

with three small children, who in 1961 became the first woman ever to be elected to the Quebec legislature. In her maiden speech, she promised to fight until married women in the French province received the same rights as those enjoyed for so long by women in the other nine provinces. When she was elevated to Cabinet rank, she spent many months getting public support for her bill before successfully steering it through the all-male legislature. Other laws which discriminate against women are still being studied and are expected to be changed.

Politics  
The woman movement in Quebec has been a steady and successful one since the 1920s when the first women were elected to the provincial legislature.

Canadian women have had the universal franchise and the right to hold public office since 1919. Quebec did not give women the provincial franchise until 1940, though the Federal Government and the other nine provinces had done so 21 years before.

There are five women in the Senate, Senator Marie Perreault from New Brunswick, Senator Elise Jean from Prince Edward Island, Senator Mary Kinnear from Ontario, Senator Olive Irvine from Manitoba and Senator Josée Gauthier from Quebec. Four women were elected to the 305-member House of Commons in 1962. Two of them belong to the Liberal Party: Miss Judy Lamarche, a lawyer and Mrs. Margaret Rideout, the widow of a Member of Parliament. One is a member of the Progressive-Conservative Party - Mrs. Jean Waters, the daughter of a former Cabinet Minister and the widow of a Member of Parliament whose former constituency she represents. The fourth, Mrs. Grace MacLanin, is a member of the New Democratic Party, a daughter of J.S. Woodsworth, founder of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. She is also the widow of a Member of Parliament.

Miss Lamarche is at present a Cabinet Minister - Secretary of State a large portfolio that is often called the "Cultural Ministry" because she is responsible for the National Film Board, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Gallery, the Canada Council, the National Library and Archives, the National Museum, the Queen's Printer, citizenship, higher education from the federal point of view. She is Chief Electoral Officer. Mrs. Rideout is Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In 1967, a Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada was set up by the Federal Government as the result of requests by women's organizations with a representation totaling about two million members.

The Commission's mandate was to study the status of women in Canada and to report back to the government with recommendations for improvement. The Commission's report was published in 1970 and is a landmark document in the history of the women's movement in Canada. It led to the passage of the Equal Pay Act in 1971 and the Equal Employment Opportunity Act in 1972.

The Commission's report also led to the creation of the Department of the Status of Women in 1972, which was headed by the first woman Minister of the Crown, Miss Judy Lamarche.