

Lesson Historic Quotes

Questions: Reading/Listening to Quotes: how are they similar or different than today? (continuity and change)

1. Isabelle Alonso, 2001

"Tant qu'une seule femme sur la planète subira les effets du sexisme, la lutte des femmes sera légitime et le féminisme nécessaire."

(As long as only one woman on the planet will suffer the effects of sexism, the struggle of women will be legitimate and feminism necessary.)

2. Thérèse Casgrain, *A Woman in a Man's World*, 1972

In 1946, Thérèse Casgrain joined the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) because she "had long seen how badly Canada needed a political party centred upon the common good rather than on the promotion of personal interests."

"Today women do not have to face the same difficulties as of old; they can make their influence more widely felt and they are listened to a little more, but in a world in which men and women are completely equal is still far from being realized. All my life, I have recommended that one must ask questions, take a position, and act upon it."

3. VOW National president Kay Macpherson

"Our work for peace, human rights, will be attacked by smear tactics because there is no reasonable argument for war, for social injustice or against peace, human rights, international cooperation...We must refuse to be drawn into this "guilt by association."

4. Lise Casgrain (Thérèse Casgrain's granddaughter)

Although today we remember mainly Thérèse Casgrain's role in advancing women's rights, Lise Casgrain points out that her grandmother also fought for men, families, minors, the living conditions of prisoners, textile workers, the miners of Asbestos and the elderly. She wanted to change Quebec society and Canada as a whole and improve the living conditions of all citizens.

"You could not say no to her. On the contrary, when she was told no, it was enough to motivate her even more to pursue the cause she wished to defend!"

5. Ursula Franklin (Canadian award winning Scientist and VOW peace activist)

"I define peace not as the absence of war, but as the presence of justice and the absence of fear. There's peace when people don't have to be afraid. And people don't have to be afraid when there is genuine justice."