

*How to Host Your **Pink Tea***



famou**5**
FOUNDATION

BACKGROUND

Connecting the Past with the Future

Nearly a century ago, the Famous 5 paved the way for women to participate in matters of public life. Today, the Famous 5 Foundation exists not only to share their story, but also to continue the important work these courageous women started, because when it comes to gender equality, there's still much to do to bridge the gap.

In a world increasingly obsessed with the here and now, the 'Persons' Case of 90 years ago inspires Canadians to reflect and make a change now. Our current challenge is to make the events of the past relevant and inspiring today. In the era of the Famous 5, the term "Pink Tea" was a code word to gather women and discuss the issues.

While we don't agree with every cause these women supported, the 'Persons' Case — as it was known — opened doors for other marginalized groups to gain rights over time, and that's something we can all celebrate.

Meet the Famous 5



Nellie McClung
1873-1951



Henrietta Muir Edwards
1849-1931



Irene Parlby
1868-1965



Louise McKinney
1868-1931



Emily Murphy
1868-1933

These five Alberta women were drawn together by the tides of history and a shared idealism. Each was a true leader in her own right: one a police magistrate, another a legal expert who founded the National Council for Women, and three served as Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. They did all this before they were even fully defined as “persons” under Canadian and British law.

Separately, these five women were champions of the rights and welfare of women and children. They worked hard and courageously in the face of the prejudices and resistance of the day. Together they formed an unstoppable force that changed the world for women in Canada and in all Commonwealth countries.

Why a Pink Tea?

THEN

When the Famous 5 were campaigning for women to have the right to vote and run for elected office, their suffrage meetings were disrupted by their opponents. Women traditionally held teas for the birth of children, when someone left the community or other reasons. Men didn't attend these teas so suffragists started calling their political meetings Pink Teas and very few opponents attended.

NOW

What the Famous 5 began, we continue: pay equity, racial inequality, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights, missing and murdered Indigenous girls and women, mental health and addiction, and more. Whatever your gender, race, sexuality, age or background, we are all persons. What are you fighting for?



Today, with five easy steps, you can host your own *Pink Tea* and harness the spirit of the Famous 5 to motivate Canadians across the country.

GATHER

—

Invite your friends, colleagues or community members (whether there are five of you or more) to share in a Pink Tea.

REMEMBER

—

Get to know Emily, Nellie, Henrietta, Louise, Irene, and the history of the 'Persons' Case.

Recite the pledge to inspire the spirit of the Famous 5:

*I feel equal to
high and splendid
braveries!*

REFLECT

—

Consider how their vision and action can inspire you today.

DISCUSS

—

Begin a conversation of the issues most important to you and your community today, and determine how you can take up the mantle of the Famous 5.

ACT

—

The spirit of the Famous 5 lives within you. What are you going to do to improve your community and beyond?

Share your Pink Tea discussions and commitment to act.
#F5pinktea
#wearefamou5

Resources

ONLINE

More information and freely available resources you can use to supplement your own Pink Tea , visit famou5.ca/resources

BOOKS

The Famous Five: Emily Murphy and Their Fight to become Persons; Nancy Millar

100 Canadian Heroines: Famous & Forgotten Faces; Merna Forster

The Persons Case: The Origins and Legacy of the Fight for Legal Personhood; Robert J. Sharpe and Patricia I. McMahon

Extraordinary Canadians: Nellie McClung; Charlotte Gray

VIDEOS + MUSIC

How 5 Women Changed Canada Forever Over a Cup of Tea
vimeo.com/150376397

The Famous Five – Their Story Told in Song
carolynharley.com/famous-5

Volunteer

If you have the skills and time to lend, and a passion for communities, come join us.
famou5.ca/volunteer

Donate

We depend on the generous contributions of our sponsors and donors to carry out our mandate, and work to towards a better tomorrow.
famou5.ca/support

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