



## **Jean Canfield**

*October 4, 1918-December 31, 2000*

A popular, active member of the Island community, Jean Canfield made political history on May 11, 1970 when she became the first woman elected to Prince Edward Island's Legislative Assembly. From October 10, 1972 to May 2, 1974, she also served as Minister without Portfolio and Minister Responsible for P.E.I. Housing Authority, becoming the first woman to sit in the Provincial Cabinet. Canfield represented the First Queen's riding for nine years.

Throughout her career, Canfield represented her constituents with a conviction that was without equal. In addition to her political career, she was an active supporter of women's issues. In 1972, she was invited to chair the Provincial Advisory Committee on the Status of Women in the Province of Prince Edward Island and was a long-time member of the international women's group, the Zonta Club.

Married to the late Parker Canfield, Canfield had one daughter, Dr. Joyce Canfield as well as two grandchildren, Lucho and Andina van Isschot. She died in Charlottetown at the age of 82.

Jean Canfield's avant garde approach to politics and public life blazed a trail for the women who would follow her, including friend Catherine Callbeck who would eventually become the first female Provincial Premier in Canada.

Her willingness to challenge tradition, to encourage innovation and to embrace new ideas finds many parallels in the building named in her honour. Like Canfield, this building represents the promise of tomorrow. A commitment to sustainable development and the integrated use of cutting edge technology puts this building at the forefront of modern design and construction. As the most environmentally friendly building ever constructed by the Government of Canada, its success will also serve as an example of sustainable development and innovative design to be emulated for years to come.