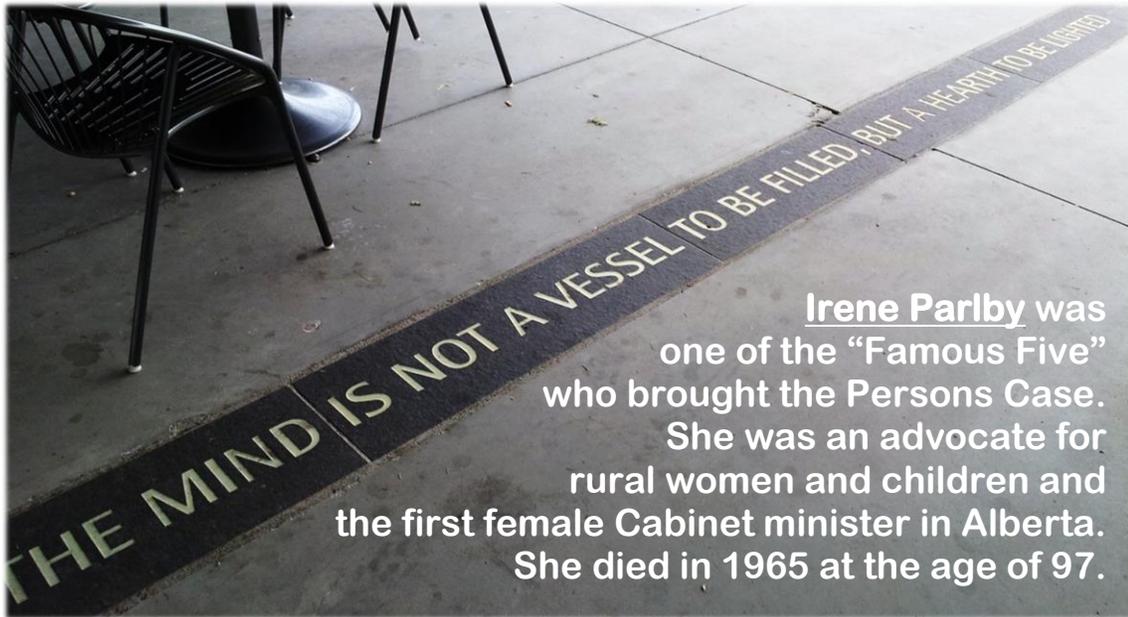


The Persons Case

Every October 18 Canadians celebrate “Persons Day” in honour of this important legal victory.

Edwards v. Canada (Attorney General), [1930] A.C. 124 - also known as the “Persons Case” - is a decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on October 18, 1929 that declared that women were “persons” in law and therefore eligible to sit in the Canadian Senate. The case was spearheaded by a group of women known as the Famous Five: Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlby, Henrietta Muir Edwards and Louise McKinney. It began as a reference case in the Supreme Court of Canada, which had ruled that women were not “qualified persons” and thus ineligible to sit in the Senate.



Irene Parlby was one of the “Famous Five” who brought the Persons Case. She was an advocate for rural women and children and the first female Cabinet minister in Alberta. She died in 1965 at the age of 97.

Rosemary Brown (1930-2003) was the first Black woman to be elected to a provincial legislature in Canada when she became a BC MLA in 1972. She was a professor of women’s studies and served as the Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.



Famous Five Study Area:
This area in the Library honours the Famous Five and the Persons Case.





Lynn Smith became the UBC Faculty of Law's first woman Dean in 1991. A noted litigator for sex equality rights, she went on to serve as a Justice of the B.C. Supreme Court until her retirement in 2012. She then returned to teaching *Charter* litigation here at UBC Law.

The Centre for Feminist Legal Studies is a research centre that works to advance the study of feminism and the law through the scholarship of its affiliated faculty, the work of visiting speakers and researchers, and the expertise of the front-line women's movement. Our gathering space is the Marlee Kline Scholars' Commons (Room 424), named in honour of our late colleague Marlee Kline, a pioneer in intersectional feminist theory.



Five Famous Feminist Spots at UBC Law