

The Life and Politics of Agnes Macphail

Canada's History Webinar

R. Bondy

18 November 2015



THE POWER OF IROQUOIS WOMEN | THE FIGHT FOR THE VOTE | QUEBEC FEMINISM AND MUCH MORE!

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50 WOMEN WHO CHANGED CANADA

SPECIAL HISTORY ISSUE

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PLUS

The Great
Canadian Women's
History Quiz

AND

Must-Read
Books on
Women's History



Greyroots Museum and Archives
Owen Sound, Ontario

The *Agnes Macphail* Digital Collection



<http://www.greghighlandspubliclibrary.com/AgnesMacphail/>

Canada's First Female M.P.

Agnes Macphail: Reformer

Doris Pennington



AGNES MACPHAIL

*and the
Politics
of
Equality*

TERRY CROWLEY

RACHEL WYATT

MACPHAIL

Agnes



CHAMPION OF THE UNDERDOG





<http://www.macleans.ca/politics/get-to-know-justin-trudeaus-first-cabinet/>

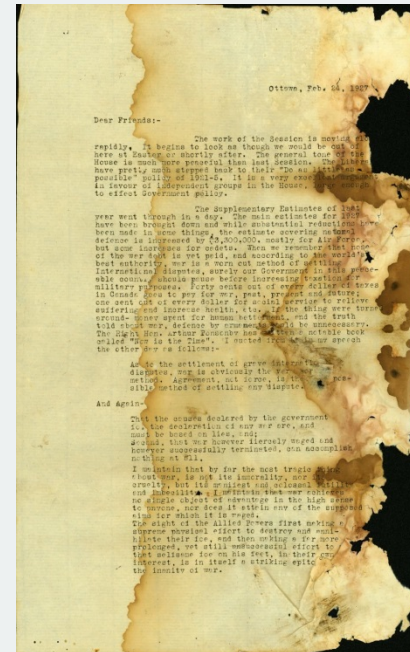
Two considerations in our discussion of Agnes Macphail:

1. Viewing Canada's history from the perspective of "great women" or "women worthies"
 - cautions...
 - this approach often privileges the experiences and views of privileged, white, middle-class woman
 - might obscure or deemphasize the contributions of lesser-known women, women marginalized due to race, ethnicity, social class, region, sexuality, ability
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 - advantages...
 - honouring accomplishments
 - abundant **sources**
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Cover art and title of Agnes Campbell Macphail's family history book, "My Ain Folk".



Letter to constituents, February 24, 1927



<http://www.greghighlandspubliclibrary.com/AgnesMacphail>

2. Situating Macphail in the traditional scheme or model of women's history

- challenging a 'wave' model of women's history
 - Macphail's years in office are *after* the traditionally defined 'first-wave' women's movement
- emphasizing contributions of rural women



House of Commons, 14th Parliament, December, 1921.

Library and Archives Canada, Online MIKAN no. 3365717 (1 item)

<https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>

A brief biography of Agnes Macphail



Signed portrait, 1925-1935

<http://www.greghighlandspubliclibrary.com/AgnesMacphail>

Macphail and Aunt Maggie (Campbell) McGregor



<http://www.greghighlandspubliclibrary.com/AgnesMacphail>

Agnes Macphail, 1922



<http://www.greghighlandspubliclibrary.com/AgnesMacphail>

Agnes Macphail, portrait by Yousuf Karsh



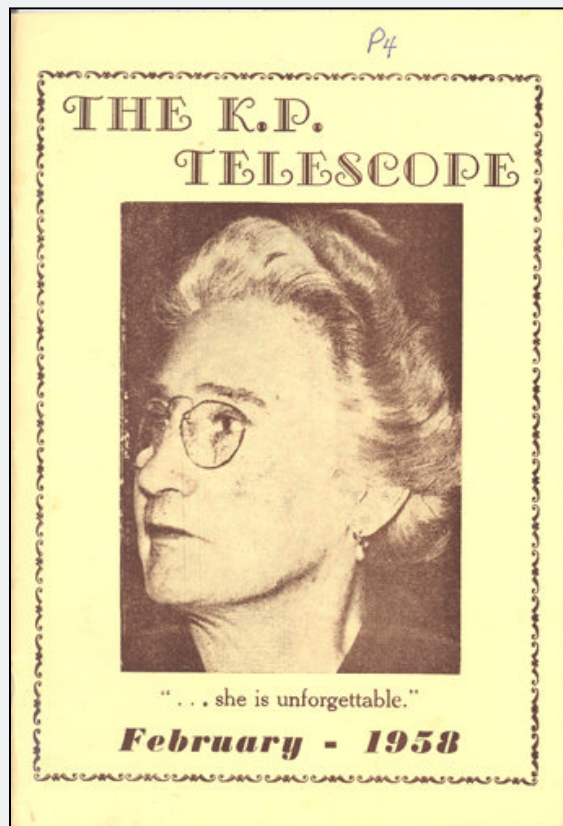
Greyroots Museum and Archives

Macphail in Kirkaldy, 1952



<http://www.greghighlandspubliclibrary.com/AgnesMacphail>

Kingston Penitentiary's *K.P Telescope*, 1958



<http://www.greghighlandspubliclibrary.com/AgnesMacphail>

Selected Bibliography

Books:

- Crowley, Terry. *Agnes Macphail and the Politics of Equality*. Toronto: James Lorimer & Co., 1990.
- Wyatt, Rachel. *Agnes Macphail: Champion of the Underdog*. Lantzvill BC: XYZ Publishing, 2000.
- Pennington, Doris. *Agnes Macphail: Reformer*. Toronto: Simon and Pierre, 1989.

Digital Sources:

- The Agnes Macphail Digital Collection, <http://www.greghighlandspubliclibrary.com/AgnesMacphail/>
- Collections Canada, <https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>
- Greyroots Museum and Archives, <http://www.greyroots.com/>
- Herizons Magazine, <http://www.herizons.ca/>

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THANK YOU.