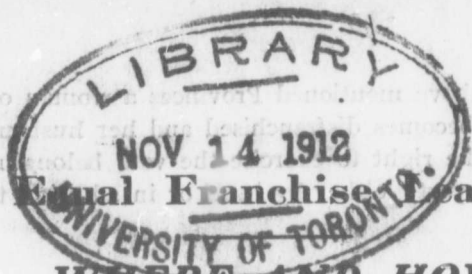


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**Equal Franchise League**  
**WHERE AND HOW**  
**MAY CANADIAN WOMEN**  
**VOTE.**

BY SONIA LEATHES  
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1. "Can any Canadian woman vote for members of the Provincial or the Dominion Parliaments?"

No woman is entitled to vote at parliamentary elections, either for the Provinces or for the Dominion.

1. "Is there municipal suffrage for women in all the Provinces of the Dominion?"

In Prince Edward Island, Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, only widows and spinsters over 21 years of age who own property are entitled to the municipal vote.

In New Brunswick and Manitoba all widows and spinsters who are ratepayers to any extent have the municipal vote.

In Ontario only those widows and spinsters who are assessed as owners or occupants of property assessed for not less than \$400 or income of not less than \$400.

In all above mentioned Provinces a woman on marriage becomes disfranchised and her husband acquires the right to exercise the vote belonging to her property either by itself or in addition to his own.

In Nova Scotia, however, every woman who (a) is of the full age of 21 years, (b) a British subject by birth or naturalization, (c) was at the time of the last assessment assessed as to property to the value of \$150, or in respect of personal property or personal and real property together to the value of \$300, is entitled to municipal suffrage. But no married woman is entitled to vote under this section whose husband is already a municipal voter. This reduces the female municipal franchise practically again to widows and spinsters, the only differences from other Provinces like Ontario or Quebec being that in Nova Scotia whenever a woman actually supports her husband and he has no property or income of his own, it is she who votes, whilst in all the other Provinces it is the husband who is under these same circumstances entitled to exercise the vote pertaining to his wife's property or income.

In British Columbia, the law, as applying to women municipal voters, varies considerably. All over the province only widows and spinsters being freeholders are allowed the municipal vote. In New Westminster, Victoria and Vancouver (since 1911) marriage does not disqualify women from exercising the municipal franchise. A unique case

of disfranchisement exists in Victoria. Previous to 1909 all women over 21 years of age (renting or boarding, or occupying a room for which service was rendered) had the municipal franchise. In 1909 this privilege was restricted to women property owners.

No woman in any of the Provinces of Canada, though even she may be a municipal voter, may hold any municipal office. This is very unusual, as in almost all countries where municipal suffrage for women exists, they are entitled to hold office. In England there are at present three women Mayors and three of the members of the London County Council are also women.

3. "May women vote for the Board of Education in all Provinces of the Dominion?"

Widows and spinsters in all the Provinces, who are either holding independent property or who are ratepayers, are entitled to vote for the School Boards. In addition to this a women property owner in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan and British Columbia is not disqualified through marriage from the exercise of the school franchise, as she is in the other Provinces, like Quebec, for instance, where marriage would at once disqualify a woman property owner from using her vote for the Board of Education.

British Columbia is the only Province where (with the exception of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo, where only women, both married and single, whose names are on the

assessment rolls are entitled to vote) wives of voters in school districts have the right to vote for and to serve as School Trustees without having to possess separate property or income of their own. This latter school franchise is therefore the only one in Canada which gives mothers, as mothers, the right to control the education of their children. In all other parts of the Dominion, though some mothers are allowed to vote on school matters, they have this privilege not on account of being mothers, but on account of being property owners, and motherhood in itself does not carry this privilege.

Women who are duly qualified to vote for the Board of Education according to the various Provincial laws are eligible for office on School Boards in all Provinces except Quebec.

"The Legal Status of Canadian Women," by Mrs. Muir Edwards, which was published by the National Council of Women in 1908 (25c) supplies all above and much other information.

