

A momentous human rights milestone was reached on January 28, 1916. On that day, Manitoba women became the first in Canada to have their right to vote acknowledged.

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Linda McIntosh

Trustee, St James-Assiniboia School Division (1980-1989)

Minister of Education (1995-1999)

Born in Montreal to Hugh Laughlin and Gwen Ruth Hopper, Linda McIntosh was the child of a career airman in the Royal Canadian Air Force and came from a long line of public officials: her grandfather John Bell Laughlin and great-grandfather, Andrew Laughlin, both served as Members of the Legislative Assembly from southwestern Manitoba.

Linda was educated in both Canada as well as in Europe. In total, by the time of her graduation, Linda had attended eleven different schools. She was a graduate of Royal George High School in Greenfield Park, Quebec, class of 1960, but moved to the family's original home of Manitoba for post-secondary studies. In 1963, McIntosh graduated with honours from the Manitoba Teachers' College.

Linda started her career as an elementary school teacher and freelance commercial artist. Her political career started as a political commentator on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's *Week In Review* segment every Friday evening in 1985-86. Linda also served as caricaturist for local community newspaper outlets in Winnipeg and also for the *Rupertsland News* and *Winnipeg Tribune*.

McIntosh served as a school trustee in the St. James-Assiniboia School Division from 1980 to 1989. During this period she became the very first woman to become chair of the school board (1984-1989) and was elected to serve as president of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees.

She married Donald John McIntosh. In 1988, Linda became Special Assistant to former Premier Gary Filmon and was elected for the first time as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in 1990. She was named Minister of Cooperative, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, with responsibility for *The Liquor Control Act* on February 5, 1991 and nearly three years later, on September 10, 1993, she was named Minister of Urban Affairs and Housing.

Linda was re-elected during the 1995 provincial election and was appointed Minister of Education and Training on May 9, 1995. During her tenure as Minister of Education and Training, Linda provided leadership to several important initiatives, including, of particular note, the introduction of a study on special needs education. The recommendations in this study advocated for greater inclusiveness for special needs students in the public education system in Manitoba, with focus on the creation of student-enabling learning environments.

Linda's final position in cabinet was granted February 5, 1999 when she became Minister of Environment with responsibility for *The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Act*.

Linda did not win re-election during the 1999 provincial election. Following life as an elected official, she became the president of a communications firm, authored three biographies of prominent Manitobans, and has now retired in Northwestern Ontario.