

# Women at the Grass Roots...



**"I believe that never was a country better adapted to produce a great race of women than this Canada of ours, nor a race of women better adapted to make a great country."**

**EMILY MURPHY**

## Women in Local Politics

POSTER #6 - "WOMEN AT THE GRASS ROOTS..."

Most women who are interested in politics get their first experience in local government - at the grass roots. More women have been elected to municipal and school board positions than to any other level of government.

The women here are only a few of those women who are serving or have served at the local level. Poster #10, "Filling in the Local Picture", should be used to portray local women in politics.

1. MARY ANDREE - School Trustee, Transcona-Springfield School Division  
(Photo courtesy of Mary Andree)

Mary Andree was first elected to the Transcona District School Board in 1962 and in 1964 was simultaneously elected to the amalgamated and district boards. She served as chairman of the board from 1969 to 1973. As a member of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees she served as Regional Director and table officer, Convention Chairman and MAST representative on Teacher evaluation, Minister's Curriculum Advisory Board, Certification of Teachers, Appeal Committee for Certification of Teachers, the Articulation Council and Chairperson of the Senior High Review Committee. She has been active with the Girl Guide Association of Canada for 18 years, has served on many volunteer associations and was instrumental in gaining legal status for Dental Mechanics. She is the mother of seven children and received in 1965 the Mother of the Year Award. In 1973, she received the City of Winnipeg Community Service Award for volunteer work. In her opinion, partisan politics are not appropriate for School Board representatives.

2. OLGA FUGA - School Trustee, Councillor, Winnipeg  
(Photo courtesy of Olga Fuga)

Olga Fuga's political career began with volunteer work for the Progressive-Conservative Party in the Winnipeg North (federal) and Inkster (provincial) constituency associations in which she subsequently

OLGA FUGA (continued).

served in various executive positions. From 1963-1971, she was a member of the Winnipeg School Board and became Chairman of the Building and Policy Committee, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chairman from 1969-1971. In the 1966 provincial election, she ran in the Inkster constituency as the only woman candidate from the Metro area. When Unicity government was established, she was elected to the 51 Member Council with three other women and served on the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, and as Executive member of the Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities.

Her community activities have included involvement with Ukrainian organizations and cultural affairs, service in the past on the boards of the Children's Aid Society, Social Planning Council, Holy Family Nursing Home, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Manitoba Opera Board, Winnipeg Area Airport Study Committee, Winnipeg Economic Development Board. Her current community service is in the areas of housing, citizenship, health, the Arts and civil liberties. She has received the City of Winnipeg Community Service award, an award for service to the Ukrainian community in Canada and has been selected by Chatelaine magazine as one of 100 Canadian women who should be in the House of Commons.

3. LILLIAN HALLONQUIST - Alderman, Winnipeg  
(Photo courtesy of Lillian Hallonquist)

Lillian Hallonquist was born in Quebec but came west as a child. She was educated at Killarney and Brandon and taught in Manitoba for several years before her marriage. As a housewife and mother, she worked in church, Red Cross, Community Chest and Patriotic Salvage Corps activities. During her husband's ten years as alderman, she worked with him on local committees. On his death in 1952 she took over his printing and publishing business and was elected to City Council. She served on all committees and chaired most of them, including Public Works and Health and Welfare. She reorganized the Welfare Council and was Deputy Mayor.

LILLIAN HALLONQUIST (continued).

She served on council for 18 years. She never believed that women on council should be treated differently from their male colleagues.

4. MAUREEN HEMPHILL - School Trustee, Assiniboine South #3  
(Photo courtesy of Maureen Hemphill)

Maureen Hemphill has been an active participant in local political affairs. She was a member of the Assiniboine South School Board from 1971 to 1977. She was chairman in 1972, 1974 and 1977. During the latter part of her term she was also the first woman to be President of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees. In 1977, she resigned from the School Board to run as an NDP Candidate in the provincial election. Her Conservative opponent was Sterling Lyon, who became Premier in 1977.

5. LUCILLE HUOT - School Trustee, St. Boniface  
(Photo courtesy of Lucille Huot)

Madame Huot was first elected to the St. Boniface School Board in 1974. She has served on the Building and Education Committee of the Board. In 1978 she was elected Chairperson of the Board. A mother of five, her community involvement over a number of years has included Area Chairman of the Community Chest and Red Cross campaigns, President of the St. Boniface Navy Association during the war, Member of the Steering Committee of the Volunteer Bureau, Board Member of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Board Member of the Women's Committee of the Art Gallery and the Women's Committee of the Winnipeg Symphony, Board Member of Provincial UNICEF, Board Member of the Pregnancy Distress Centre, and Vice-President of the St. Boniface Liberal Association. Her major concerns as a school board member are special needs and quality education for all children in both English and French schools.

"WOMEN AT THE GRASS ROOTS..." (continued).

6. MARIE KOTYK - Alderman, Brandon.

(Photo courtesy of Marie Kotyk)

Marie Kotyk is a teacher in Special Education in the Brandon school system and has been active in the Manitoba Teachers' Society at the local level. She has been a leader in Ukrainian Cultural activities in Brandon. She ran as a candidate for alderman in 1967 and served until 1971. She ran again in 1978 and was elected for a three year term. Her main concerns while serving on council are recreation, programs for young adults, welfare of senior citizens, effective communication between citizens and elected officials, improving financial planning and greater citizen participation.

She has served in an executive capacity on the Brandon Council of Women, Business and Professional Women's Club, Toastmistress Club, Ukrainian Catholic Women's League and the Quota Club. Her participation on Boards of Directors includes the Children's Aid Society, Westman Media Cooperative for Cable T.V., Fairview Home Inc., Chamber of Commerce, Brandon Hospital, Westman Auditorium, Status of Women for the Manitoba Liberal Women's Association, the Council of Christians and Jews, the Manitoba Good Roads Association, and the Brandon Housing Authority. She has been a "happy" volunteer for Red Cross Drives, the Heart Fund, Cancer Canvas, United Appeal and church work with young people.

7. MARJORIE MCPHAIL - School Trustee, Brandon

(Photo courtesy of Marjorie McPhail)

Marjorie McPhail was a member of the Brandon School Board from 1961-1965. During that time she was active in working to get orchestral-band classes in Brandon schools and she served as president of the Orchestral-Band Association for four years. Marjorie McPhail has also worked as a campaign manager for the Liberal party in the federal election of the 1960's.

The first woman trustee in Brandon was DR. JANE TURNBULL.

"WOMEN AT THE GRASS ROOTS..." (continued).

8. GLORIA MENDELSON - School Trustee, Winnipeg  
(Photo courtesy of Winnipeg School Division)

Gloria Mendelson was elected to the Winnipeg School Board in 1972 and served until 1978. She has been an active supporter of the New Democratic Party. Gloria Mendelson has worked as a Human Rights Commission officer and became the chief officer of the Commission before leaving to become a law student.

9. NAN MURPHY - School Trustee, Winnipeg  
(Photo courtesy of Nan Murphy)

Nan Murphy was born in Arnoud, Manitoba but educated in Winnipeg. She had training as a teacher and also secretarial business training. The range of her activities is truly amazing. She is past president of such groups as the Business and Professional Women's Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba Committee on Emotional and Learning Disorders in Children, Provincial Council of Women in Manitoba, March of Dimes campaign and others too numerous to mention. She has been involved particularly in organizations dealing with the handicapped such as Wheelchair Centre for Women, Manitoba Association for the Mentally Retarded, Skills Unlimited and many others. In many cases she was the organizer or a charter member of the group as in the case of the Manitoba Volunteer Committee on the Status of Women where she was also the first president.

She was elected to the Winnipeg School Board in 1950 and served until 1959 and was the first woman chairman to be elected. She was also the first woman to be chairman of Finance and of the Pension Committee. She is a past president of both the Urban School Trustees Association and the Canadian School Trustees Association and the holder of a life membership in the Manitoba Association of School Trustees.

NAN MURPHY (continued).

She has been the winner of several awards for public service and in 1974 was given an honorary doctorate by the University of Winnipeg.

Nan Murphy has been an active Liberal and was a candidate for the Manitoba Legislature in 1953 and 1958.

10. EDITH TENNANT - School Trustee and Alderman, Winnipeg  
(Photo courtesy Edith Tennant)

Edith Tennant was a native Winnipegger who became a home economics teacher in Winnipeg and, for one year, in Britain. She was originally asked to run for school board by the Women Teachers' Association but declined. Later she was to serve on the school board from 1956-1966 and on city council from 1958-1968, serving as Deputy-Mayor in 1964 and 1965. She was chairman of various committees in council, including the Welfare Committee. She was given a Golden Boy Award, was the first woman to serve on the Board of the Canadian Bible Society and served on such community committees as that of the Save the Children Fund. She sums up her attitude by saying, "I think a woman should be in politics because she is able, not because she is a woman".

11. INEZ STEVENSON - School Trustee, Winnipeg  
(Photo courtesy of Inez Stevenson)

Inez Stevenson is a school trustee who is committed to the welfare of children. Her original involvement in school organizations was in the Home and School Association of John M. King and General Wolfe schools. She was elected to the Winnipeg School Board in 1974 and, in 1979, is still on that board. Much of the credit for the rebuilding of General Wolfe school is given to her because of her unrelenting campaign.

INEZ STEVENSON (continued).

Inez Stevenson has been active in such child-oriented work as that of the International Year of the Child Committee and the Manitoba School for the Deaf. She was involved in the advisory group on Bill 58 and keenly interested in the Winnipeg School Board's Nutrition Program. Child guidance is another area of interest and responsibility. Inez Stevenson is the Board's present representative to the Manitoba Association of School Trustees.

12. ISOBEL SUDOL - School Trustee, Winnipeg  
(Photo courtesy of Winnipeg School Division)

Isobel Sudol has been a member of the Winnipeg School Board since 1964 and she was the chairman of the board in the year 1977-1978. A review of her activities indicates diverse interest. She has served on the Policy, Finance Building and Vocational Advisory Committees of the Winnipeg School Board and has represented the board on the Winnipeg Youth Orchestra. She has been active in the Red Cross and the United Way and served on the Age and Opportunity Board; held elected office in the Ukrainian Canadian Committee - Women's Division and the Catholic Women's League and has found the time to lead a cub troop for 18 years.

SOME OTHER WOMEN INVOLVED IN POLITICS IN MANITOBA

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|----------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Brandon  | - Miss E. Wood       |                    |
|          | - Mrs. W.A. Wood     |                    |
|          | - Lorraine Hendry    |                    |
|          | - Dr. Jane Turnbull  |                    |
| Winnipeg | - Elizabeth Willcock | - Florence Pierce  |
|          | - Mrs. E. M. Rorke   | - Jessie MacLennan |
|          | - Ann Jorowski       | - Pearl McGonigal  |
|          | - Jessie Kirk        | - Maud McCarthy    |
|          | - Maud McCreery      |                    |