

Her story:

Canadian women in uniform

Class discussion questions



Her story: Canadian women in uniform explores the changing roles of women in Canada's military across history. After watching the video, explore these questions with students as part of a class discussion or reflective writing response.

- How did the roles of women in the Canadian military change from the early 1900s to today?
- Discuss some of the differences between how women dressed and were portrayed in the military in photos and videos from early eras compared to modern day.
- In the early years, women were limited mainly to nursing roles. Why do you think society restricted women's participation in the military at that time? Why was nursing a socially acceptable option, but combat was not?
- The script highlights that women "fought to open every door" and faced inequalities even when doing important work. What are some of the barriers they may have encountered in the past? What barriers might they face today?
- The video mentions women from diverse backgrounds, including Indigenous and other racialized women. Why is it important to recognize their contributions? What additional challenges did they face?
- Why is it important to include women's stories when we talk about military history? How does acknowledging their service and experiences change our understanding of the past?
- What advantages does diverse representation in leadership (i.e., different genders, races, cultural backgrounds, etc.) provide in the military? In Canadian society?
- How did past achievements by women in Canada's armed forces influence future opportunities (examples: women's right to vote, increased access to professional careers, building on previous success to open more doors)? How might the appointment of General Jennie Carignan as Chief of Defence Staff in 2024 affect future generations?
- The video describes both progress and sacrifice, including women who never returned home from service. How should societies remember and honour these contributions?