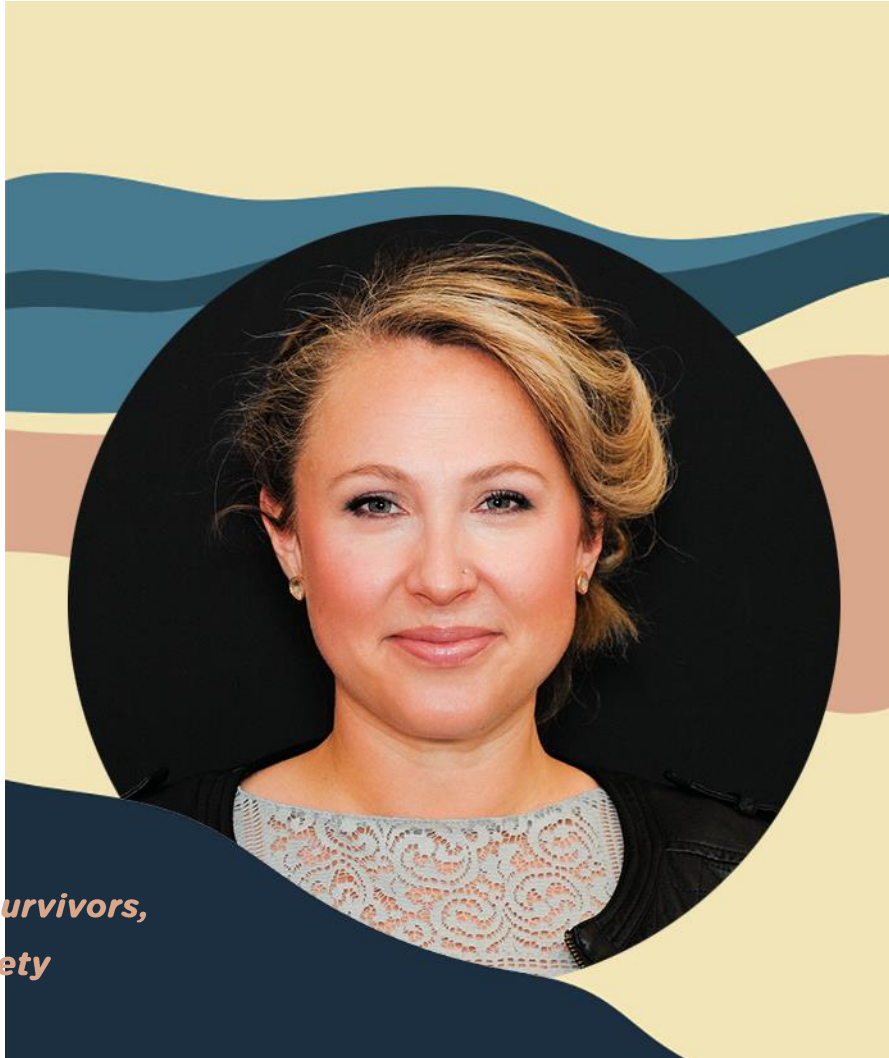
Diana Day

Onelida Nation, Wolf Clan

Lead Matriarch, Pacific Association of First Nations Women

Passionate about social justice issues that impact the health and welfare of the most vulnerable, Diana Day has served as Lead Matriarch at the Pacific Association of First Nations Women since 2017.

The Pacific Association of First Nations Women envisions a matriarchal community where all Indigenous women in BC are safe and respected with a sense of belonging and connection to cultural traditions. To support their vision, PAFNW advocates for systematic change and provides culturally safe learning and holistic, social, spiritual, psychological and educational support to uplift Indigenous women and strengthen families..



*Supporting survivors,
Shifting society*

WAVAW Rape Relief Crisis Centre

The WAVAW Rape Relief Crisis Centre was founded in 1982 with the goal of creating a future free from sexualized violence.

WAVAW provides support services to survivors of sexualized violence who have shared experiences of gender marginalization: cis and trans women, Two Spirit, trans and/or non-binary people. They advocate for social and systemic change through education, outreach and activism.

Dalya Israel has worked with WAVAW for 16 years, serving as Executive Director for two.



***Empowering newcomer
Syrian women***

Tayybeh

An unprecedented culinary experience

Nihal Elwan started Tayybeh in 2016 with a small grant from the Vancouver Foundation and the desire to give newcomer Syrian women fleeing the Syrian Civil War the chance to show off traditional dishes from their home cities of Aleppo, Homs, Daraa, and Idlib.

Now five years on, Tayybeh has grown beyond pop up dinners to a full-fledged catering operation with a food truck and prepared goods in local shops. The social enterprise's mission is to continue to empower newcomer women and offer opportunities for employment, financial independence, and social integration by offering and highlighting their delicious and authentic food.



***Lead with love and
serve others***

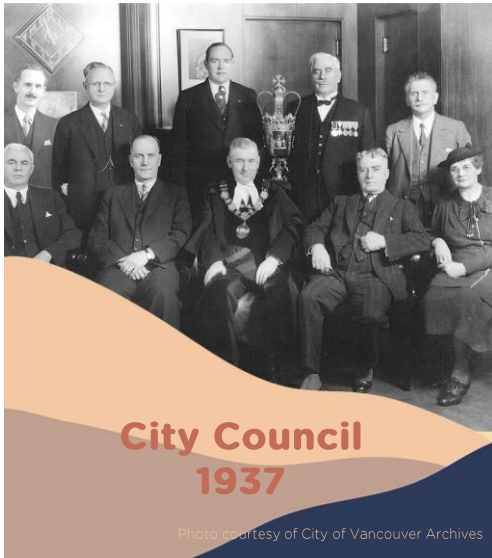
Barbara Lawson Swain

Heltsuk, Nisga'a, Haisla

Barbara Lawson Swain joined Reconciliation Canada as Chief Strategic Officer with 20+ years of experience of service delivery for the Urban Indigenous Community of Greater Vancouver. Mrs. Lawson Swain continues to work in partnership with Lu'ma Native Housing Society as a Program Director for Indigenous Youth In and From Care and Aboriginal Housing Outreach.

Her employment experience in leadership includes sectors such as education, employment, housing, homelessness, youth and most recently the Executive Director of The Aboriginal Mother Centre Society.

Barbara's firm belief is to lead with love and serve others as individuals without judgement while maintaining dignity.



Representation Matters

The 2018 civic election in Vancouver made history, with women accounting for eight out of ten elected city councillors. Women are also represented at the City by a Women's Advisory Committee which advises Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for women and marginalized genders to fully participate in City services and civic life.

Vancouver City Council, from left to right: Rebecca Bligh, Christine Boyle, Colleen Hardwick, Pete Fry, Adriane Carr, Mayor Kennedy Stewart, Melissa De Genova, Jean Swanson, Michael Wiebe, Lisa Dominato, Sarah Kirby-Yung.



