

# International Women's Day

Awaken daughters of Newfoundland, forget your fears of insignificance and embrace your heritage. You are the daughters of badass women warriors. With today's luxuries, we can not live on a stoney outcropping of the Atlantic without a struggle; for our foremothers survival demanded struggle. This struggle only hardened their resolve and strengthened their voices. In 1890, long before Canadian Women became persons, Newfoundland's Suffragists, published the Water Lily newsletter; organized a cross island petition; and in 1891 marched on the Colonial building, petition in hand, and demanded the vote for Women. By a vote of 13 to 10 our foremothers lost that battle; they would lose again in 1893 with a similar result.

With back to back defeats, the Women's Christian Temperance Union (leaders of the charge), returned their focus to charity work. However, the movement, motion and momentum would not die; it simply laid in wait. During the first World War, while stripped of our husbands, fathers and sons, these strong women individually, and as a community, worked in and out of the home to keep Newfoundland operating. With war times behind them, the women of Newfoundland had renewed vigor and again raised their voices demanding the vote. In 1925, a full four years before Canada, Newfoundland women unanimously won the right to vote and actively help determine Newfoundland's future.

This year on International Women's Day, I will draw inspiration from my strong and unrelenting foremothers. I will honour my heritage and own my own badass woman warrior title.



## Are you air aware?

Did you know that scent sensitivity and fragrance allergies are the most frequently diagnosed allergies? Currently about 11% of the population has an allergy to scents and that number is increasing rapidly. Scent allergies is a topic of great concern at the Status of Women Council office, not only do scent allergies disproportionately affect women (200 to 300% more common in women) but their effects can be devastating.

Exposure to scents can cause immediate coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, headaches, nervous system issues and trigger asthma attacks. These symptoms can last for several days after exposure. Beyond physical effects, scent allergies are known to lead to social isolation as sufferers, especially in winter months, can not go to public places out of fear of exposure.

You would never send your child to school with a peanut butter sandwich when there are known allergies, so please consider offering the same thoughtfulness and care to your friends, family, colleagues, acquaintances and everyone else with whom you share the air.

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## Upcoming:

### **Zero Discrimination Day -**

Sunday, March 1st - Observed so that everyone may live life with dignity regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, skin colour, sexuality, height, weight etc.

**IWD brunch** - Sunday, March 8th - This year we will be celebrating International Women's Day with a buffet brunch at 11am in the Greenwood Inn Ballroom. With keynote speaker Joyce Hancock, and musical guests Bridget & Dahlia.

### **Women's Legal Clinic -**

Wednesday, March 11th. Hosted at our centre in partnership with the Journey project. Lawyers will be available to answer your questions. Please call 1-833-722-2805 to book an appointment.

### **International Day of**

**Happiness** - Friday, March 20th - Celebrated in recognition of the importance of happiness to quality of life.

**ASIST workshop** - March 23 and 24th. Suicide intervention training taking place at Vine Place Community Centre. Call 639-8522 to register or ask questions.

**CHANNAL Group** - Thursday Mar 5th and 19th 1-3pm - For more information about

CHANNAL please see their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ProvincialCHANNAL/>.

## In the News:

**Local:** Check us out. On Monday March 2nd at 8am we will be talking to Lenny Benoit at CFCB and on Tuesday March 3rd at 7pm we will be talking to Dave Luther at West Talk and Cable 9.

**Regional:** This month the Premier suddenly and unexpectedly announced his resignation. Although he insists that he wishes to spend more time with family and friends, media, political commentators and the general public remain suspicious that major scandal is on the horizon that the Premier is simply seeking to avoid.

**Global:** In October of 2017 #metoo went viral as a show of solidarity with the victims of Harvey Weinstein, and all victims of sexual assault and harassment. After twenty-eight months, hundreds of allegations and a handful of spectacular theatrics displaying Weinstains frailty a verdict has been delivered. Weinstein has been found guilty of a criminal sex act and rape in the third degree. He was not found guilty of three more serious crimes, however, in a world where celebrities can

do anything a guilty verdict signifies a changing of the tides.

**A Final Word:** A great way to do a reality check is to look at the StatCan website. The gender indicators there show clearly why feminism is still important and true equality is still a goal. Women spend an average 3.6 hours per day in unpaid domestic and care work while men spend 2.4 hours. That might explain why one third of men regularly participate in sport while only one fifth of women do. Economically, women are still disadvantaged. About twice as many women as men have part time employment and more women than men have temporary jobs. The repercussions of part time and temporary employment are lifelong, since those positions typically don't provide the opportunity to save for retirement or join a retirement plan. Since only about half as many women as men hold management positions, the structural barriers to women's full and equal participation in the workplace may not be top of mind when organizational decisions are made. There is still work to do!  
[https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/topics-start/gender\\_diversity\\_and\\_inclusion](https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/topics-start/gender_diversity_and_inclusion)