

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

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.

In 1967, there were five women in the Senate, Senator Muriel Ferguson from New Brunswick, Senator Elsie Inman from Prince Edward Island, Senator Mary Kinnear from Ontario, Senator Olive Irvine from Manitoba and Senator Josie Quart from Quebec. Four women were elected to the 265-member House of Commons in 1965. Two of them belong to the Liberal Party: Miss Judy LaMarsh, a lawyer and Mrs. Margaret Rideout, the widow of a Member of Parliament. One is a member of the Progressive-Conservative Party - Mrs. Jean Watts, the daughter of a former Cabinet Minister and the widow of a Member of Parliament whose former constituency she represents. The fourth, Mrs. Grace MacInnis, 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 LaMarsh 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 totalling about two million members.