

## Strong Women Shape Our Province

On International Women's Day 2009, the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission would like to recognize the generations of women whose strong hands and open hearts have helped to shape our province.

Saskatchewan women have their own particular social, political, and cultural histories and influences. Their stories and experiences speak to their strength of spirit which is a pillar of our Saskatchewan society. They are the glue that holds our families and communities together.

Through the years, the women of Saskatchewan have played many roles – both traditional and non-traditional. Yet, despite the changing times, some things remain the same. Saskatchewan women are still searching for a “bread and roses” way of life for themselves and their families – “bread” which signifies economic justice for women and “roses” which recognize the important quality of life women bring to our society.

It is our job at the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to join with them in supporting a quality of life that is free from discrimination. It takes a strong person to stand up for their rights. The determination shown by the women who use the human rights complaint process to address the discrimination they have experienced benefits many others. International Women's Day is the right day on which to publicly recognize their contributions.

The *Saskatchewan Human Rights Code* has been developing since 1947 when Saskatchewan became the first jurisdiction in North America to legislate human rights protections. It is a law made so important by our legislature that it takes precedence over all other laws.

Equality is a fundamental Canadian value, one that is also reflected in Saskatchewan's provincial motto, “From many peoples strength.” Built into the fabric of our province are those generations of strong women who have shown us that respect for one another, and working towards greater inclusiveness and diversity, is an integral component of every successful community. It is a vital ideal and one which the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission was created to support and defend.



Judge David M. Arnot  
Chief Commissioner