

THE CBC ARCHIVES

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) Archives have been updated in recent years, affecting organization and accessibility. However, many of the older CBC archives are still online and offer opportunities for teachers and students to access original broadcast materials and programming related to a variety of themes, including ones touching on feminist activism and issues.

While the CBC has stated that there are no plans to remove videos from their archive, the organization of CBC archival material changes from time to time, and links to items may not remain the same, compromising access.

The list below reflects the current (July 2025) links to access selected content through the CBC Archives website.

OTHER ACCESS POINTS

- It is possible to search for material within the CBC archive by typing “site:cbc.ca/archive” into your search engine along with the search term that interests you.
- The CBC has allowed select material from their archive to be accessed through the Library and Archives of Canada (LAC).
- Teachers can access some archival material for instructional purposes through their institution using <https://curio.ca/en/>.

Table of Contents

- [Arts and Culture](#)
- [Childcare and Family](#)
- [Feminist Thought](#)
- [Healthcare and Reproductive Rights](#)
- [Indigenous](#)
- [Justice](#)
- [2SLGBTQ+](#)
- [Politics and Government](#)
- [Quebec Feminist Movement](#)
- [Sport and Leisure](#)
- [Work and Labour](#)
- [Violence](#)

Arts and Culture

1964: June Callwood a Celebrated Journalist in 1964

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3626447>

This 1964 video features celebrated journalist June Callwood as she reflects on the early highs of her career. She also discusses her experiences as a writer in general and provides insight into the profession of journalism.

1974: Margaret Laurence Writes The Diviners

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3627166>

This video features renowned Canadian author Margaret Laurence discussing *The Diviners*, which she wrote in the early 1970s at her home in Lakefield, Ontario. She examines the novel's characters and themes, reflecting on ideas that shaped the story.

1977: The Cult of Margaret Atwood

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3625797>

This video features acclaimed novelist Margaret Atwood discussing her third novel, *Lady Oracle*. She explores the real-life struggles and circumstances that inspired her characters, offering insight into her writing process and themes.

1992: Barbara Frum Reflects on her 10 Years at The Journal

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3332814>

In this video, Barbara Frum reflects on her ten years at The Journal, showcasing highlights from her interviews with various notable figures.

1992: Mourning Barbara Frum

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3626743>

This video honors Barbara Frum, the pioneering broadcast journalist, through reflections from those who knew her. They discuss her tough yet professional interviewing style, her commitment to truth, and her civic-mindedness, from her early days as a freelance writer to her role as co-host of CBC Radio's As It Happens and later as a television interviewer.

Childcare and Family

1973: Man Alive: Teens and Gender Roles

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3333707>

This 1973 Man Alive episode features a panel of teens discussing gender roles, sex, and marriage. They explore what it means to be a man or woman, touching on masculinity and femininity with Dr. Mary Calderone, one of North America's leading sex educators.

1985: Teen Girls Predict Their Future in 1985

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3769225>

This 1985 CBC The Journal segment features a survey of teenage girls predicting their future at the age of 30. The video highlights their

optimistic expectations, many of which may be difficult to achieve. It also discusses efforts that are done to prepare them for their future such as career conferences, all-girls classes, and getting them interested in non-traditional and higher-paying careers.

Feminist Thought

1969: Take 30 Talks to Female Activists in 1969

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3333709>

This 1969 Take 30 segment features a panel of five female activists—Kathleen Cleaver, Jane Jacobs, Margaret Norquay, Alanis Obomsawin, and Jennifer Penny—discussing issues of action, oppression, and violence. The conversation sheds light on their perspectives and activism during a pivotal time in history.

1975: Songs and Slogans on International Women's Day, 1975

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.5030446>

This 1975 video captures Canadian women marching to demand equal pay during the United Nations' International Women's Year. The event, organized by a coalition of women's rights groups, features songs and slogans, highlighting the collective effort to address gender inequality, with participation from both men, women and other activist groups.

1982: International Women's Day Celebrated in 1982

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3595468>

This 1982 CBC Take 30 segment features feminist Mariana Valverde discussing the significance of International Women's Day and the state of women's rights in the 1980s. She talks about the large Toronto demonstration, where 5,000 to 6,000 people marched for women's rights, emphasizing themes such as the right to a job, the right to choose, and the right to independence.

Healthcare and Reproductive Rights

1978: Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw Honoured for Birth Control Advocacy

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.4032937>

The video features Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw, a pioneering advocate for birth control, as a guest on Front Page Challenge. She reflects on her early medical career, societal attitudes toward female doctors, and her personal life.

1985: Midwives Fight for Legal Recognition in 1985

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3183086>

Midwives fight for legal recognition in 1985. Ontario midwives advocate for the right to attend hospital births and establish their own professional college. Midwives in Ontario not allowed to practice their legal profession in hospitals but not banned from attending home births. OHIP does not cover the cost of their services. Ontario medical association has midwifery regulated under college of nurses, but midwives say it wouldn't really speak to the profession of midwifery. Ideal for many would be access to medical technology and expertise of midwives.

1988: The End of a Fight for Dr. Henry Morgentaler in 1988

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3595052>

The video captures Dr. Henry Morgentaler's reaction in 1988 after the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the country's abortion law. He emphasizes reproductive freedom, arguing that individuals should not impose their values on others, and calls for the establishment of safe clinics and training for doctors to provide safe abortions.

Indigenous

1962: Indigenous Canadians to Vote for the First Time in 1962 Federal Election

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3187034>

This video documents the 1962 federal election, where would-be MPs seek the support of Indigenous voters living on-reserve, marking their first opportunity to vote. The footage captures political campaigns targeting Indigenous communities, while Indigenous spokesmen express divided opinions on the potential benefits and risks of participating in the election.

1966: Alanis Obomsawin the Activist

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3595371>

The video profiles Alanis Obomsawin, an Abenaki singer and activist, in a 1966 Telescope segment, focusing on her courage,

determination, and pathfinding efforts in bringing a swimming pool to her Quebec reserve.

1975: Taking the Power Back: Indigenous Women Organize

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3627599>

This episode of CBC Radio's Our Native Land explores the rise of Indigenous women's groups across Canada in the 1970s, highlighting their efforts to reclaim power and advocate for their rights.

1985: Indigenous Women Fight for Equal Rights in 1985

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3627594>

This episode of CBC Radio's Our Native Land from 1985 explores Indigenous women's fight for equal rights, focusing on federal legislation to amend the Indian Act. Guests discuss Sandra Lovelace's efforts to remove sex discrimination, reactions from Indigenous leaders, and the challenges faced by those regaining Indian status seeking to return home.

1994: Filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin, Behind Mohawk Lines

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3595381>

Filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin recounts the harrowing moments behind the making of her 1993 documentary Kahnesatake: 270 Years of Resistance, which chronicles the Oka Crisis. She emphasizes that the conflict did not begin on July 11, 1990, but is part of a long struggle to have Mohawk land rights recognized amid ongoing legal dispossession.

Justice

1982: Finally, a Woman on Canada's Supreme Court

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3335372>

"Finally, a Woman on Canada's Supreme Court" marks the historic appointment of Bertha Wilson as the first female justice, briefly highlighting her qualifications, the potential impact on women's rights, and the expectation of more progressive rulings on social issues, underscoring the importance of a representative judiciary.

1982: Bertha Wilson joins the Supreme Court

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.5051958>

This video features the swearing-in of Bertha Wilson as the first woman justice of the Supreme Court of Canada on March 30, 1982, highlighting her as an innovative lawmaker and a progressive voice on civil rights issues.

1990: Supreme Court Accepts Battered Wife Syndrome Defence in 1990

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.4090408>

The video examines the 1990 Supreme Court decision recognizing battered wife syndrome as a legal defense, following Angelique Lavallee's acquittal for murder. Justice Bertha Wilson's ruling challenges myths about violence against women, emphasizing the need for expert testimony to educate juries and correct the male-centered legal standard.

2000: Welcome to the Supreme Court, Louise Arbour

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3333313>

The radio piece covers Louise Arbour's appointment to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1999 after earning international recognition for her work in war crimes tribunals. The segment features her speech at a ceremony in Ottawa.

2SLGBTQ+

1967: "There's No Place for the State in the Bedrooms of the Nation"

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.4715835>

In this video, Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau defends his Omnibus Bill, famously declaring, "There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation." The bill sought to decriminalize homosexual acts, liberalize abortion laws, and ensure access to contraceptives, emphasizing personal privacy and freedom.

1968: Trudeau's Omnibus Bill Challenges Canada's 'Sacred Cows'

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3593365>

Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau defends his proposed amendments to the Criminal Code in 1969, which included decriminalizing homosexual acts and legalizing abortion under certain conditions.

1971: 'Gay Day' in 1971

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6808109>

Despite the rain, demonstrators carrying signs and chanting slogans assemble in Ottawa to march in support of gay rights. Aired Aug. 28, 1971 on CBC News.

1990: From the CBC Archives: Calgary Pride's First Gathering

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3217141>

This video provides a look at the first gathering of Calgary Pride in 1990, from the CBC's archives.

Politics and Government

1967 The Bird Commission: Canadian Feminists Fight for Change in 1967

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3485950>

A month into the Bird Commission, the question of what women want sparks both criticism and enthusiasm. Activist Laura Sabia, whose efforts helped establish the commission, argues that women have accepted a submissive role and must change their attitudes while also pushing for legislative reform.

1967 The Bird Commission: Why Call the Bird Commission on the Status of Women in 1967?

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3594581>

This video features a brief discussion with Prime Minister Pearson and chairperson Florence Bird who outline their goals for the upcoming Royal Commission. Bird particularly highlights workplace discrimination against women, their uncertain status in Canada, and

the impact of urbanization. She stresses that the Commission should go beyond fact finding to address future needs like education and childcare.

1968 The Bird Commission: French-Canadian Women Demand Change

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3626178>

As the Bird Commission visits Quebec City and Montreal, a key topic of discussion is a woman's right to choose, with debates surrounding abortion and the influence of Catholicism on the issue.

1971 The Bird Commission: Reaction to the Bird Commission Report

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3619568>

The video covers the release of the Bird Commission's final report, a 488 page document with 167 recommendations. Florence Bird and Kelly Crichton discuss its key findings, with Crichton expressing some reservations about the report's general attitudes.

1991 The Bird Commission: Bird Commission 10 Years Later: Perspective and Constitutional Change

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3594583>

This video features a discussion with Florence Bird, ten years after the Bird Commission's final report, reflecting on its impact. While 43 recommendations have been implemented and 53 partially fulfilled, some issues remain unresolved, but progress toward greater rights continues.

2001 The Bird Commission: The Bird Commission's 30th Anniversary

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3626167>

Thirty years after the Bird Commission's final report, CBC Radio's This Morning hosts a panel on International Women's Day to assess progress. The discussion highlights no change or very slow change in areas like wage disparities, violence against women, poverty especially among single women, and the lack of support for families, while also addressing media bias and power dynamics.

1962: Indigenous Canadians to Vote for the First Time in 1962 Federal Election

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3187034>

This video documents the 1962 federal election, where would-be MPs seek the support of Indigenous voters living on-reserve, marking their first opportunity to vote. The footage captures political campaigns targeting Indigenous communities, while Indigenous spokesmen express divided opinions on the potential benefits and risks of participating in the election.

1967: "There's No Place for the State in the Bedrooms of the Nation"

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.4715835>

In this video, Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau defends his Omnibus Bill, famously declaring, "There's no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation." The bill sought to decriminalize homosexual acts, liberalize abortion laws, and ensure access to contraceptives, emphasizing personal privacy and freedom.

1968: Trudeau's Omnibus Bill Challenges Canada's 'Sacred Cows'

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3593365>

Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau defends his proposed amendments to the Criminal Code in 1969, which included decriminalizing homosexual acts and legalizing abortion under certain conditions.

1974: Canadian Woman Protests Her Voting Classification

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3333263>

This radio piece covers the protest of Betty Marian, a Toronto school teacher, who challenges the requirement to classify herself as "Miss" or "Mrs." in order to register to vote. Marian objects to this outdated classification, asserting that a woman should be recognized as an individual regardless of her marital status. She also criticizes the voter enumeration form for listing single women by occupation while restricting married women to "housewives" without considering their professional roles.

1988: MP and Cabinet Minister Flora MacDonald Unseated in 1988

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3627749>

The video features an interview with Flora MacDonald after her defeat in the 1988 federal election, ending her 16-year tenure in the House of Commons. She reflects on the impact of the free trade debate and her trailblazing role as Canada's first female external affairs minister and the first woman to attend the National Defence College.

1988: Women and Meech

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3333425>

The video explores women's groups' opposition to the Meech Lake Accord, arguing it could override Charter equality rights. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Women and the Constitution express frustration with being dismissed by first ministers and emphasize the need to protect and reinforce women's rights while still supporting Quebec's inclusion in the Constitution.

1989: 'Times are Changing'

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.4926233>

The newly crowned NDP leader, Audrey McLaughlin, addresses delegates after her leadership win. She became the first woman to lead a federal party.

Quebec Feminist Movement

1980: Union Organizer Arrested for 'Seditious Conspiracy'

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3593604>

This video features the activism of union organizer Madeleine Parent, who led major strikes in Quebec's textile industry and was arrested for "seditious conspiracy" in 1948. From advocating for the children of poor farmers at McGill University to organizing walkouts at Dominion Textile and Ayers Woolen Mills, Parent faced intense opposition, including police violence and imprisonment, as she fought for workers' rights.

1983: Quebec Garment Workers' First Strike in Four Decades

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3334806>

This video documents Quebec garment workers' first strike in 40 years, as 9,000 workers walk off the job demanding a \$1-per-hour wage increase. Management warns the strike could cripple the already struggling industry.

1984: Working at Night in the Garment Industry in 1983

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3332765>

This video highlights the underground garment industry in Quebec in 1983, where women face low wages, job insecurity, and poor working conditions. Despite these challenges, they organize through unions to demand better workplace protections as the industry struggles to compete with overseas markets.

Sport and Leisure

1987: In 1987 Women Hockey Players Held Their First International Tournament

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.5073476>

Ice hockey was growing as a competitive sport for women, and now in 1987 there was an international tournament, held in Toronto.

Work and Labour

1954: A Look Behind the Scenes at Canadian Toy Manufacturing in 1954

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.4932469>

CBC Newsmagazine took the camera behind the scenes at the the Reliable Toys and Viceroy factories to see how dolls and rubber balls were made. A majority of the workers at the factory were women, many of them immigrants.

1956: Women in the Canadian Workforce of 1956

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3302667>

This video from CBC Newsmagazine in 1956 examines the role of women in the Canadian workforce as a federal bill seeks to enforce pay equity. Women make up a quarter of the workforce, primarily in office, retail, and factory jobs, yet earn significantly less than men. While employers cite absenteeism and marriage as reasons for lower wages, women's groups push for equal pay for equal work.

1961: A Woman Bank Manager, Up Close and Personal in 1961, and 1963: Shirley Giles, Two Years Into her Job as Branch Manager of a Canadian Bank

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.4977745>

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.4977734>

These two videos are excerpts from an interview with Shirley Giles, a woman bank manager, questioning her on how she is able to perform her job despite being a woman.

1977: The 'Job Ghetto' of Women's Work in 1976

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3334243>

This video features Grace Hartman, Canada's first female union leader, discussing the growing wage gap between men and women in

1976. Speaking on CBC's Take 30, she critiques the lack of progress since International Women's Year and emphasizes the need to expand opportunities for women in the workforce.

1978: Madeleine Parent Discusses Puretex Strike

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3333067>

This video features union leader Madeleine Parent in conversation with Barbara Frum about the implications of surveillance cameras at Toronto's Puretex knitting factory. She highlights concerns over constant monitoring of women workers, including a camera placed outside the women's washroom but not the men's, describing the surveillance as degrading and discriminatory.

1979: Puretex Surveillance Cameras Ordered Removed

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3334808>

This video covers a union victory at Toronto's Puretex knitting company, where an arbitrator orders the removal of surveillance cameras from worker production areas, including outside the bathroom. Secretary treasurer Madeleine Parent emphasizes that more must be done to protect workers' civil liberties.

1979: The Secretary Who Proved Fetching Coffee Shouldn't be Part of the Daily Grind

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.5433729>

The National reports on a union arbitration case involving a secretary who was asked to get coffee for her boss and refused.

1980: Union Organizer Arrested for 'Seditious Conspiracy'

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3593604>

This video features the activism of union organizer Madeleine Parent, who led major strikes in Quebec's textile industry and was arrested for "seditious conspiracy" in 1948. From advocating for the children of poor farmers at McGill University to organizing walkouts at Dominion Textile and Ayers Woolen Mills, Parent faced intense opposition, including police violence and imprisonment, as she fought for workers' rights.

1981: Postal Strike of 1981

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3335113>

This video covers the 1981 postal strike which was resolved after 42 days highlighting that the main dispute was not over wages but benefits. Key issues included paid maternity leave, additional holidays, and extra pay for shift work.

1981: How Striking Postal Workers Changed Maternity Leave in Canada

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6577450>

This video reflects on the impact of the 1981 postal workers' strike, which helped secure paid maternity leave in Canada. Featuring insights from labour and sociology specialists, it examines the collaboration between the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and women's groups and considers whether unions today can drive similar change.

1983: Quebec Garment Workers' First Strike in Four Decades

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3334806>

This video documents Quebec garment workers' first strike in 40 years, as 9,000 workers walk off the job demanding a \$1-per-hour wage increase. Management warns the strike could cripple the already struggling industry.

1984: Working at Night in the Garment Industry in 1983

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.3332765>

This video highlights the underground garment industry in Quebec in 1983, where women face low wages, job insecurity, and poor working conditions. Despite these challenges, they organize through unions to demand better workplace protections as the industry struggles to compete with overseas markets.

1987: Manitoba Introduces Pay Equity Legislation

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.5743331>

In 1987, Manitoba made news when it introduced pay equity legislation for its civil service, legislating equal pay for equal value.

Violence

1989: Montreal Massacre

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.1712183>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndkw0yK85z4&rco=1>

These videos cover the tragic Montreal Massacre of 1989, where a gunman entered a classroom at École Polytechnique, separated the men from the women, and opened fire, killing 14 female students. The gunman acted alone and committed suicide shortly after the attack.

1990: Montreal Massacre: Women Horrified by Mass Murder

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.3333287>

This radio piece reflects the shock and horror felt by students in Toronto in response to the Montreal Massacre, where 14 women were killed by an anti-feminist gunman. University of Toronto students express concern that the tragedy highlights a broader issue of violence against women and emphasize the need for societal change.

1999: Montreal Massacre: Legacy of Pain

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.2857968>

"Montreal Massacre: Legacy of Pain" (1999) examines the tragic 1989 shooting at a Montreal university, where 14 women were killed by Marc Lépine. The documentary delves into Lépine's past, exploring the complex factors that may have contributed to his deadly attack and the lasting impact of the tragedy.