

# WOMEN CHANGE MAKERS

TAKING ACTION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



**NATASHA HENRY**  
BRINGING BLACK CANADIAN HISTORY TO THE CLASSROOM

I SHOULD NOT BE STANDING HERE RIGHT NOW WORRYING ABOUT MY FUTURE AND MY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN'S FUTURE.



**AUTUMN PELTIER**  
WATER PROTECTOR



**FARRAH KHAN**  
WORKING TO END GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

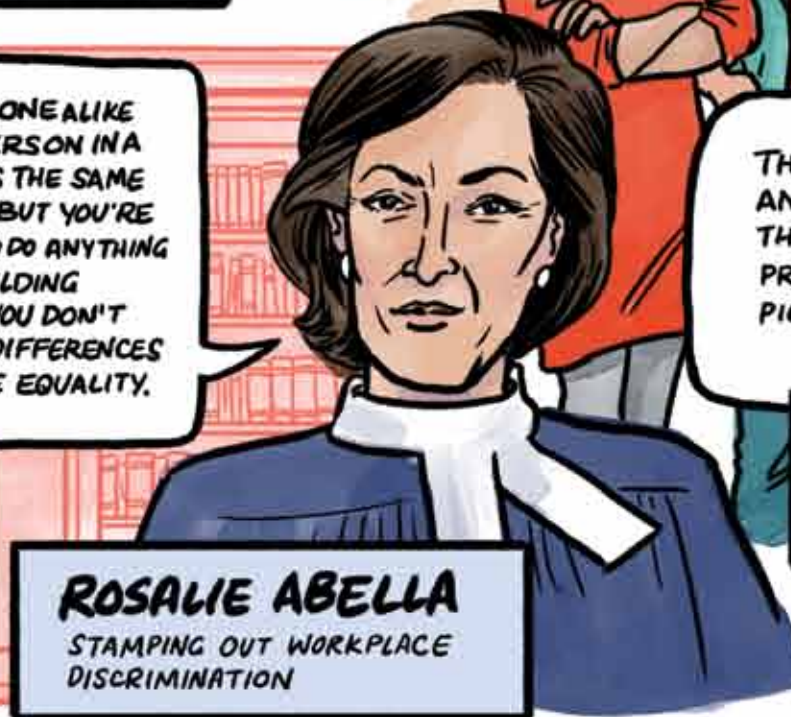


**GILARY MASSA**  
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS



**DEENA LADD**  
ORGANIZING FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS

TREATING EVERYONE ALIKE MEANS THAT A PERSON IN A WHEELCHAIR HAS THE SAME RIGHT TO WORK, BUT YOU'RE NOT REQUIRED TO DO ANYTHING TO MAKE THE BUILDING ACCESSIBLE. IF YOU DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE DIFFERENCES YOU CAN'T CREATE EQUALITY.



**ROSALIE ABELLA**  
STAMPING OUT WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

WHY DID WE HAVE TO BRING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO COURT TO GET THEM TO TREAT FIRST NATION CHILDREN FAIRLY?

**CINDY BLACKSTOCK**  
FIGHTING FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN



**CARYS MASSARELLA**  
TRANSGENDER WARRIOR-PHYSICIAN



THERE ARE TALK-TAVISTS AND ACTIVISTS AND THERE'S A DIFFERENCE. IT'S ONE THING TO ACKNOWLEDGE A LOT OF PROBLEMS AND ANOTHER THING TO PICK ONE THING AND ENGAGE IT.  
-- DILANI MOHAN

**THE MISS G PROJECT**  
BRINGING GENDER ISSUES TO THE CLASSROOM



**BRIGETTE DEPAPE**  
SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER

**ROSALIE ABELLA**

Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Abella was the sole commissioner on the 1983 Royal Commission on Equality in Employment. She sought remedies for workplace discrimination against women, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and people of colour. Abella recognized that identical treatment may result in inequality and articulated a notion of equity that acknowledges differences and requires people to take them into account.

**CINDY BLACKSTOCK**

A member of the Gitksan First Nation, Dr. Cindy Blackstock has 25 years social work experience in child protection and Indigenous children's rights. In 2007, Dr. Blackstock challenged the federal government's discriminatory practices and unjust denials of services impacting Indigenous kids. In 2016 the Canadian Human Rights Commission ruled in her favour. This ruling called for the redesign of the child welfare system and its funding model.

**DEENA LADD**

For nearly two decades, Deena Ladd has been working to improve wages and working conditions for workers of colour, low-wage workers and migrant workers who are often the most marginalized and vulnerable. Deena is an organizer with The Workers' Action Centre in Toronto and a strong advocate for workers' rights and the \$15 and Fairness Campaign.

**THE MISS G PROJECT**

Founded in 2005, the Miss G Project – Sarah Ghabrial, Sheetal Rawal, Lara Shkordoff, Laurel Mitchell and Dilani Mohan – launched a campaign to lobby the Ontario Minister of Education to include a gender studies course in the high school curriculum. In 2013, a Gender Studies course was finally added, encouraging students to think critically about how gender roles are constructed and perceived.

**CARYS MASSARELLA**

Transgender warrior-physician Dr. Carys Massarella joined St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton Ontario in 1997, transitioning while on staff there. She has been both Chief of Emergency Medicine and President of the Medical Staff Association. Dr. Massarella is the lead physician at the Quest Community Health Centre, a transgender care clinic in St. Catharines. Dr. Massarella is a leading expert and advocate for transgender rights.

**AUTUMN PELTIER**

In Ontario alone, there are close to 60 boil or do not drink water advisories any given month. Most are in First Nations communities. Twelve-year-old Autumn Peltier knows that protecting the water is key to our collective future. An activist from Wikwemikong First Nation, she has spoken out to everyone from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the kids at her school and the Children's Climate Conference in Sweden.

**BRIGETTE DEPAPE**

Brigitte DePape's unprecedented lone protest on the red-carpeted floor of the Senate chamber took place in June 2011, while the Governor General read the speech opening a new Parliament. Disturbed by then Prime Minister Harper's policies, she stood silently holding a sign that said "STOP Harper!" Even though it cost her job, Brigitte's action spurred a conversation across the country.

**GILARY MASSA**

Gilary Massa fought back when her position at the Ryerson University Student Union was eliminated while she was on maternity leave. Filing a human rights complaint and creating a public campaign, she stood up for the human rights of all women by drawing attention to the sexist and illegal practice of removing women from their jobs while they are on maternity leave.

**FARRAH KHAN**

Farrah Khan picked up a microphone to speak out about sexual assault as a teenager and has not put it down since. She has spent the last seventeen years working to raise awareness of gender-based violence through art creation, education, counselling and community development. Farrah has worked with many organizations to address sexual violence through programs, lectures, workshops and training.

**NATASHA HENRY**

Not seeing her own experience reflected in the curriculum as a student, Natasha wanted to understand what it meant to be Black in Canada and to locate herself on the Canadian landscape as a person of African descent. She started seeking out the information for herself and as an educator began developing Black Canadian curriculum for Ontario students.

RESEARCH ANY OF THE WOMEN ON THIS LIST FURTHER -- OR CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO CREATE YOUR OWN LIST OF WOMEN SOCIAL JUSTICE HEROES. HOW DO THEY MAKE AN IMPACT? HOW DO THEY INSPIRE YOU TO BECOME A CHANGE MAKER? AND WHAT WILL YOUR CONTRIBUTION BE?