

# SUFFRAGE

## CANADIAN WOMEN AND THE VOTE

WRITTEN BY SUSAN HUGHES  
ILLUSTRATED BY MEAGS FITZGERALD





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**TEACH**MEDIA

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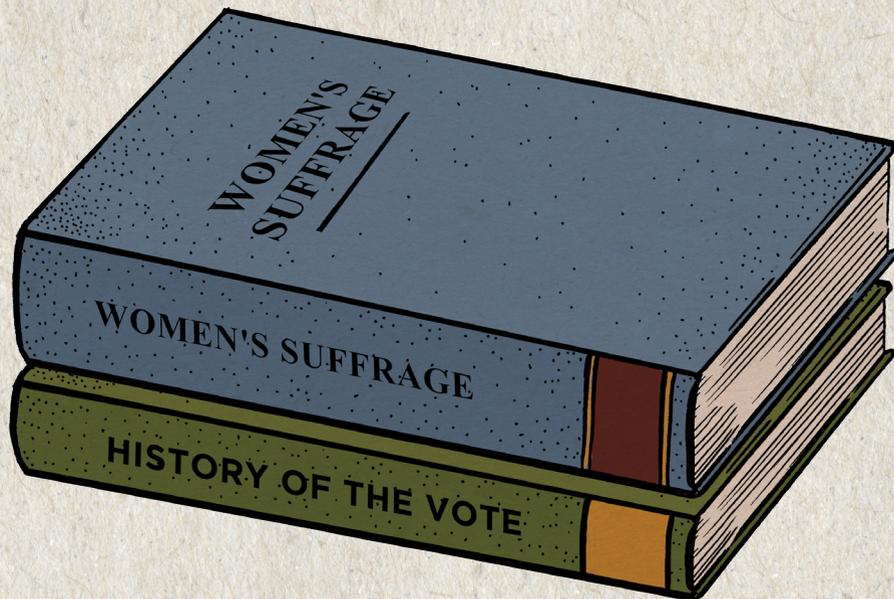
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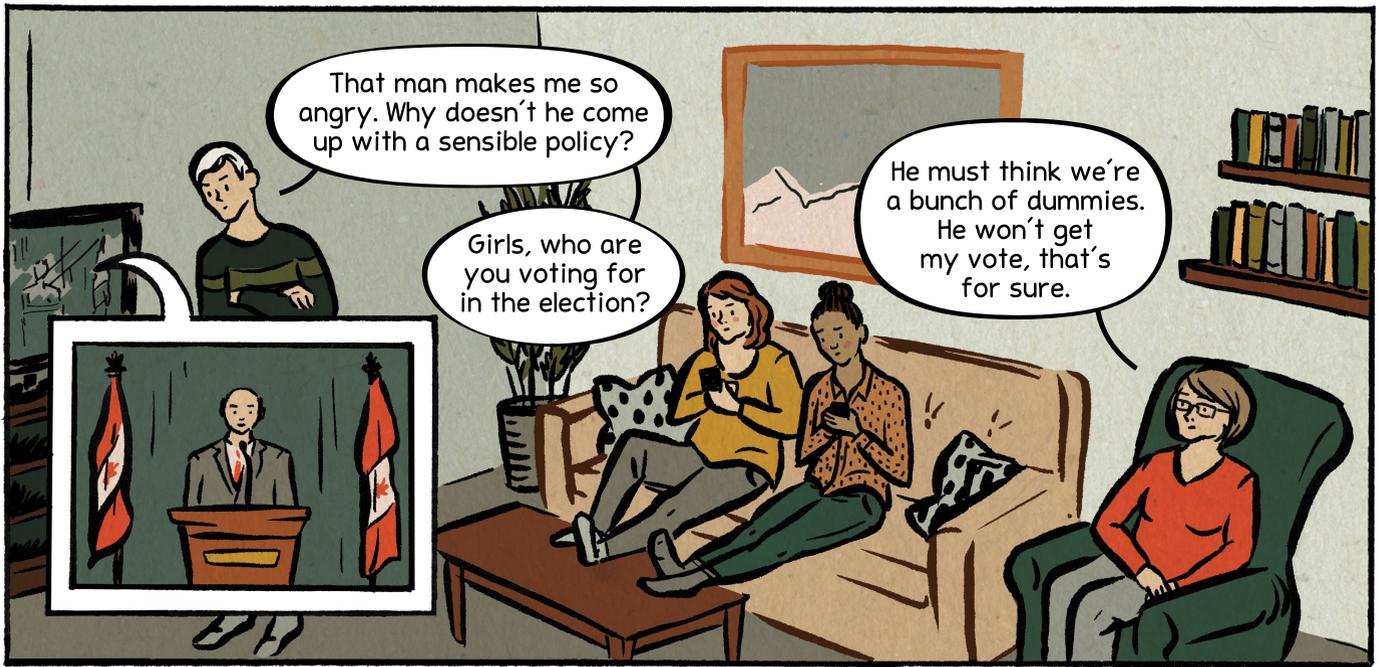
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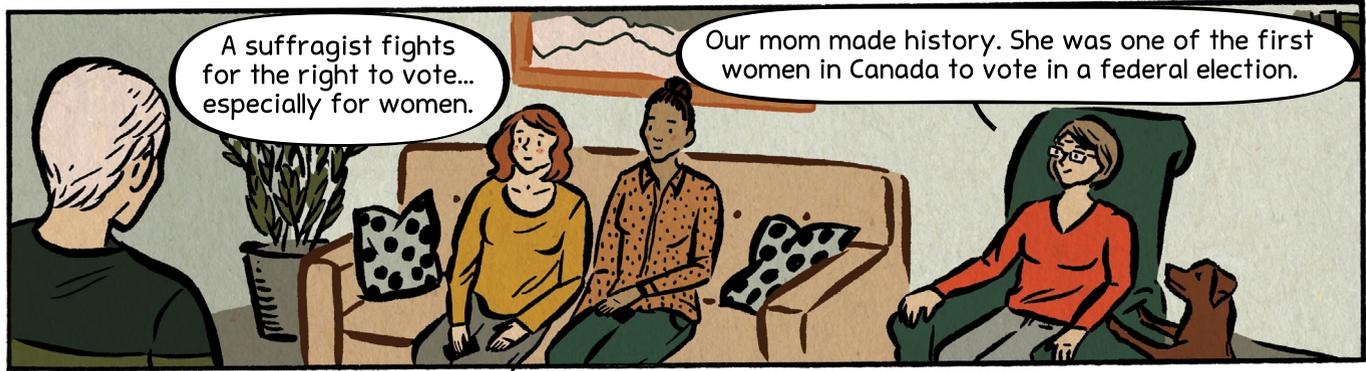
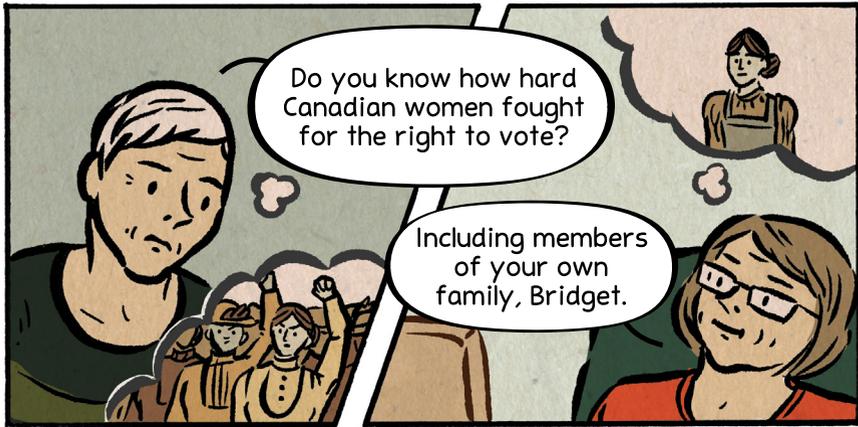
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CHAPTER 1

# THE CASE FOR VOTING



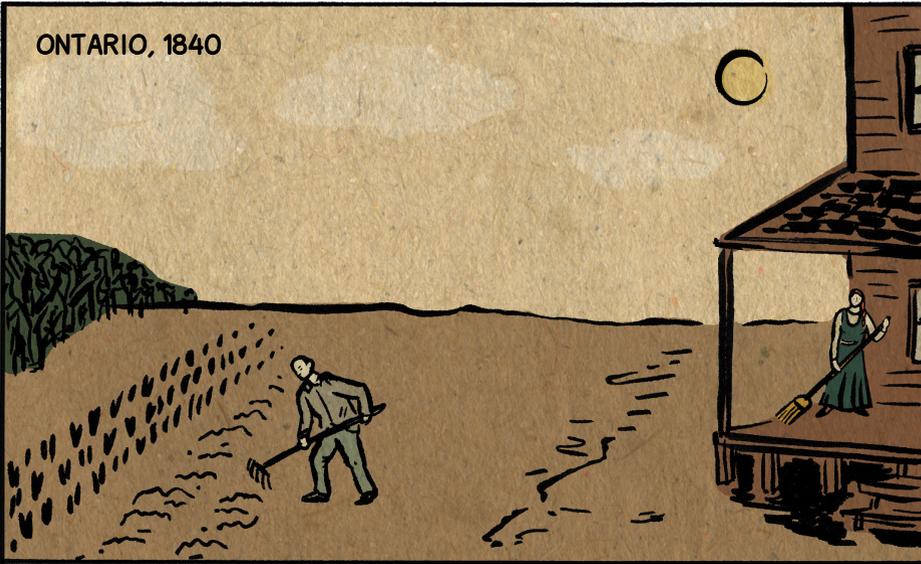




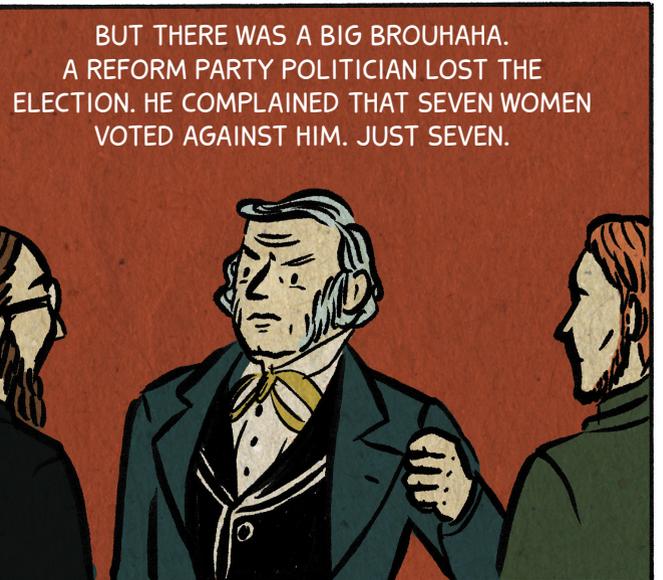
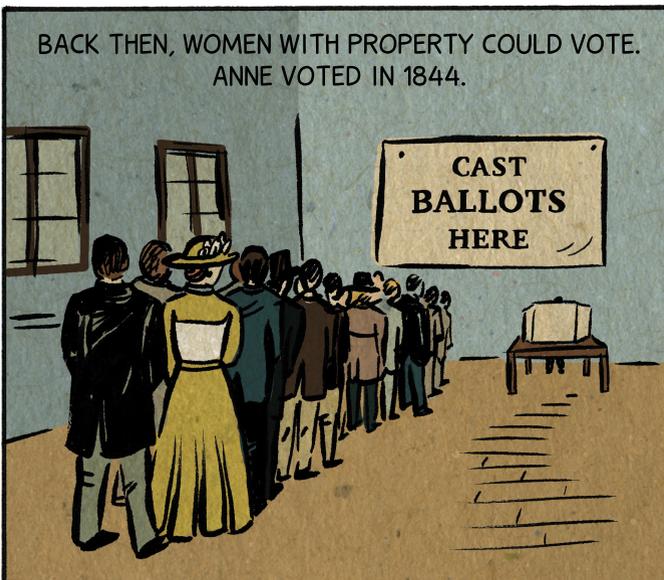




ONTARIO, 1840



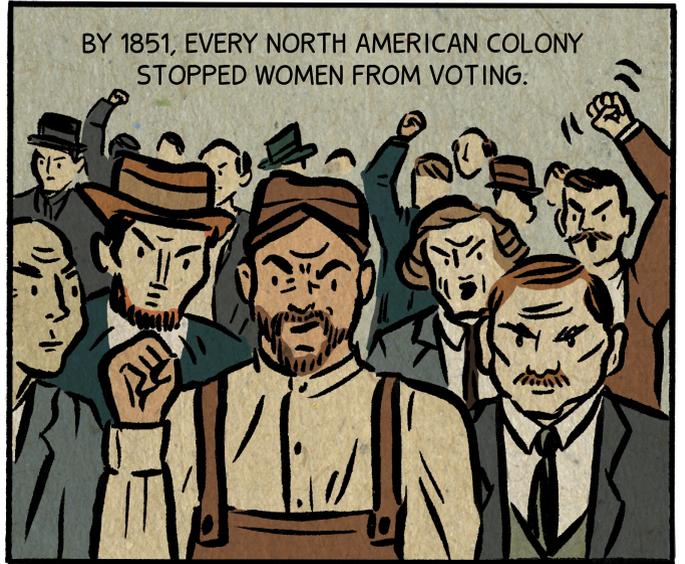
BACK THEN, WOMEN WITH PROPERTY COULD VOTE.  
ANNE VOTED IN 1844.



THE ELECTORAL LAWS CHANGED IN 1849.  
NOW ONLY MEN WITH PROPERTY  
COULD VOTE.



BY 1851, EVERY NORTH AMERICAN COLONY  
STOPPED WOMEN FROM VOTING.



Wow. Harsh.  
What about when  
Canada became a  
country in 1867?

You had to be  
21 or older,  
a British subject,  
own property, or  
have income.



These conditions  
only applied to  
men, of course.



Why were women  
left out?



WOMEN HAD TO TURN OVER  
THEIR HARD-EARNED  
WAGES TO THE MEN.





Men took care of the money. If women earned an income, it went to the men.



I'll give you some money to run the house.



IN CANADA, PEOPLE BELIEVED ONLY THOSE WITH PROPERTY SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE. THEY HAD SOMETHING AT STAKE WHEN DECISIONS WERE MADE. THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES AGREED.

LIBERAL

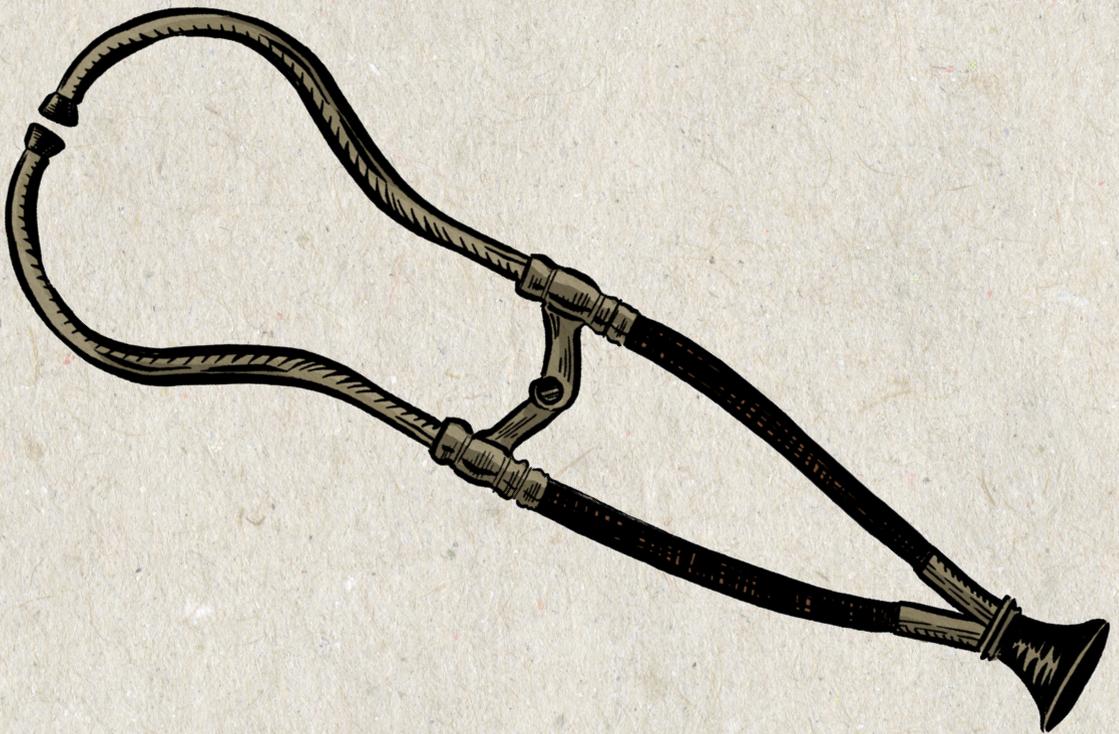
CONSERVATIVE

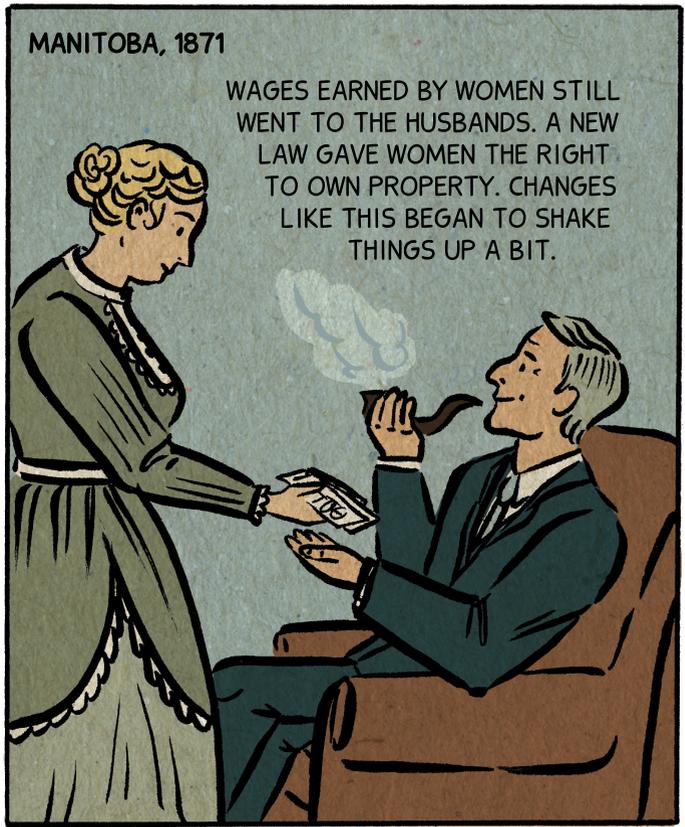


IF A COUPLE CO-OWNED PROPERTY THEY SHARED ONE VOTE. THE MAN RETAINED THE RIGHT TO CAST THAT VOTE.

CHAPTER 3

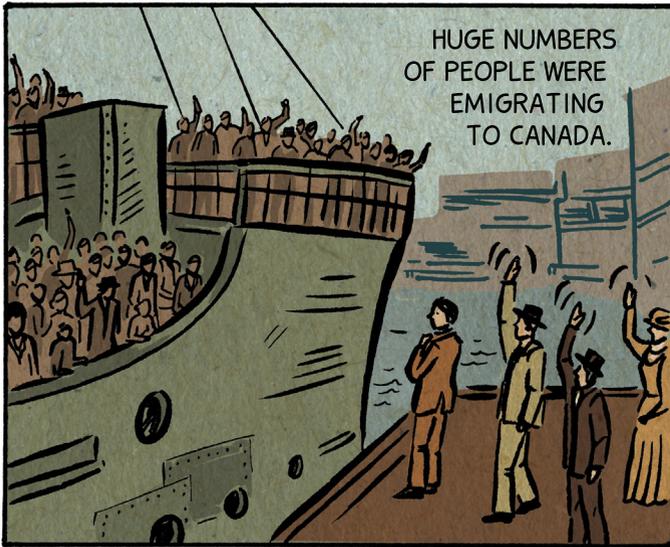
MEET EMILY STOWE



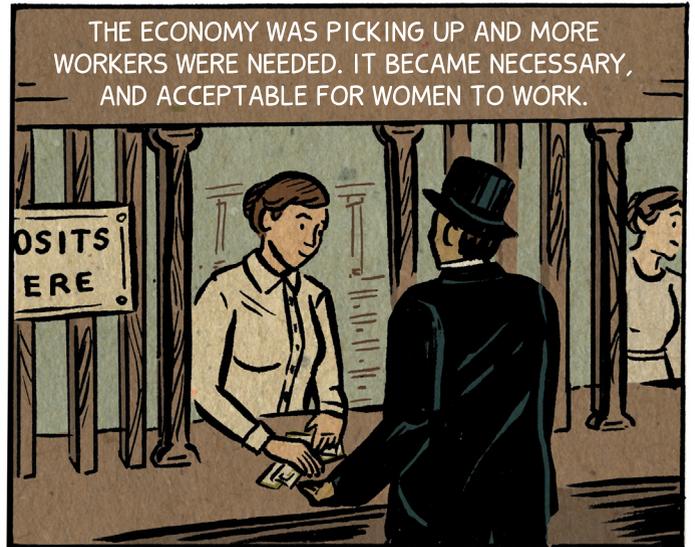


BETWEEN 1820 AND 1920, LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE BEGAN MOVING FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE INTO THE CITIES.

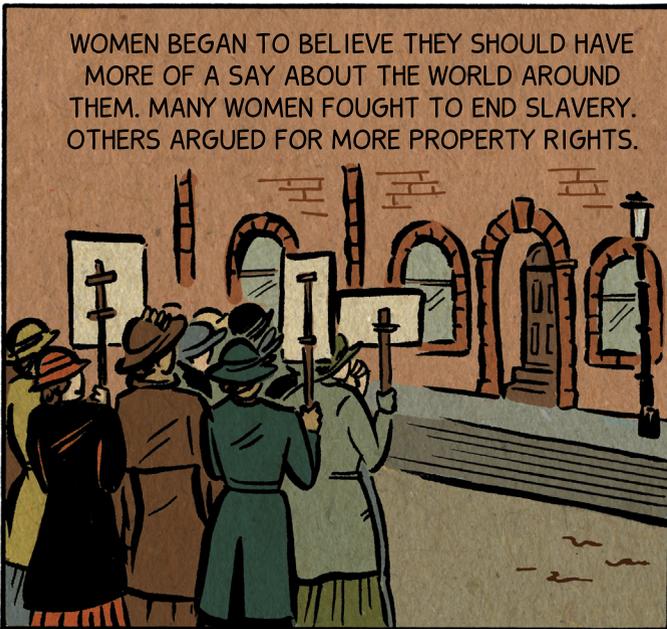




HUGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WERE EMIGRATING TO CANADA.



THE ECONOMY WAS PICKING UP AND MORE WORKERS WERE NEEDED. IT BECAME NECESSARY, AND ACCEPTABLE FOR WOMEN TO WORK.

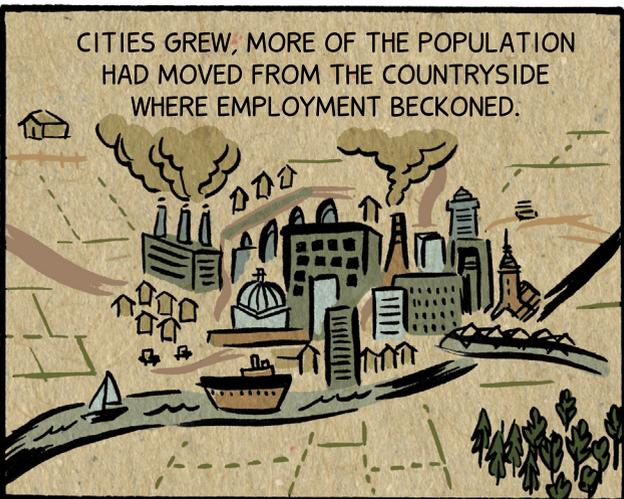


WOMEN BEGAN TO BELIEVE THEY SHOULD HAVE MORE OF A SAY ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND THEM. MANY WOMEN FOUGHT TO END SLAVERY. OTHERS ARGUED FOR MORE PROPERTY RIGHTS.

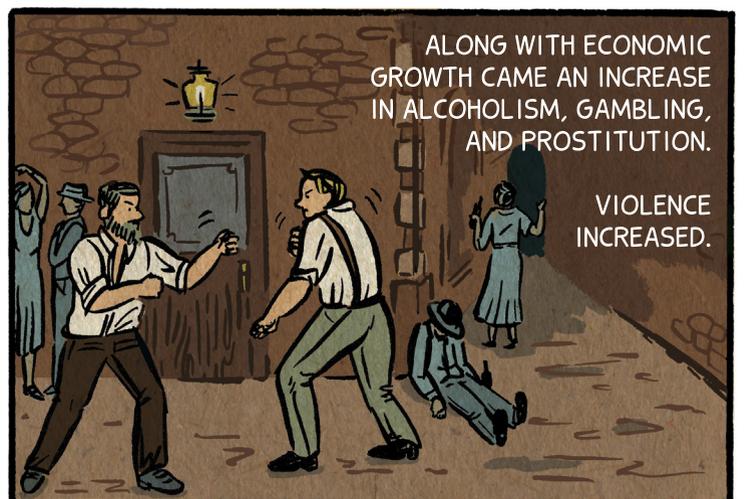


Women fought for social reforms. Suffragists rose up. They wanted to vote. They wanted to create change.

What do you mean? What was wrong with Canadian society?



CITIES GREW, MORE OF THE POPULATION HAD MOVED FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE WHERE EMPLOYMENT BECKONED.



ALONG WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH CAME AN INCREASE IN ALCOHOLISM, GAMBLING, AND PROSTITUTION.

VIOLENCE INCREASED.

THESE INFLUENCES THREATENED FAMILY SECURITY. WOMEN FELT COMPELLED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES AND TAKE ACTION.



MANY SUFFRAGISTS WERE USUALLY WHITE, BRITISH, PROTESTANT, AND MIDDLE-CLASS, WITH A STRONG SENSE OF THEIR OWN MORAL SUPERIORITY.

GETTING THE VOTE WOULD INCREASE THE INFLUENCE OF THEIR CLASS AND THEIR RACE.



HOWEVER, THERE WERE SUFFRAGISTS IN MINORITY GROUPS AS WELL. WITH FEW PRIVILEGES IN SOCIETY, WOMEN OF COLOUR FACED MORE CHALLENGES IN ADVOCATING FOR THEIR RIGHTS, BUT SOME STILL DID.



BORN IN 1823, MARY ANN SHADD CARY WAS AN AMERICAN-CANADIAN ANTI-SLAVERY ACTIVIST, JOURNALIST, NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER, TEACHER, AND LAWYER. SHE WAS THE FIRST FEMALE PUBLISHER IN CANADA AND USED HER PAPER TO SPREAD FORWARD-THINKING VIEWS. SHADD CARY WAS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND FEARLESSLY FOUGHT FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL REFORMS.

MOST OF THE EARLY SUFFRAGISTS WERE MATERNAL FEMINISTS, MOTIVATED TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILIES. OTHERS VALUED EQUAL RIGHTS.

We may not be equal to men, but we work alongside them.

Women are equal to men and deserve equal rights, including the right to vote.



DR. EMILY HOWARD STOWE



EMILY STOWE LAUNCHED THE MOVEMENT FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN CANADA. SHE WAS BORN IN 1831 IN UPPER CANADA, NOW ONTARIO. A TEACHER AND THEN A PRINCIPAL, SHE GAVE UP HER CAREER WHEN SHE MARRIED.

WHEN HER HUSBAND CONTRACTED TUBERCULOSIS, EMILY STOWE DECIDED TO BECOME A DOCTOR. SHE APPLIED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MEDICAL FACULTY.



The doors of the university are not open to women, and I trust they never will be.

Then I will make it the business of my life to see women have the same opportunities as men.

EMILY WENT TO MEDICAL COLLEGE IN NEW YORK. IN 1868, SHE BECAME CANADA'S FIRST FEMALE PHYSICIAN. SHE CONTINUED TO FACE PREJUDICE. SHE WORKED TO GET THE VOTE FOR WOMEN SO THEY COULD HELP AFFECT OTHER REFORMS.



EMILY FACED CONTROVERSY FOR HER VIEWS. AT THE TIME, IT WAS UNUSUAL AND COURAGEOUS TO PROMOTE SUCH RADICAL IDEAS.



If we form a group where women can meet to discuss change—no man will allow his wife to attend. So....

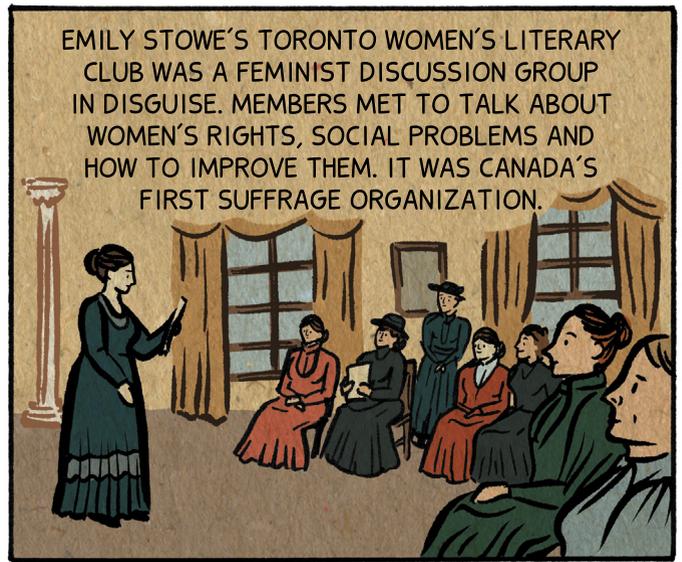
A PRETENSE WAS CONCOCTED.



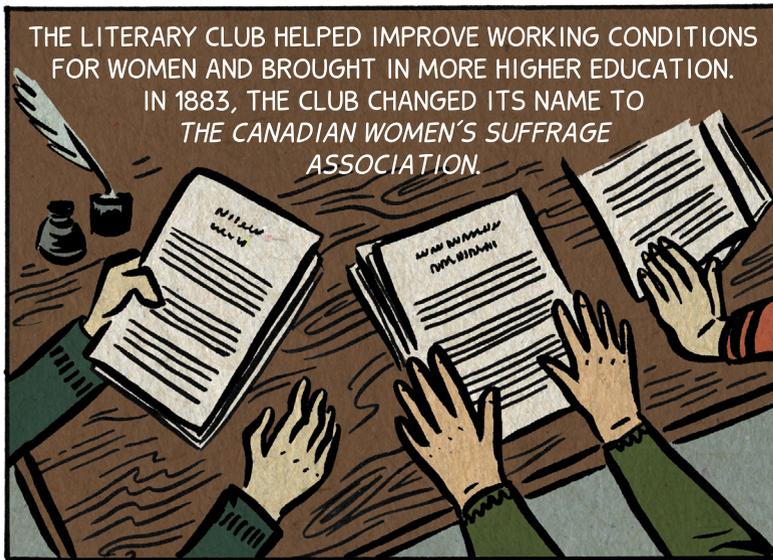


Just off to the literary club, Frank.

What? Ah, yes. Have a good time, my dear.



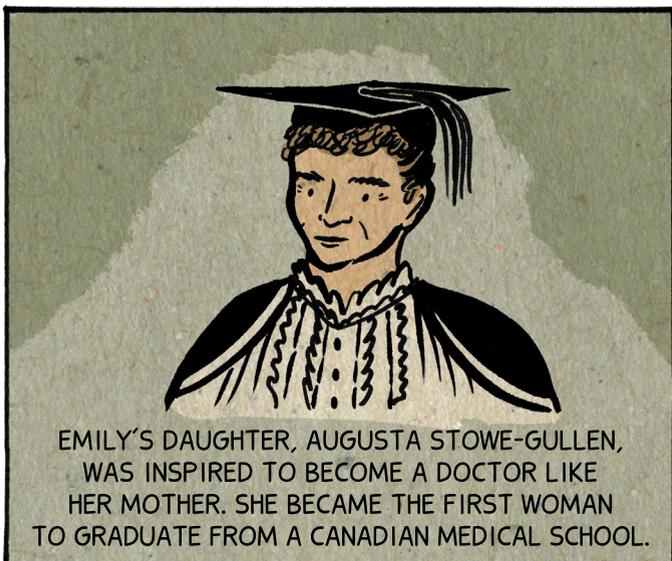
EMILY STOWE'S TORONTO WOMEN'S LITERARY CLUB WAS A FEMINIST DISCUSSION GROUP IN DISGUISE. MEMBERS MET TO TALK ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS, SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND HOW TO IMPROVE THEM. IT WAS CANADA'S FIRST SUFFRAGE ORGANIZATION.



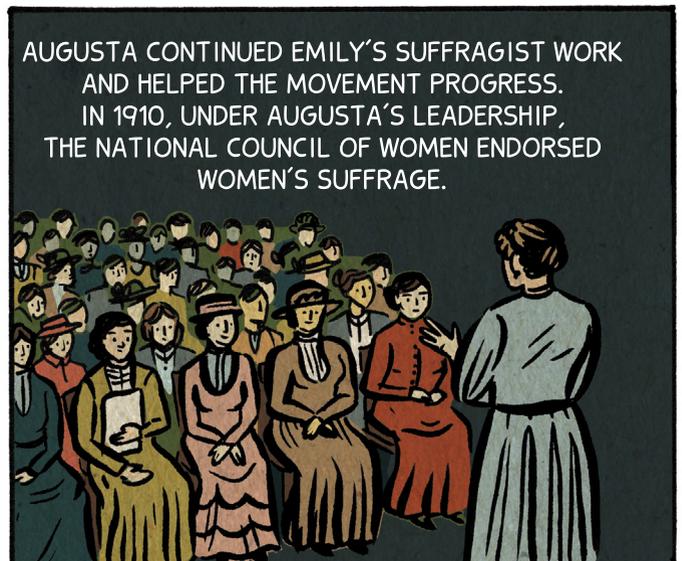
THE LITERARY CLUB HELPED IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR WOMEN AND BROUGHT IN MORE HIGHER EDUCATION. IN 1883, THE CLUB CHANGED ITS NAME TO *THE CANADIAN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION*.



The name change represents who we are openly. We'll invite men and women to be members.



EMILY'S DAUGHTER, AUGUSTA STOWE-GULLEN, WAS INSPIRED TO BECOME A DOCTOR LIKE HER MOTHER. SHE BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO GRADUATE FROM A CANADIAN MEDICAL SCHOOL.



AUGUSTA CONTINUED EMILY'S SUFFRAGIST WORK AND HELPED THE MOVEMENT PROGRESS. IN 1910, UNDER AUGUSTA'S LEADERSHIP, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN ENDORSED WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

CHAPTER 4

THE WOMEN'S  
TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

PLEASE SIGN THIS CARD  
AND KEEP IT



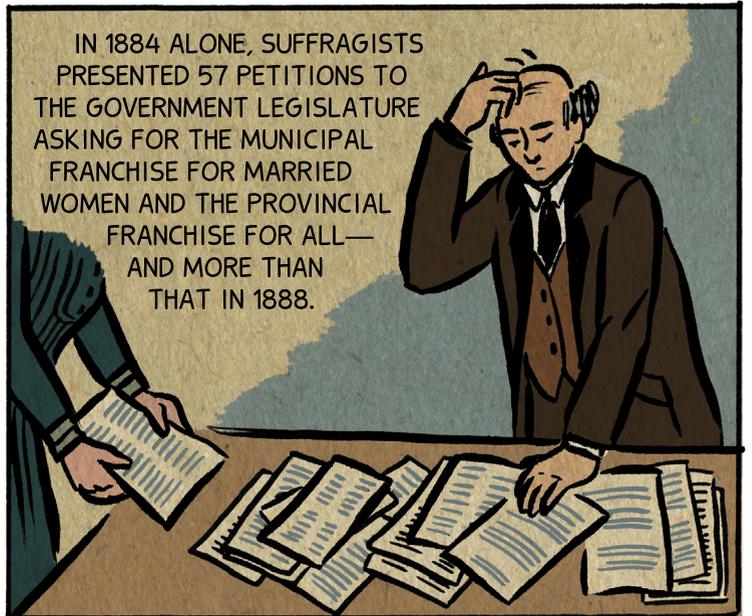
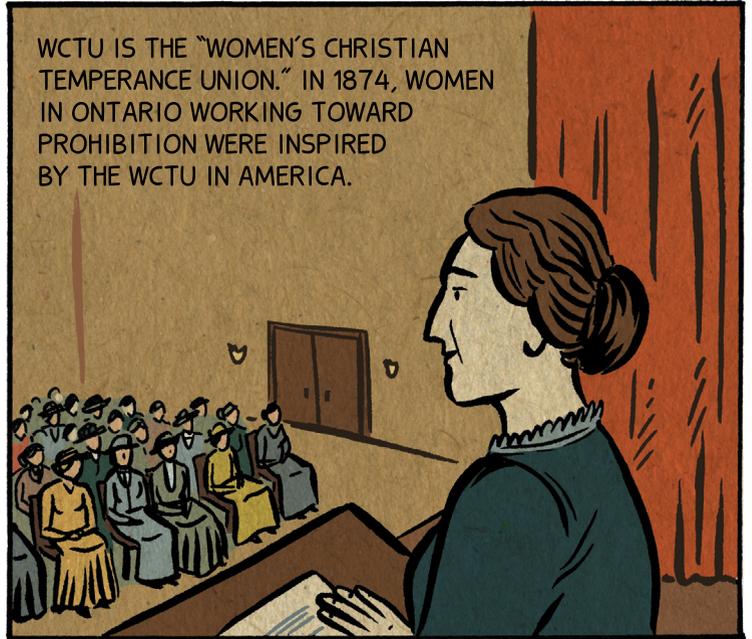
**Woman's Christian  
Temperance Union**

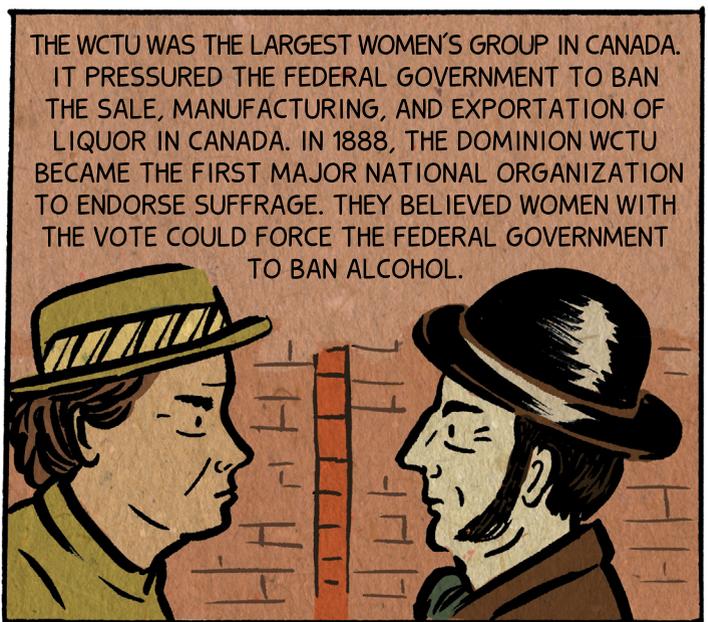
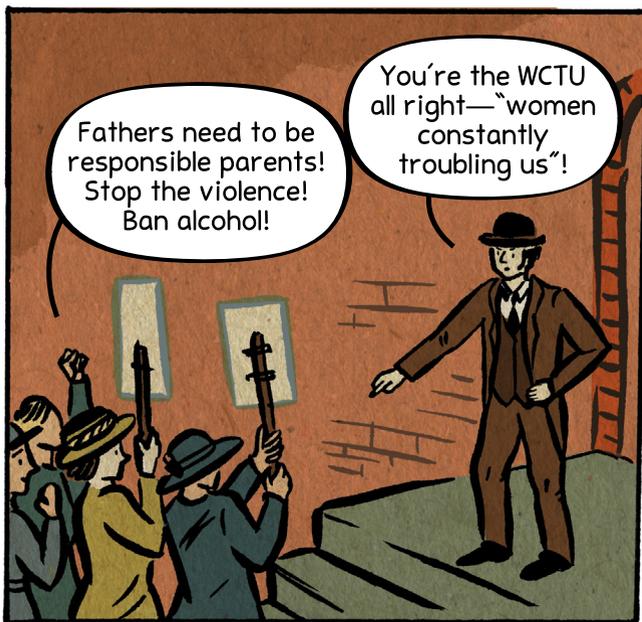
**PLEDGE**

I hereby solemnly promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including wine, beer and cider; and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.

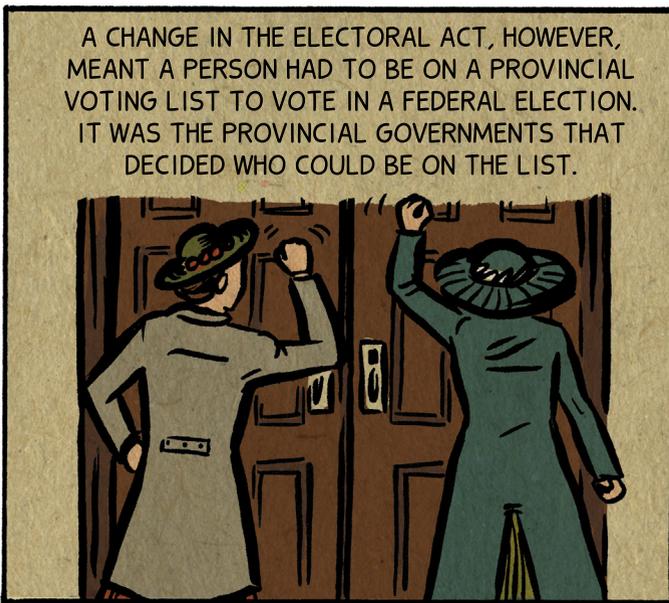
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





THE WCTU WAS THE LARGEST WOMEN'S GROUP IN CANADA. IT PRESSURED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BAN THE SALE, MANUFACTURING, AND EXPORTATION OF LIQUOR IN CANADA. IN 1888, THE DOMINION WCTU BECAME THE FIRST MAJOR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO ENDORSE SUFFRAGE. THEY BELIEVED WOMEN WITH THE VOTE COULD FORCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BAN ALCOHOL.



A CHANGE IN THE ELECTORAL ACT, HOWEVER, MEANT A PERSON HAD TO BE ON A PROVINCIAL VOTING LIST TO VOTE IN A FEDERAL ELECTION. IT WAS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS THAT DECIDED WHO COULD BE ON THE LIST.

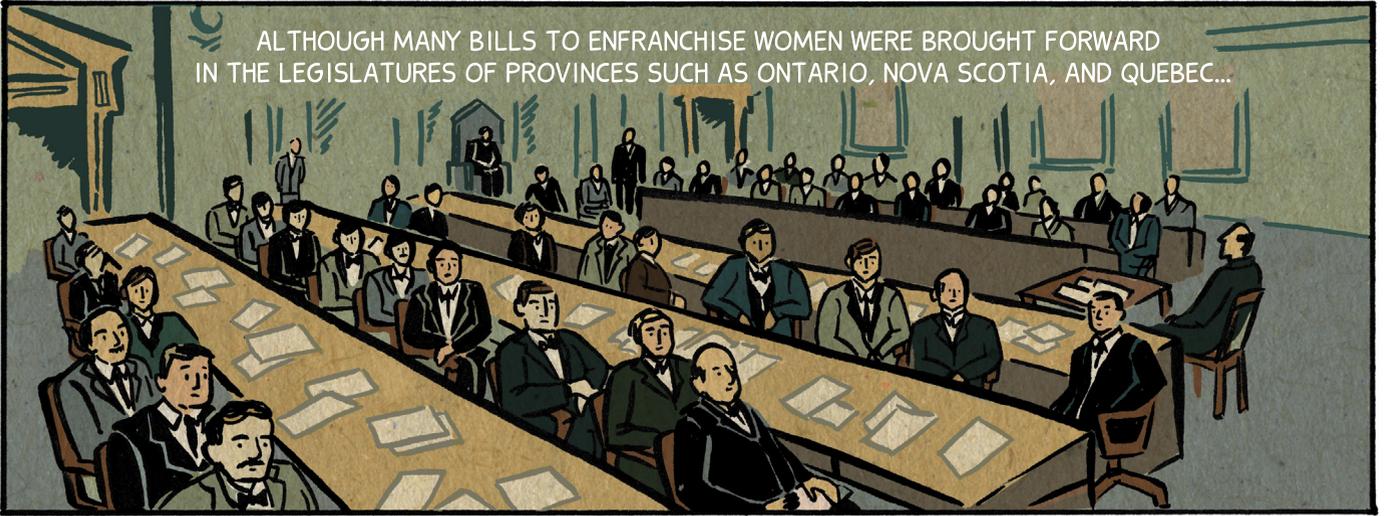


WOMEN GAVE UP ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PETITIONED THEIR INDIVIDUAL PROVINCES FOR VOTING RIGHTS.

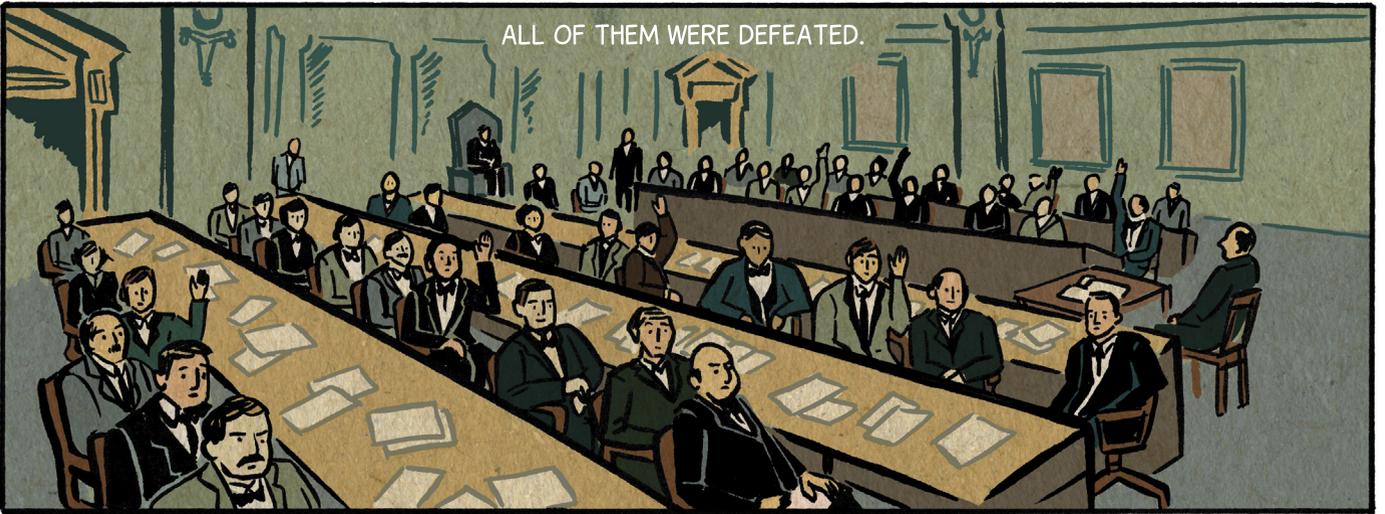


BY 1900, SOME PROVINCES WERE ALLOWING WOMEN TO VOTE FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND EVEN TO RUN FOR SOME OF THESE OFFICES. OFTEN, THESE "PRIVILEGES" WERE GIVEN TO UNMARRIED WOMEN OR WOMEN WITH PROPERTY.

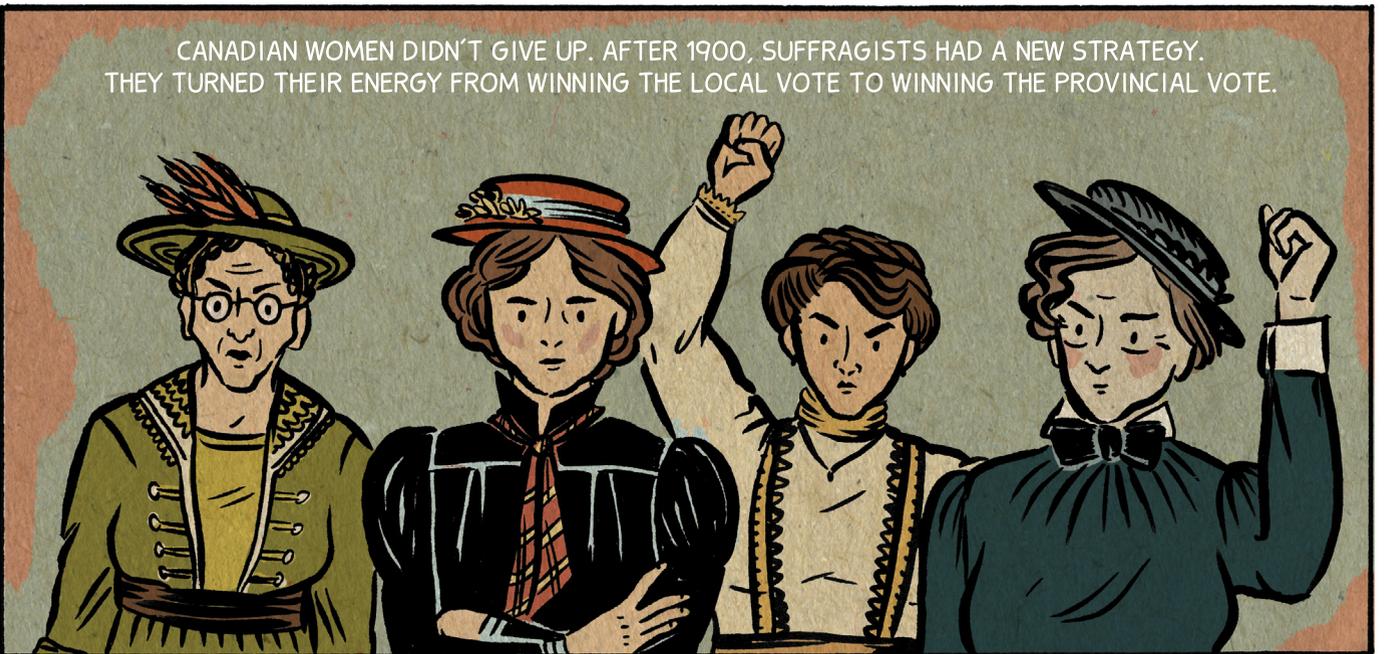
ALTHOUGH MANY BILLS TO ENFRANCHISE WOMEN WERE BROUGHT FORWARD IN THE LEGISLATURES OF PROVINCES SUCH AS ONTARIO, NOVA SCOTIA, AND QUEBEC...



ALL OF THEM WERE DEFEATED.

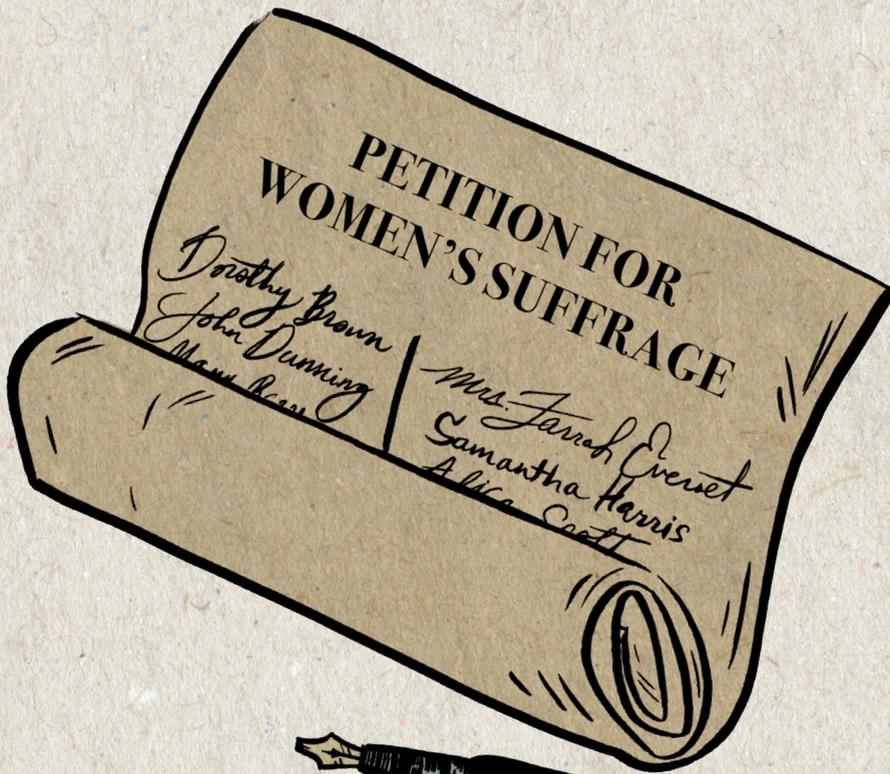


CANADIAN WOMEN DIDN'T GIVE UP. AFTER 1900, SUFFRAGISTS HAD A NEW STRATEGY. THEY TURNED THEIR ENERGY FROM WINNING THE LOCAL VOTE TO WINNING THE PROVINCIAL VOTE.



CHAPTER 5

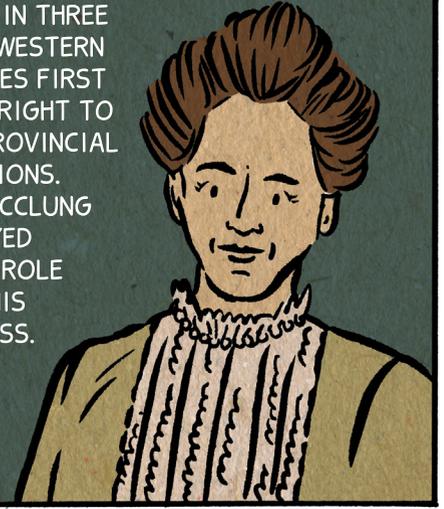
MEET  
NELLIE MCCLUNG



WOMEN DIDN'T FIGHT FOR SUFFRAGE IN AN ORGANIZED WAY ACROSS CANADA. FROM THE BEGINNING, WESTERN CANADA SEEMED MORE OPEN TO THE IDEA OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE THAN THE EAST. WOMEN AND MEN WORKED MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER.



WOMEN IN THREE OF THE WESTERN PROVINCES FIRST WON THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS. NELLIE MCCLUNG PLAYED A HUGE ROLE IN THIS SUCCESS.



NELLIE MCCLUNG WAS BORN IN ONTARIO IN 1873. SHE MOVED WEST TO MANITOBA WITH HER FAMILY IN 1880. WHEN SHE WAS NINE, SHE COULDN'T WAIT FOR HER FIRST TOWN PICNIC.



AT 16, NELLIE TAUGHT IN A RURAL SCHOOL. SHE LOVED PLAYING FOOTBALL WITH HER STUDENTS AT RECESS. EVEN HER LONG SKIRT AND STARCHED BLOUSE DIDN'T SLOW HER DOWN. SOME PARENTS COMPLAINED THAT FOOTBALL WAS NOT A SPORT FOR LADIES.



NELLIE WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE THEM TO ALLOW HER TO CONTINUE THE FUN.



NELLIE MARRIED IN 1896 AND HAD FIVE CHILDREN. SHE JOINED THE WCTU. HAVING WRITTEN A POPULAR NOVEL, SHE ATTENDED READINGS WHERE SHE'D ALSO INTRODUCE HER IDEAS ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS.



IN 1900, WOMEN IN MANITOBA WERE PERMITTED TO OWN PROPERTY AND CONTROL THEIR OWN WAGES AND PROFITS. MEN BEGAN TO SUPPORT SUFFRAGE. THE MOVEMENT GAINED MOMENTUM.



IN 1911 AND 1912, FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PRAIRIES OPENED THEIR MEMBERSHIPS TO WOMEN. THEY ENDORSED SUFFRAGE AND JOINED IN PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS PUT BEFORE GOVERNMENT.



SUFFRAGISTS ACROSS THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES HAD UNITED. STILL, THE GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO GIVE THEM THE VOTE. THE MOVEMENT NEEDED SOME KIND OF BREAKTHROUGH. NELLIE THOUGHT HARD ABOUT WHAT TO DO.

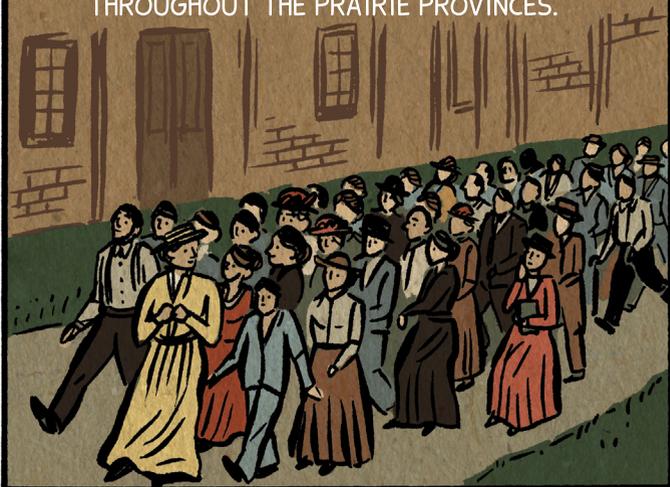


POLITICAL EQUALITY LEAGUE IS CREATED, 1912



IN 1912, NELLIE AND OTHER FRIENDS FORMED THE POLITICAL EQUALITY LEAGUE.

GROUPS FORMED IN MANITOBA IN 1890, JOINED FORCES WITH THE POLITICAL EQUALITY LEAGUE. THEY ARRANGED MARCHES FOR SUFFRAGE THROUGHOUT THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES.



MANITOBA LEGISLATURE,  
JANUARY 27, 1914

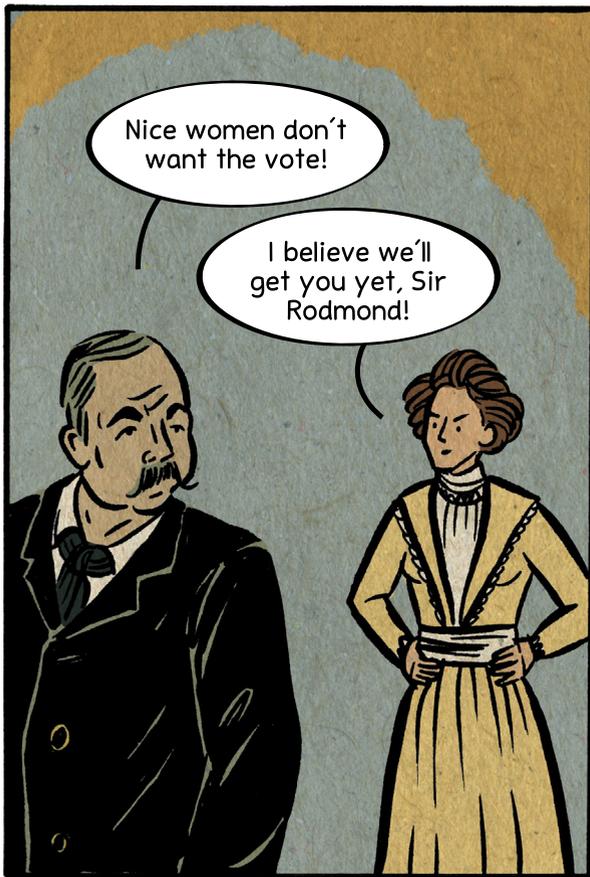


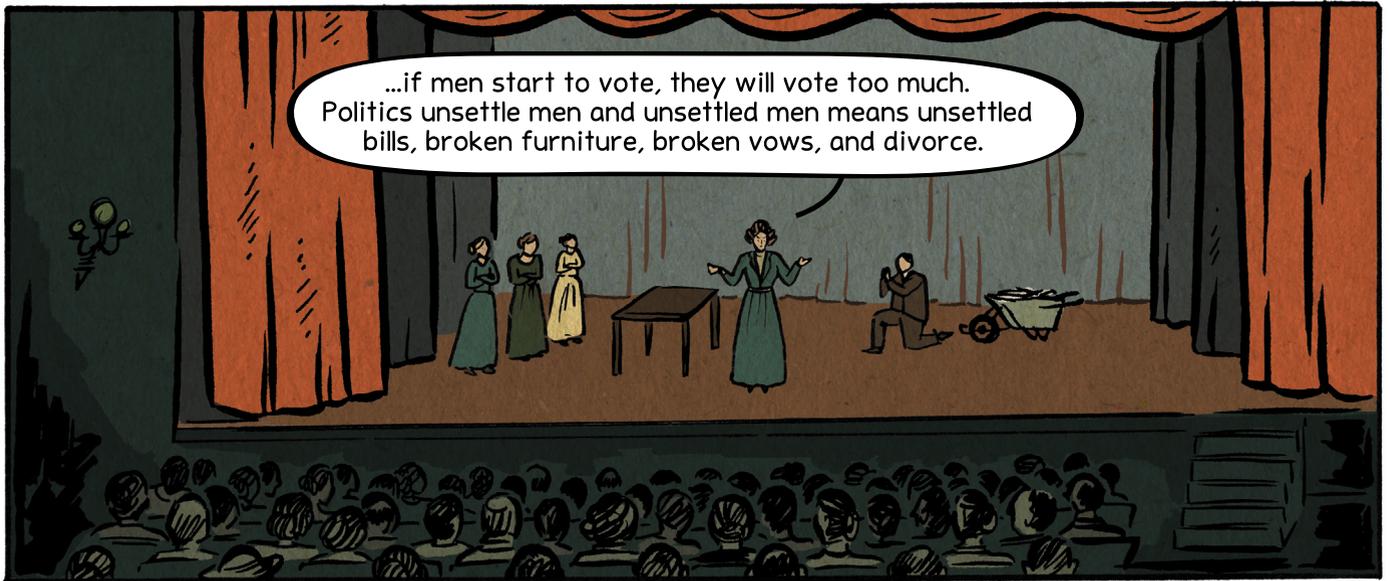
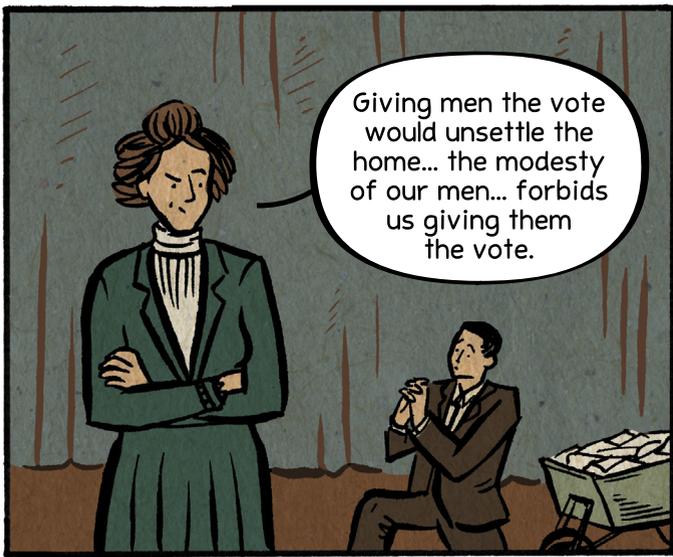
IN 1914, NELLIE VISITED THE MANITOBA LEGISLATURE WITH A DELEGATION FROM SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONS. SHE WAS ANGRY. SHE EXPLAINED TO PREMIER RODMOND ROBLIN THAT WOMEN NEEDED THE VOTE TO HELP FIX PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY, SUCH AS ALCOHOLISM.

Give us our due!



THE BILL WAS DENIED.





MANITOBA, 1913

The Liberal Party of Manitoba plans to win the provincial election on July 1914. A vote for us is a vote for women's suffrage. If we win, we will enact suffrage legislation.

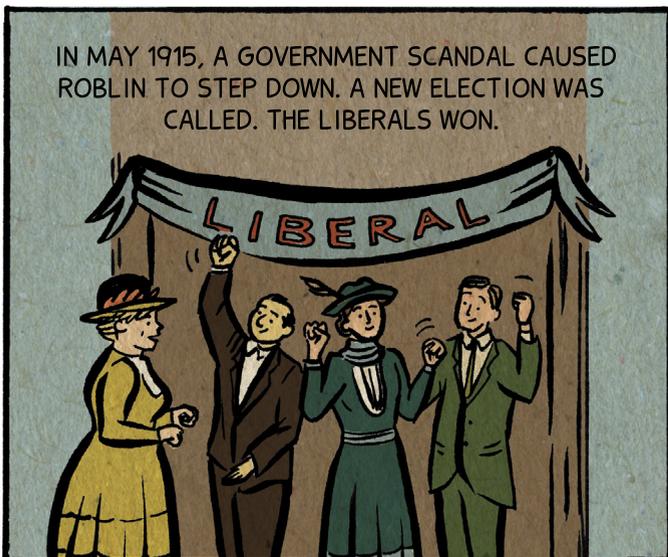


NELLIE AND OTHER SUFFRAGE SUPPORTERS DECIDED TO CAMPAIGN FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY.



CONSERVATIVES WON THE MANITOBA ELECTION BY A SLIM MAJORITY.

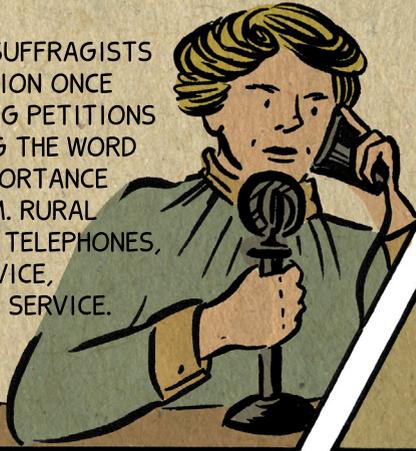
IN MAY 1915, A GOVERNMENT SCANDAL CAUSED ROBLIN TO STEP DOWN. A NEW ELECTION WAS CALLED. THE LIBERALS WON.



We promised to give women the vote... but I need more proof that you really want it.



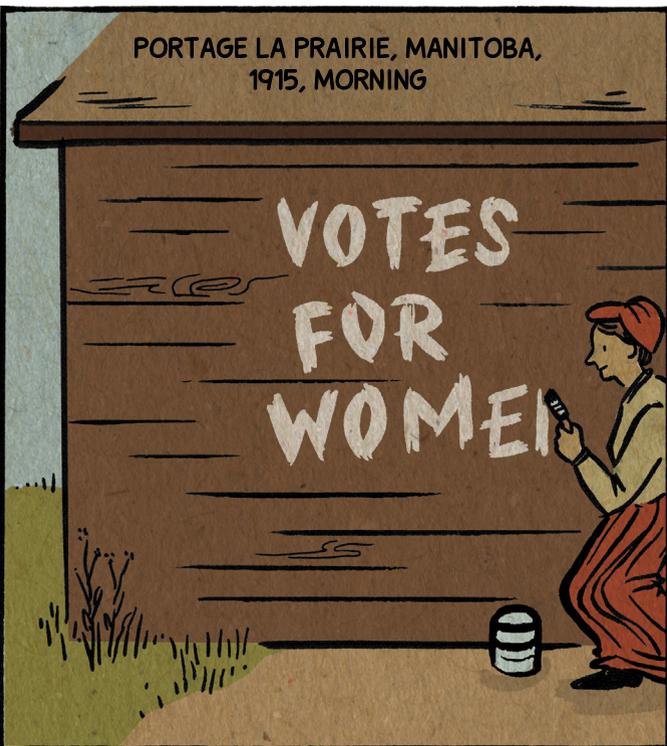
NELLIE AND THE SUFFRAGISTS SWUNG INTO ACTION ONCE MORE, PREPARING PETITIONS AND SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SIGNING THEM. RURAL WOMEN NOW HAD TELEPHONES, GOOD MAIL SERVICE, AND GOOD TRAIN SERVICE. NEWS SPREAD MORE QUICKLY.



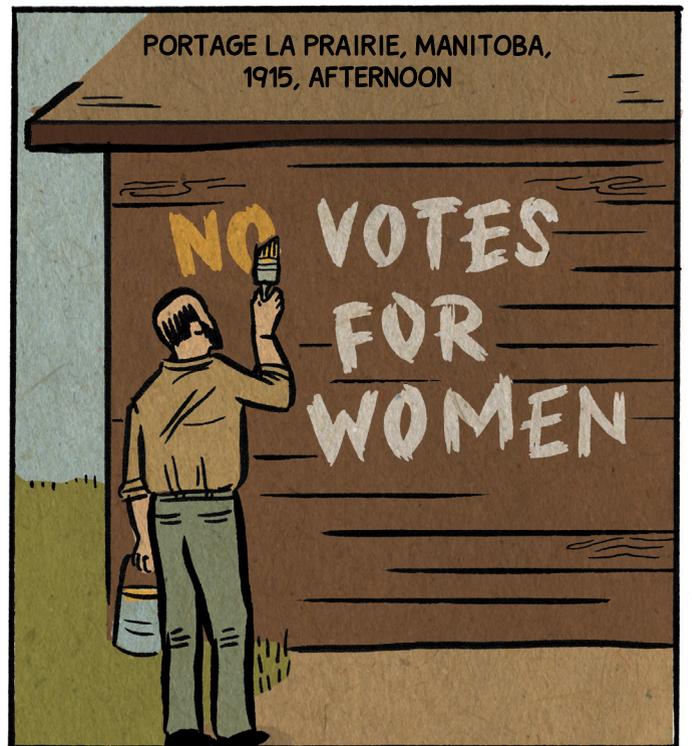
MRS. AMELIA BURRITT, 94, OF STURGEON CREEK, MANITOBA, COLLECTED 4250 NAMES SINGLE-HANDEDLY.



PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MANITOBA, 1915, MORNING



PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MANITOBA, 1915, AFTERNOON



IN DECEMBER, A DELEGATION OF 60 MEN AND WOMEN PRESENTED PREMIER NORRIS WITH A PETITION OF OVER 43,000 SIGNATURES.



ON JANUARY 28, 1916, MANITOBA BECAME THE FIRST PROVINCE IN CANADA TO GIVE WOMEN—WHITE WOMEN—THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS AND TO HOLD ELECTIVE OFFICE.



ALBERTA

APRIL  
1916

SASKATCHEWAN

MARCH  
1916

MANITOBA

JANUARY  
1916

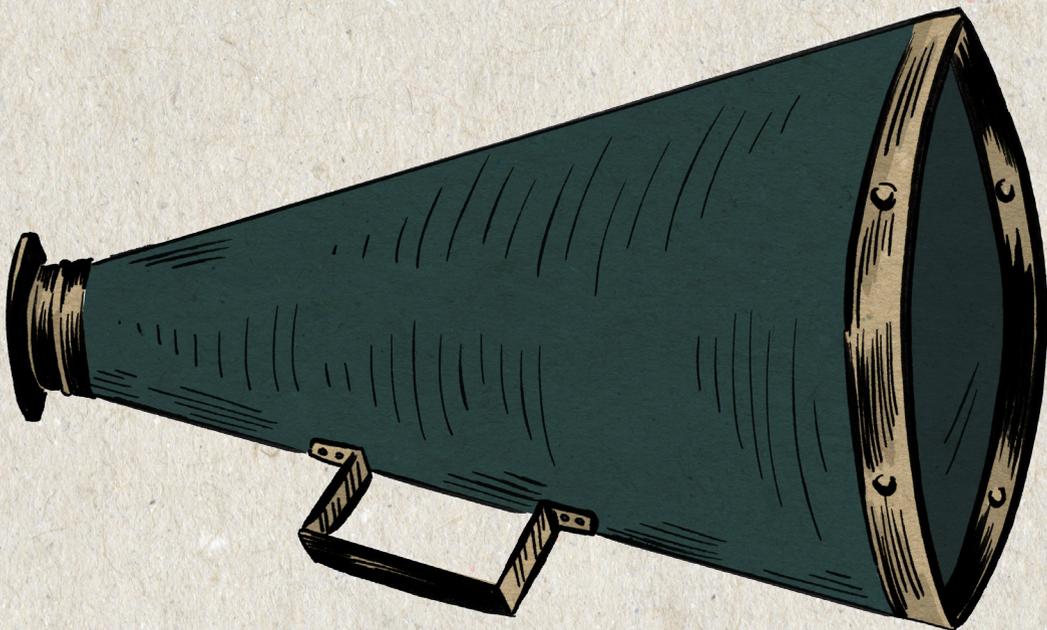
THIS WAS A HUGE TURNING POINT FOR THE SUFFRAGISTS IN CANADA. NELLIE—AND THE OTHER SUFFRAGISTS—CARRIED ON THE FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE OTHER PRAIRIE PROVINCES.



NELLIE MOVED TO ALBERTA IN 1916. FIVE YEARS LATER, SHE WAS ELECTED TO THE ALBERTA LEGISLATURE. SHE CONTINUED TO FIGHT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

CHAPTER 6

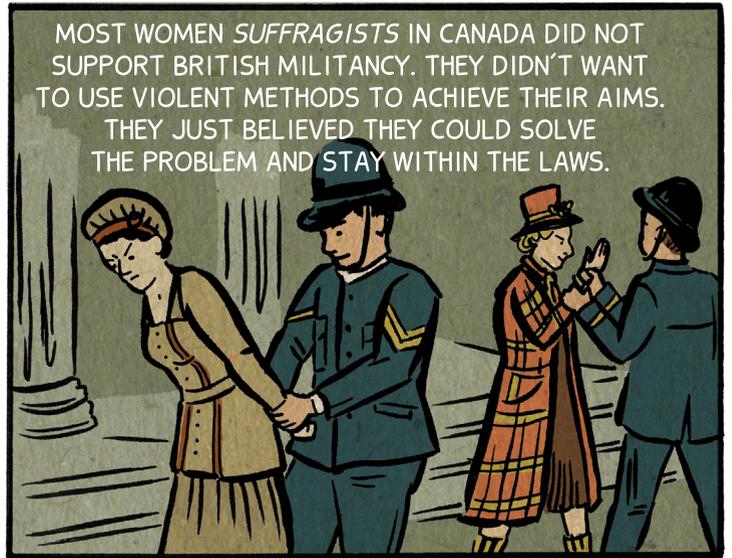
# SUFFRAGE HEATS UP







WORKS OF ART AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY IN LONDON BECAME TARGETS.

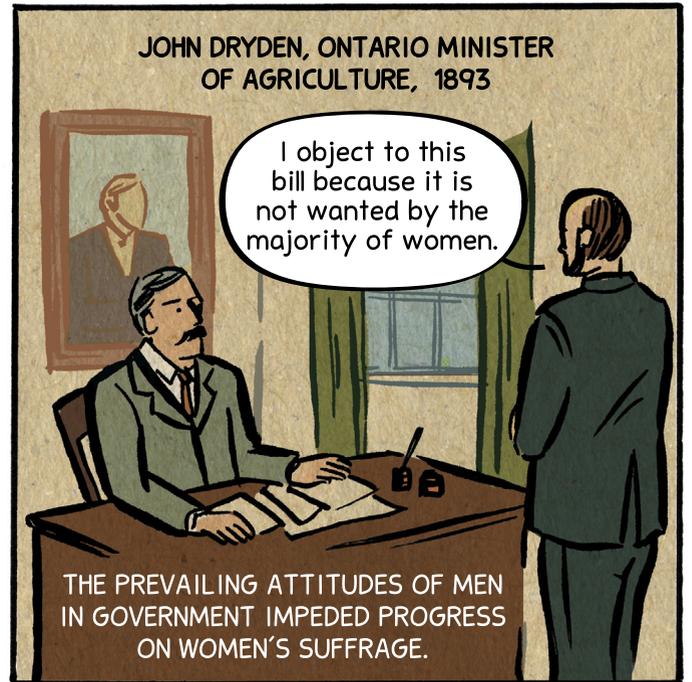


MOST WOMEN *SUFFRAGISTS* IN CANADA DID NOT SUPPORT BRITISH MILITANCY. THEY DIDN'T WANT TO USE VIOLENT METHODS TO ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS. THEY JUST BELIEVED THEY COULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND STAY WITHIN THE LAWS.



BRITISH SUFFRAGIST LEADER EMMELINE PANKHURST, SPEAKING IN TORONTO.

CANADIAN LEADERS WANTED TO GET WOMEN FIRED UP. THEY INVITED SOME OF THE KEY AMERICAN AND BRITISH SUFFRAGISTS SUCH AS SUSAN B. ANTHONY AND EMMELINE PANKHURST TO COME TO CANADA. THEY GAVE PUBLIC LECTURES AND SPEECHES. IT WORKED. THE MOVEMENT SPREAD.



JOHN DRYDEN, ONTARIO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, 1893

THE PREVAILING ATTITUDES OF MEN IN GOVERNMENT IMPEDED PROGRESS ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.



HOW DID WOMEN FIGHT BACK TO CHANGE THAT ATTITUDE? LEADERS OF THE CANADIAN SUFFRAGIST MOVEMENT HAD GRADUATED FROM UNIVERSITY, THEY WERE TEACHERS, JOURNALISTS, DOCTORS.

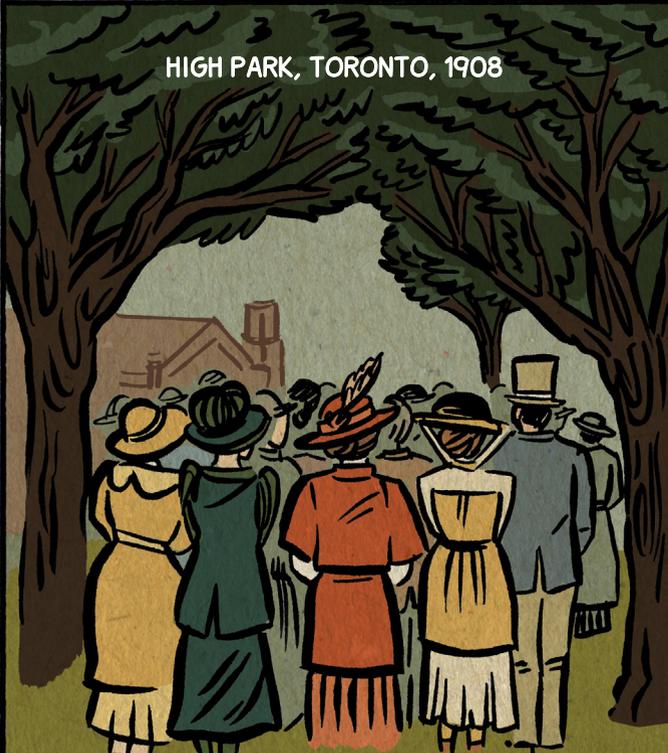


MASS SUFFRAGE PARADE, EVE OF INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON, WASHINGTON, 1913



THESE WOMEN WERE CAUTIOUS AND PREFERRED TO USE ENTIRELY PEACEFUL METHODS, ALTHOUGH THEY ATTENDED BOISTEROUS RALLIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

HIGH PARK, TORONTO, 1908



THERE WAS ONLY ONE OPEN-AIR MEETING IN CANADA IN SUPPORT OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.



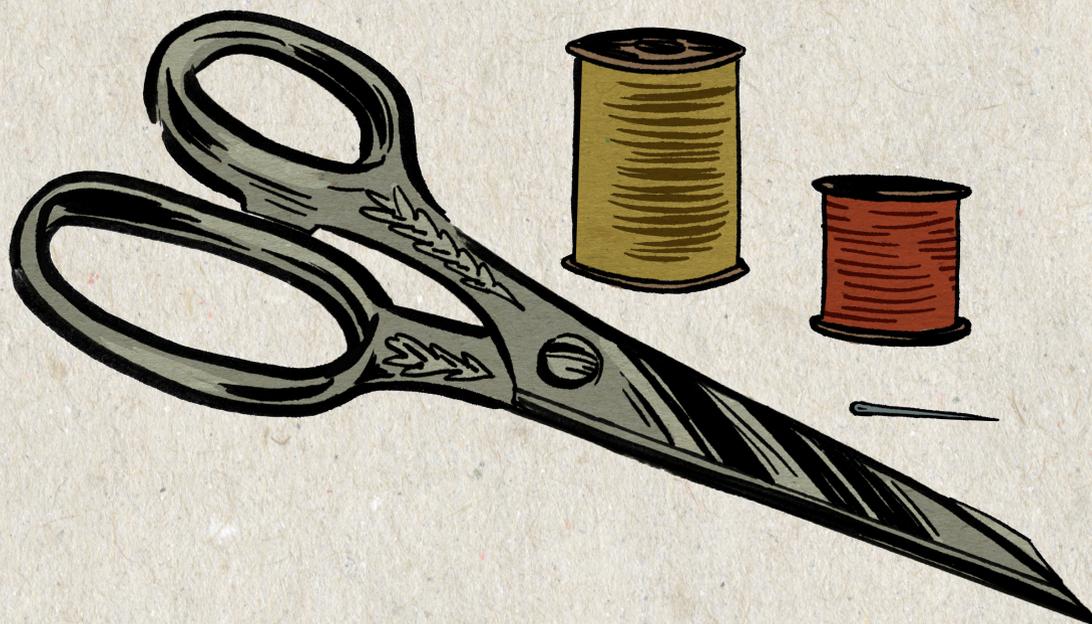
CANADIAN SUFFRAGISTS CONCENTRATED ON FIGHTING BACK WITH THEIR OWN VOICE. SOCIAL MEDIA DIDN'T EXIST AT THE TIME.



CANADIAN SUFFRAGISTS BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGE IN MANY WAYS AND IN THE END THEIR METHODS ACHIEVED SUCCESS.

CHAPTER 7

MEET  
FLORA MACDONALD DENISON



ONE OF THE MANY WOMEN JOURNALISTS WHO WROTE ABOUT THE FIGHT FOR THE VOTE WAS FLORA MACDONALD DENISON.

SHE BECAME AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SUFFRAGE STORY.



BORN IN ONTARIO, IN 1867, FLORA FIRST WORKED AS A TEACHER AND A REPORTER. THEN, AFTER MOVING TO TORONTO IN 1893, SHE BECAME A DRESSMAKER AT A LARGE CLOTHING COMPANY. IN 1905, SHE OPENED HER OWN SUCCESSFUL DRESSMAKING BUSINESS.



AFTER A DECADE OR MORE, FLORA BECAME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH HOW POORLY WORKING WOMEN WERE TREATED IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY.



FOR THE FIRST TIME, WOMEN PUNCHED THE CLOCK, JUST LIKE THE MEN



SHE WROTE ARTICLES, SPOKE OUT ON THEIR BEHALF, AND CRITICIZED THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM WHERE "HUNDREDS GO UNDER THAT A FEW MAY BE ON TOP."



FLORA HAD STRONG VIEWS ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS. SHE BELIEVED EVERYONE SHOULD WORK, TREAT OTHERS WITH RESPECT, AND SEE ONE ANOTHER AS COMPANIONS. SHE BECAME AN EARLY EQUAL RIGHTS FEMINIST.



IN SEPTEMBER, 1906, FLORA BEGAN WRITING A WEEKLY SUFFRAGE COLUMN IN THE TORONTO WORLD. HER WORDS SUPPORTED MANY OF THE WOMEN WHO WORKED FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND INSPIRED MANY READERS TO THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT THE ISSUE.



IN 1911, FLORA BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION. SHE TRAVELLED TO SEVERAL CITIES TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.



FLORA SUPPORTED EMMELINE PANKHURST, THE LEADING FIGURE IN THE BRITISH SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT WHO ADVOCATED MILITARISM.



FLORA USED HER OWN MONEY TO SPONSOR EMMELINE PANKHURST ON A SPEAKING TOUR TO CANADA.



IN 1913, FLORA TRAVELLED TO LONDON TO ATTEND A MASSIVE WOMEN'S RIGHTS PROTEST MEETING.



WOMEN IN THE CANADIAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION BELIEVED FLORA SUPPORTED MILITANCY AND VIOLENT PROTEST.

CANADIAN  
SUFFRAGE  
ASSOCIATION

She believes violence  
is the means  
to an end.

That's not what  
I said.  
I am not promoting  
violence.



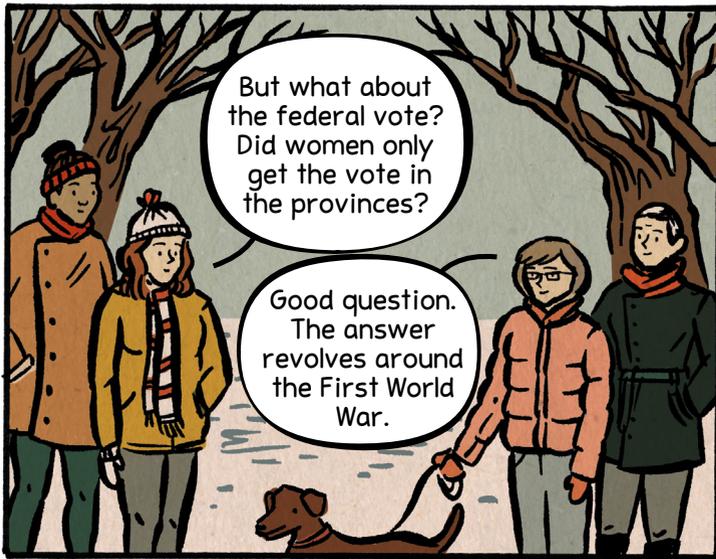
IN 1914,  
FLORA WAS FORCED  
TO RESIGN AS PRESIDENT OF  
THE CANADIAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.  
NEVERTHELESS, SHE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT  
SUFFRAGE AND INFLUENCED THE VIEWS OF MANY  
WOMEN THROUGH HER WRITINGS.

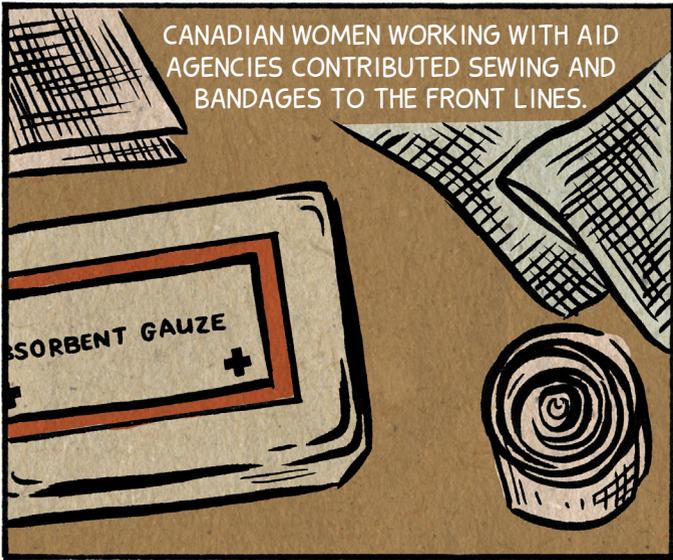


CHAPTER 8

CHARLOTTE,  
FIRST WORLD WAR NURSE







CANADIAN WOMEN WORKING WITH AID AGENCIES CONTRIBUTED SEWING AND BANDAGES TO THE FRONT LINES.



WOMEN VOLUNTEERED IN LOCAL HOSPITALS.



My mother Charlotte went to war as a volunteer nurse.



CHARLOTTE WAS SINGLE AND 23 WHEN WAR BROKE OUT. SHE KNEW WOMEN WERE NEEDED TO FILL IN THE GAPS LEFT BY THE MEN. GROUPS OF WOMEN WORKED HARD SEWING, KNITTING, AND MAKING BANDAGES FOR THE MEN AT THE FRONT AND SUPPLIES USED IN MILITARY HOSPITALS. THEY RAISED MONEY AND SENT EQUIPMENT OVERSEAS TOO.



AMAZING NEWFOUNDLAND VOLUNTEERS KNIT UP A STORM FOR THE WAR EFFORT, 1914-1916.

SOME WOMEN TOOK ON NON-TRADITIONAL ROLES AS FARMETTES, HELPING TO HARVEST CROPS. LATER IN THE WAR, OTHERS BEGAN WORKING IN FACTORIES.



CHARLOTTE TRAINED TO BE A NURSE BEFORE WAR BROKE OUT, SO SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WANTED TO DO.



SHE WAS POSTED TO A CANADIAN MEDICAL HOSPITAL IN FRANCE AND BECAME ONE OF 2,504 CANADIAN NURSES—ONE-THIRD OF ALL THE QUALIFIED NURSES IN CANADA—TO SERVE OVERSEAS.



Hey, are you the new Bluebirds?

Bluebird?

Blue uniform, white veil. Just like a bluebird!





CHARLOTTE WENT TO WORK. SHE MET WOUNDED SOLDIERS, CLEANED THEIR POST-SURGICAL WOUNDS, BANDAGED AND RE-BANDAGED, OFFERED COMFORT, AND ASSISTED IN SURGERY.



CONDITIONS WERE DIFFICULT.



Sister, I need something for the pain.

I'm sorry. I don't have anything. Our supplies are so low.



THE WAR DRAGGED ON. BY 1916, MORE MEN WERE ENCOURAGED TO ENLIST. THE ROLES OF WOMEN CHANGED. THEY JOINED THE REGULAR WORK FORCE, MOVING INTO MALE DOMAINS, SUCH AS CIVIL OFFICES, BANKS, AND MUNITION FACTORIES.

YOUNG, SINGLE WOMEN LIVED ON THEIR OWN. SOCIETY WASN'T AS PREOCCUPIED WITH ENFORCING THE "GENDER RULES." POLITICIANS COMPLIMENTED WOMEN ON THEIR EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE WAR. EVERYONE'S MIND FOCUSED ON THE EPIC BATTLES OVERSEAS-AND SURVIVAL.

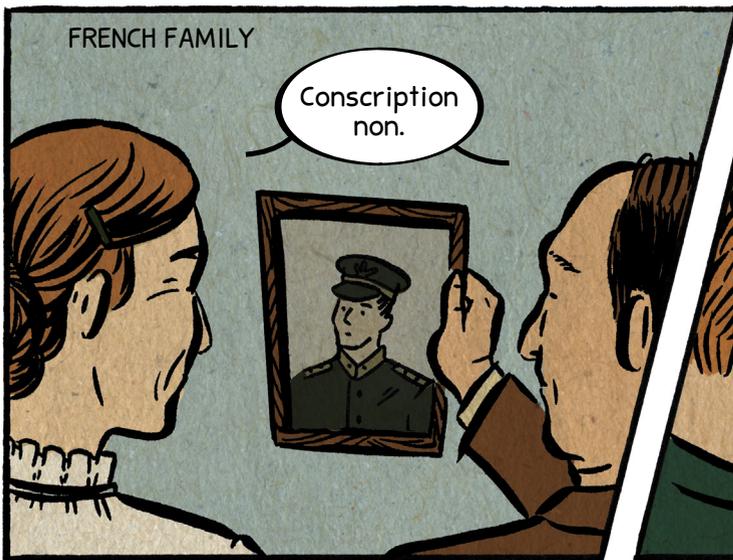


IN THREE YEARS, OVER ONE MILLION CANADIAN MEN HAD VOLUNTEERED FOR THE WAR. BY 1917, OVER 30,000 CANADIANS HAD DIED IN THE WAR OR BEEN BADLY WOUNDED. THERE WERE FEWER AND FEWER MEN SIGNING UP TO FIGHT. IT BECAME A CRISIS.



MORE AND MORE CANADIANS ARE DYING. OUR CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT HAD PROMISED NOT TO FORCE NEW BOYS TO GO OVERSEAS, REMEMBER? BUT NOW PRIME MINISTER BORDEN HAS CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT CONSCRIPTION. HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT OUR LOSSES TO BE IN VAIN, THAT WE AND OUR ALLIES NEED TO KEEP ON FIGHTING. BUT HIS DECISION IS CAUSING GREAT DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADIAN FAMILIES AND BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND THE ENGLISH.



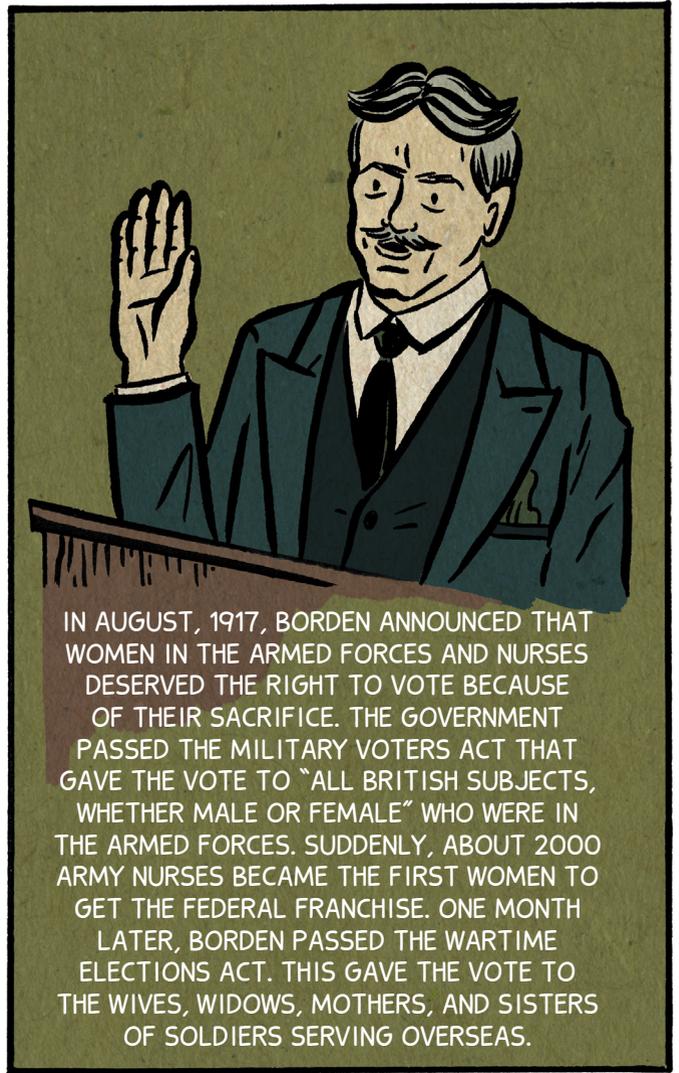
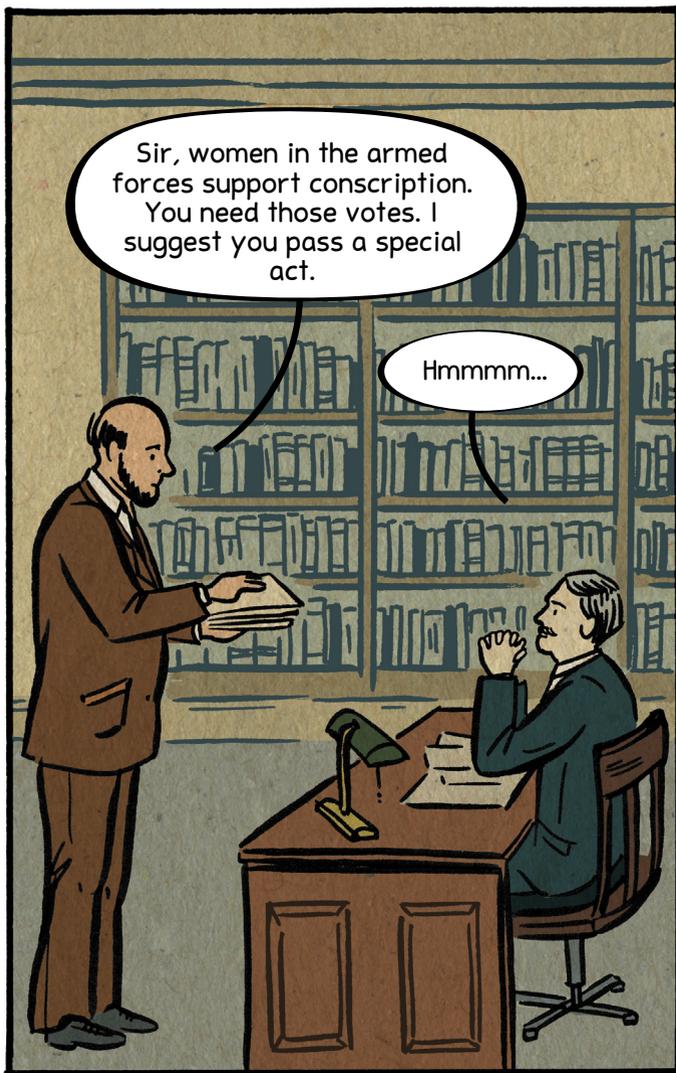


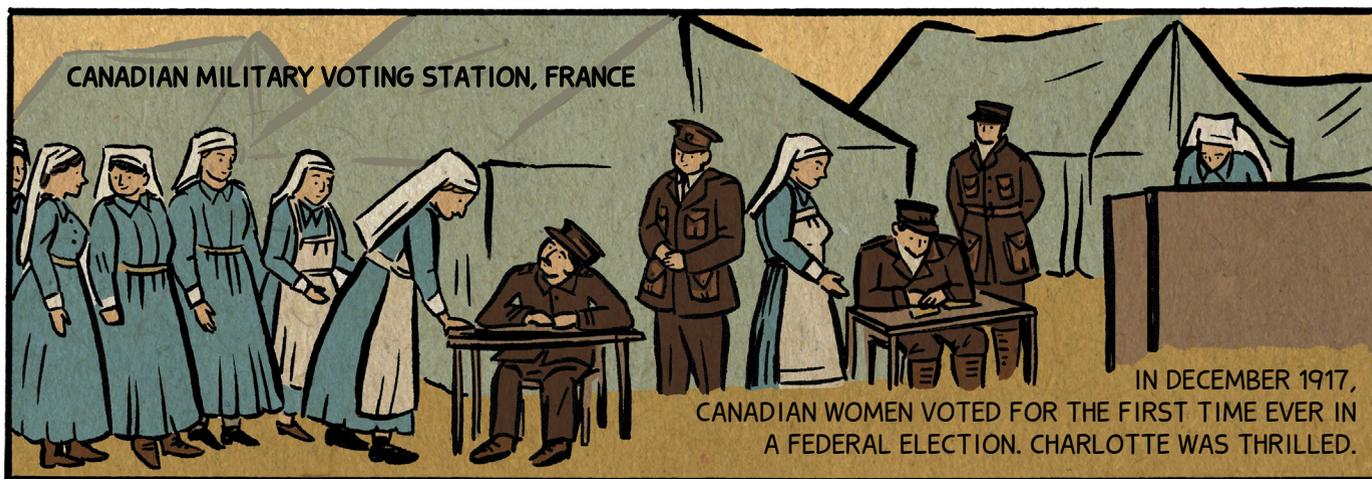
PRIME MINISTER BORDEN LINKED HIS CONSERVATIVE PARTY WITH SOME LIBERAL AND INDEPENDENT MEMBERS WHO WERE PRO-CONSCRIPTION, AND RE-NAMED IT THE UNION GOVERNMENT. THEN HE CALLED AN ELECTION ON DECEMBER 17, 1917, SO CANADIANS COULD HAVE THEIR SAY. IF THEY ELECTED HIM, THEY SUPPORTED CONSCRIPTION. IF DEFEATED, CONSCRIPTION WOULD BE SET ASIDE.

TORONTO DAILY STAR  
**CONSCRIPTION GOES TO VOTE**  
 MORE THAN 1,400 LIVES BELIEVED TO BE LOST WITH TORPEDO  
 NIGHT EDITION

CHARLOTTE RECEIVED NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS FROM HER FRIENDS. MANY WOMEN JOURNALISTS ARGUED THAT PRIME MINISTER BORDEN SHOULD GIVE ALL WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR CONSCRIPTION. WOMEN WERE CONTRIBUTING IN SO MANY WAYS TO THE WAR EFFORT. IT ONLY SEEMED FAIR THEY SHOULD HAVE A SAY ON THIS VITAL ISSUE.

THE WAR HAD NOT STOPPED. CHARLOTTE WAS SUMMONED BACK TO THE WARD.





THE RESULTS WERE CONCLUSIVE. THE LIBERALS ELECTED 82  
WHILE THE UNIONISTS ELECTED 153 MEMBERS.



BORDEN HAD A MANDATE FOR CONSCRIPTION.

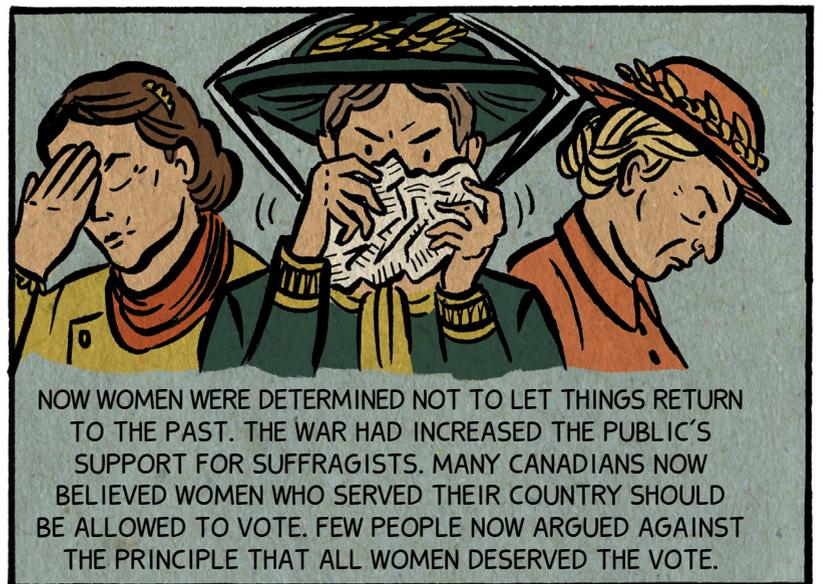
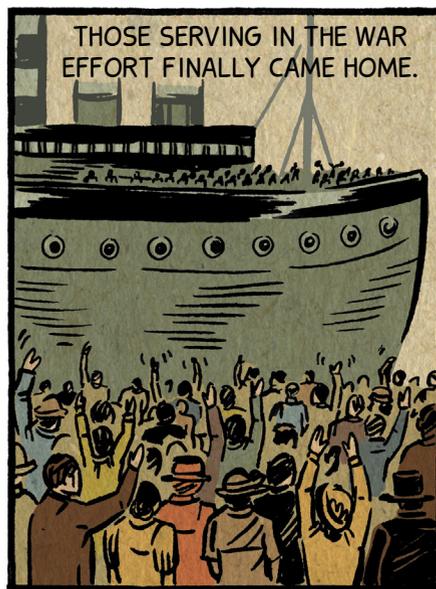
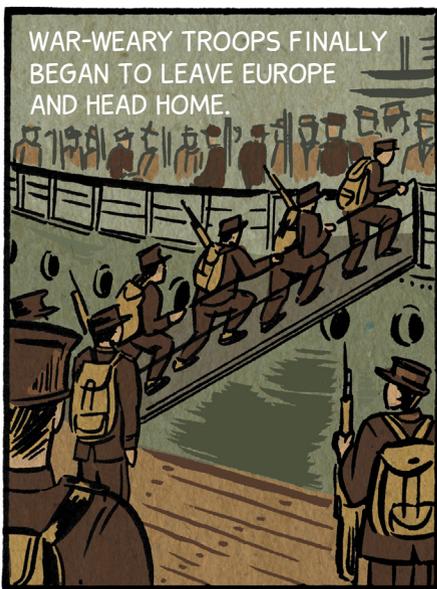
WOULD THE UNION GOVERNMENT NOW FULFILL ITS PROMISE  
OF SUFFRAGE TO CANADIAN WOMEN?



CHAPTER 9

THE HARD ROAD  
TO SUCCESS





IN MAY 1918,  
THE GOVERNMENT PASSED AN  
ACT GIVING WOMEN THE RIGHT  
TO VOTE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.  
THERE WERE RESTRICTIONS:  
THEY HAD TO BE 21 OR OLDER,  
NOT ALIEN-BORN, AND HAD TO  
MEET PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS  
IN THE PROVINCES WHERE THEY  
EXISTED. WOMEN COULD ALSO  
STAND FOR THE HOUSE OF  
COMMONS.



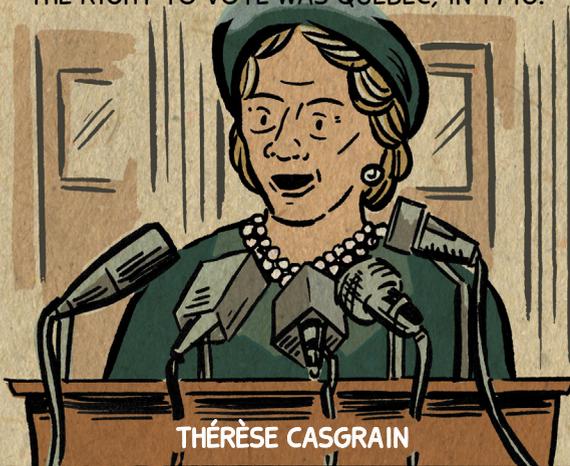
SUFFRAGISTS HAD TO KEEP FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO  
VOTE PROVINCIALLY. WOMEN IN THE PRAIRIES COULD VOTE.



SOME WOMEN, HOWEVER, WERE STILL  
LEFT OUT COMPLETELY. WOMEN OF  
COLOUR AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN  
COULD NOT VOTE.



THE LAST PROVINCE IN CANADA TO GIVE WOMEN  
THE RIGHT TO VOTE WAS QUEBEC, IN 1940.



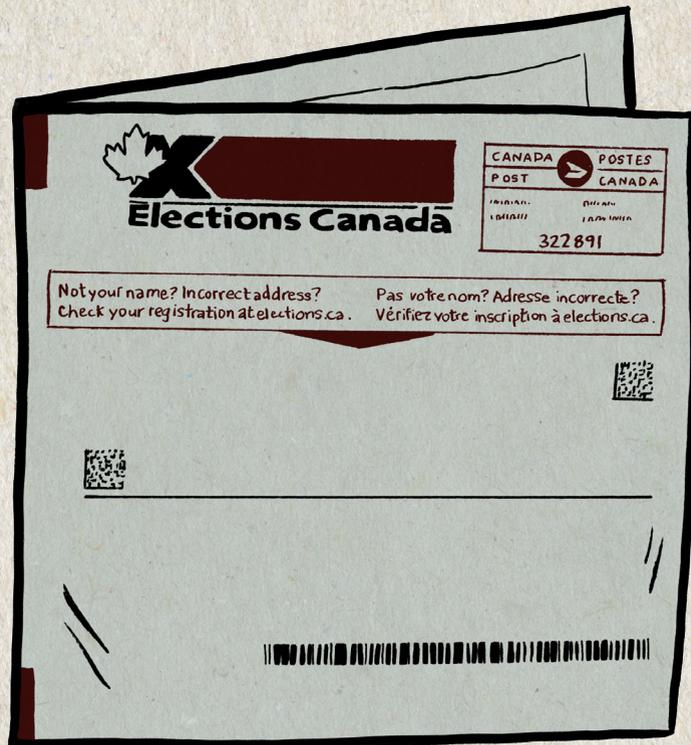
THÉRÈSE CASGRAIN

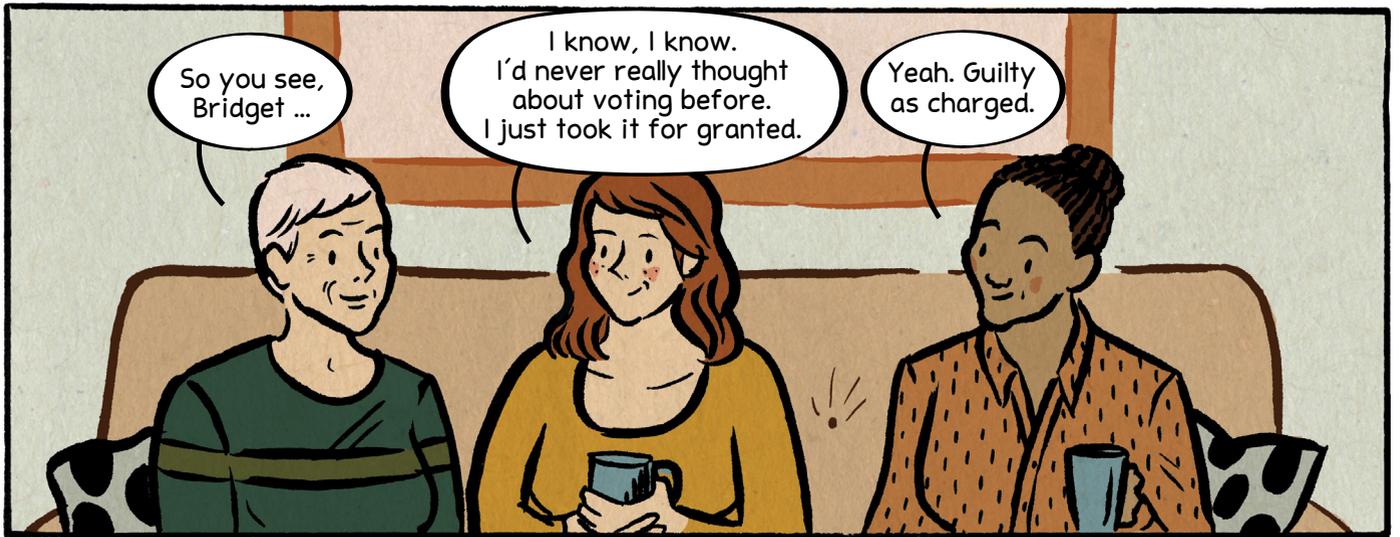


IN 1960, THE FRANCHISE WAS FINALLY EXTENDED TO ALL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.  
THEN ALL WOMEN IN CANADA, OF EVERY RACE AND RELIGION,  
COULD VOTE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

CHAPTER 10

# CASTING A BALLOT







# SUFFRAGE: CANADIAN WOMEN AND THE VOTE

Prior to women getting the vote, this is the way things used to be:

In Canada, people believed only those with property should have the right to vote. They had something at stake when decisions were made. The main political parties agreed.

If a couple co-owned a property they shared one vote. The man retained the right to cast that vote.

Wages earned by women still went to their husbands.

Women fought for social reform. Suffragists rose up. They wanted to vote. They wanted to create change.

Read about the epic struggles, the years of hard work and perseverance and the prejudice women faced fighting for the most important, basic, democratic right—to vote.

