

Stop #7: 841 ROYAL AV SW, Jameson House
The Fight For Women's Right to Vote



Alice Jamieson



Nellie McClung

FIVE ALBERTA WOMEN
 Through whose efforts women's right to be appointed to the Senate has been determined. Left to right: Mrs. R. W. McClung, Mrs. L. C. McKissey, Mrs. O. C. Edwards (portrait by W. H. Best), Magistrate Emily Murphy, and the Honourable Irene Parlby.

Now That We Are Persons

By Nellie L. McClung

ON THE morning of October 18th, 1929, the women of Canada received a shock when they read their papers at breakfast. They read on the first page in bold black type that the Lords of

away like morning mist at sunrise. Prejudice dies hard, as well we know, and when belief runs back to antiquity, a ruling of even the Privy Council cannot dislodge it.

lay dead, the Senior Wrangler among the wiles called out her full Executive with the words:

"See now that we die as our mothers died
 In the belief and by our Mother's side."

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The Fight For Women's Rights
Alice Jamieson's House

Finally – A Woman!

- The house was built in 1909. One of the first houses to be built in the area. Alice Jamieson and her husband, RR Jamieson built it.
- Alice's husband, RR Jamieson, was mayor of Calgary for several years. That's nice, BUT, we finally get to talk about a woman on our trip!
- **Discuss the following in your group, make sure to take notes in your visual journal!**
 - o Why do you think it took this long to talk about famous women in our neighbourhood?

Not A Person

- Alice Jamieson was an incredible woman. Her husband died fairly young, which was particularly tough in early 1900s because men generally controlled power in the business and the government.
- In 1913, she was appointed a judge of the juvenile court, the first woman in the British Empire to achieve such a position. Two years later, she was appointed a police magistrate of the women's court in Calgary. It's a high ranking position that involved making decisions on police matters.
- In 1917 a lawyer appealed Judge Alice Jamieson's ruling in a case. He said that she legally "incompetent and incapable" of judging the matter as women were not considered to be 'persons' under the law in Canada.
- Women weren't considered "people" under Canadian law. Women couldn't have the same jobs, couldn't hold positions of power, and could not even vote.
- **Discuss the following and make notes:**
 - o How would that make you feel, to not be a person?
 - o Why do you think that it took until 1929?

Fighting For the Vote

- A big part of inequality in Canada was that women could not vote in elections.
- There is an image of a famous woman named Nellie McClung on the other side of your page.
- She was a part of what was called "The Famous Five". It was a group of women who fought for the women's right to vote. They weren't alone; thousands of women and some men from across Canada joined in, but they lead the charge.
- Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta were the first Canadian provinces to grant women this fundamental right. This was the first step toward equality and rights for women. The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of women's first right to vote in Canada.
- Then, in 1918, women gained the right to vote federally.
- Mr. Burima has a question for all of you.....
- **Discuss the following and take notes:**
 - o Only girls in the classroom can ask questions and share their ideas for this part.
 - o A big part of the suffragist's efforts was making their future better for their children. Did they succeed? Why or why not?
 - o Are there any ways that women are still treated differently than men?

Side note:

Chinese and East Indian Canadians couldn't vote until 1947.

Japanese Canadians couldn't vote until 1949

ALL Indigenous Canadians couldn't vote until 1960.