



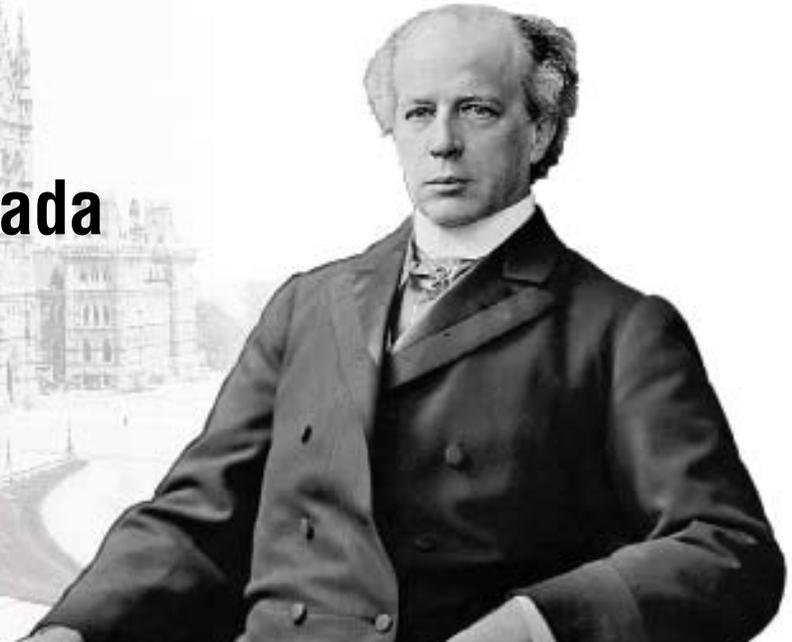
Library and Archives
Canada

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LAC FORUM on
Canadian Democracy
and
Status of Women Canada

present

International Women's Day
Strong Women, Strong World



www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/democracy/

Canada

Program

9:00–10:00 Registration and Refreshments

Spirit and Intent: Understanding Aboriginal Treaties

Open to the public at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, from September 24, 2007 to March 24, 2008, the exhibition features a large selection of treaty documents and artifacts dating from the 1600s to the 1990s. Discover some of our country's most important heritage records and gain insight into the values and visions behind these agreements.

“What is Democracy?” Project

Your voice. My voice. Our democracy. Help us answer the question “What is Democracy?” by recording your thoughts at our “What is Democracy?” booth. Participants can video-record their thoughts, which may be featured later on the LAC Forum for Canadian Democracy website. Like democracy itself, this project is a work in progress. Visit the website to learn more and to contribute your ideas.

10:00 Welcome

Doug Rimmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, LAC Program and Services Sector
Opening Ceremony, Annie Smith St. Georges, Algonquin Elder

LAC Forum on Canadian Democracy

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/democracy/

The LAC Forum on Canadian Democracy promotes informed civic engagement online and in public by connecting Canadians with historical and contemporary information pertaining to Canada's democratic experience as embodied in the documentary heritage of Canadian government, governance and political culture.

Status of Women Canada

www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/

Status of Women Canada is a federal government organization that promotes the full participation of women in the economic, social and democratic life of Canada. Status of Women Canada works to advance equality for women and to remove the barriers to women's participation in society, putting particular emphasis on increasing women's economic security and eliminating violence against women.

10:30 Panel Discussion: Aboriginal Women and Government

Throughout our history, agreements and treaties have been negotiated between Aboriginal peoples and the French state or the British Crown, and later, with Canadian governments. The stories of how these agreements and later forms of governance have been shaped by Aboriginal women are not well known. Having only acquired the right to vote in Canadian elections in 1960, Aboriginal women remain under-represented in legislatures and other bodies of governance. This panel will explore the issues and challenges Aboriginal women have faced and continue to face, in the context of past and present democratic deficits and in moments of democratic achievement.

Moderator: Clare Beckton, Coordinator, Status of Women Canada

- Kiera Ladner, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Politics and Governance, University of Manitoba
- Jody Wilson, Commissioner, British Columbia Treaty Commission
- Leah-George Wilson, Director, Treaty, Land and Resources, Tsleil-Waututh First Nation

12:00 Lunch and Networking

12:30 Sierra Noble, Métis fiddler from Manitoba

A world-class performer, Sierra Noble's fiddling, voice and music create a sound that is distinctively her own. Ms. Noble unifies cultures, Métis and Celtic, as well as the musical genres of world beat and roots jazz. For many years, she has worked to preserve the Métis culture by learning the traditional styles of fiddling and jigging and communicating this rich cultural heritage to youth in schools and community workshops across Canada. (visit www.SierraNoble.ca)

1:00 Towards Equality: A History of Women in Canada

This film from the Library and Archives Canada collection provides a concise analysis of the role of women in the development of Canada. Through works of art, photographs, motion pictures and narration, the viewer is introduced to the major players and events in Canadian women's history up to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women.

Panelists

1:30 Panel Discussion: Women and Canadian Democracy

Does Canada's democratic culture ensure a truly democratic system? Throughout our country's history, women have endeavoured to make this so. From the suffragettes' battle for the right to vote, to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, to today's struggles in communities, boardrooms and legislatures across Canada, this panel will explore the role of women in creating and sustaining a democracy that reflects Canada's diverse and changing society.

Moderator: Caroline Andrew, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Ottawa

- Jane Arscott, Assistant Professor, Centre for Work and Community Studies, Athabasca University
- Hindia Mohamoud, Director of Impact and Investment, United Way/Centraide Ottawa
- Claire Prévost-Fournier, President, Groupe Femmes, Politique et Démocratie
- Ann Wicks, Executive Director, Equal Voice/À Voix égales

3:00 Closing

Closing Remarks, Sylvie Boucher, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and for Status of Women, M.P. (Beauport-Limoilou)

Closing Ceremony, Annie Smith St. Georges, Algonquin Elder

First Panel: Aboriginal Women and Government

Kiera Ladner, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Politics and Governance, University of Manitoba

Dr. Kiera Ladner is an expert in indigenous politics and self-government in Canada. Her community-based research into constitutional reconciliation and decolonization is creating a deeper understanding of these rival ideas and the tensions they have created, both within communities and between First Nations and Canada. Through her research, Dr. Ladner aims to engage communities and grassroots, traditional and Indian Act leaders in discussions about their visions for the future. She is also developing processes for reconciliation and decolonization as well as exploring how to merge a community's vision of governance with the Canadian constitution.

Jody Wilson, Commissioner British Columbia Treaty Commission

An active member of both the British Columbia Bar Association and the We Wai Kai First Nation of the Laich-Kwil-Tach K'omoks Council of Chiefs, Jody Wilson is in her third term as Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission. Prior to this post, she served for nine months as an advisor to the Commission and for two years as a provincial Crown prosecutor. Ms. Wilson holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of British Columbia (1999) and a BA from the University of Victoria (1996). She is a board member of the National Centre for First Nations Governance and the Minerva Foundation for BC Women.

**Leah George-Wilson, Director
Treaty, Land and Resources, Tsleil-Waututh First Nation**

Leah George-Wilson is a member of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation in North Vancouver and has worked for the nation for the past 12 years. Currently serving as Director of Treaty, Land and Resources, she was the first woman to be elected Chief, a position she held from 2001 to 2003. Ms. George-Wilson has also served as a member of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation negotiating team in the BC treaty process and as Self-Government Co-coordinator. She holds a BA from Simon Fraser University and sits on a number of boards of directors, including: the Legal Services Society, Ecotrust Canada, the Chief Dan George Centre and the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce.

**Moderator: Clare Beckton, Coordinator
Status of Women Canada**

A recognized expert in equality rights and Aboriginal policy issues, Clare Beckton was appointed Coordinator of Status of Women Canada in April 2007. In 2005, as a Fulbright Scholar, she obtained an MPA from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Ms. Beckton also holds a BA, LLB and LLM. She taught law at Dalhousie University from 1974 until she joined the Human Rights Law Section of the Department of Justice in 1984. Following a number of senior legal positions with the federal government, Ms. Beckton was appointed Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Aboriginal Affairs, Department of Justice. She led the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio from 1998 until June 2004, and returned from her year at Harvard to co-lead, with the Aboriginal Leadership Institute and other partners, a multi-sectoral Aboriginal Leadership Initiative. Ms. Beckton is the author of *The Law and the Media* as well as numerous articles on the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Second Panel: Women and Canadian Democracy

**Jane Arscott, Assistant Professor
Centre for Work and Community Studies, Athabasca University**

Jane Arscott co-authored *Still Counting: Women in Politics Across Canada* (Broadview, 2003) and co-edited *In The Presence of Women: Representation in Canadian Governments* (Harcourt Brace, 1997). Her current research focuses on the Royal Commission on the Status of Women and its handling of women's diversity. At Athabasca University since 1998, Professor Arscott developed the Human Services major of the Bachelor of Professional Arts Program, the only human services degree in Canada. She is passionate about creating new knowledge as well as genuine opportunities in post-secondary education.

**Hindia Mohamoud, Director of Impact and Investment
United Way/Centraide Ottawa**

As Director of Impact and Investment at United Way/Centraide Ottawa, Hindia Mohamoud works to promote inclusion of immigrants in local communities. She was research team leader, lead designer and developer of the Communities Within: Diversity and Exclusion project. Before joining United Way/Centraide Ottawa, Ms. Mohamoud was Director of Research for the Social Planning Council of Ottawa. Her portfolio includes an examination of social exclusion as it is experienced by visible minority communities. An active volunteer, Ms. Mohamoud has contributed to the work of the Multifaith Housing Initiative, the City for all Women Initiative, the Ottawa CED Network, the Internationally Trained Workers Partnership, the Access Committee and the Community Council for Ethnocultural Equity.

**Claire Prévost-Fournier, President
Groupe Femmes, Politique et Démocratie**

Claire Prévost-Fournier has a degree in political science and regional studies. She has taught political science for close to 15 years at Cegeps in Sherbrooke and Chicoutimi and has conducted research into college-level education. Ms. Prévost-Fournier has held several management positions in the Quebec public service, including Director of College Education in the Ministry of Education, and Secretary General of the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation. An educational consultant, Ms. Prévost-Fournier has served as president of the Groupe Femmes, Politique et Démocratie for three years.

**Ann Wicks, Executive Director
Equal Voice/À Voix égales**

As Executive Director of Equal Voice/À Voix égales, a national non-profit organization devoted to electing more women, Ann Wicks has more than 10 years of experience as a results-oriented public relations specialist. She has also served as a senior advisor to cabinet ministers, coordinator of community outreach initiatives and planner of national media campaigns. As Executive Director, Ms. Wicks strives to promote the goals of Equal Voice/À Voix égales through a number of campaigns, including the Ontario Challenge Campaign, which succeeded in electing the largest number of women MPPs in Ontario's history. An active volunteer and board member, Ms. Wicks is the author of numerous articles and publications.

**Moderator: Caroline Andrew, Professor
Department of Political Science, University of Ottawa**

Caroline Andrew has been with the Department of Political Science at the University of Ottawa since 1971. She is currently Director of the Centre on Governance and was Coordinator of Women's Studies from 1992 to 1993. She has extensive experience evaluating research and is past president of the Social Science Federation of Canada (1988–1989), the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (1992–1993) and the Canadian Political Science Association (1983–1984).