

Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case, October 18, 2010

On Monday, October 18, 2010, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presented the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case to Marie Louise Fish, Elgin, Ontario; Lucille Harper, Pomquet, Nova Scotia; Kerline Joseph, Delson, Quebec; Anne Michaud, Montréal, Quebec; and Barbara Mowat, Abbotsford, British Columbia.

In 1929, five women from Alberta won the judiciary battle, the "Persons Case", that granted Canadian women the right to be recognized as persons, a landmark victory in the struggle of Canadian women for equality. The Famous Five, achieved not only the right for women to serve in the Senate, but they and their many contributions paved the way for women to participate in other aspects of public life.

The Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case were established in 1979 by the government of Canada to honour the 50th anniversary of the "Persons Case". Each October, in recognition of Persons Day, October 18, five awards are presented to women chosen from across Canada. "Recipients of the Awards continue the tradition of courage, integrity and hard work that the Famous Five of the Persons Case inspired. Their effectiveness and courage has advanced the cause of equality for girls and women in significant and substantial ways that have enriched their communities."