

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PROFILE

The Hon. Jean Augustine

International Women's Day is March 8, an opportunity to reflect on the progress made towards achieving gender equality and celebrate the acts of courage and determination by individuals who have played an extraordinary role in advancing gender equality in their communities. The beginnings of International Women's Day (IWD) trace back to the early twentieth century, emerging from the activities of labour movements in North America and Europe and reflecting a growing call for women to participate equally in society.

The first International Women's Day was observed on March 19, 1911 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. That day, more than one million women and men showed their support by participating in public events. In the years that followed, other countries began to observe and celebrate this day.

The United Nations recognized 1975 as International Women's Year and began celebrating IWD on March 8, later adopting a resolution designating March 8 as International Women's Day.

Today, International Women's Day, a day of unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action, is celebrated in countries around the world.

And this year is its 110th anniversary and the theme is choose to challenge.

From challenge comes change, and one of the trailblazers for change has been the Hon. Jean Augustine.

An educator and instrument of change she was the first woman MP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, the first black woman elected to the House of Commons and the first black woman appointed to Cabinet.



This year she was the recipient of Maclean's magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award which joins her list of prestigious accolades such as the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario.

She is an inspiration to everyone she meets and is a dedicated social justice and community activist.

Jean's accomplishments include empowering women but also celebrating the contributions of Black Canadians to the social fabric of our country. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Black History Month which we celebrate because of Jean's efforts. It was her motion that was unanimously adopted by the House of Commons which

established Black History Month.

It is my distinct honour to have her as my guest speaker this year for the International Women's Day event taking place virtually March 8th in the evening at 7 p.m. via Facebook Live.

I hope you will be able to join us and hear all about her accomplished journey so far.

While I normally celebrate International Women's Day with a breakfast and guest speaker, this year we are going virtual, via Facebook Live and will do it in the evening.

The event will take place on:

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021 at 7 p.m.

The Hon. Jean Augustine will be my guest.

Jean was the first woman MP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore and the first black woman elected to the House of Commons and appointed to Cabinet. We will hear directly from her about her amazing journey.

International Women's Day 

'Choose to Challenge'

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