

**Female, Indigenous, Born in Northern Turtle Island  
(aka Canada) and First to...**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Nation</b>	<b>Year</b>
1	Travel to England and successfully petition Queen Victoria to intervene in a land claim dispute near Owen Sound, Ontario. The Queen granted Catherine legal ownership. However the Canadian government did not honour the Queen's decision	Nahnebahwequay (Catherine Sutton)	Mississauga 1860
2	Discover the first gold nugget (1st person in the world) that led to the Klondike Gold Rush	Shaaw Tláa (Kate Carmack)	Tagish-Tlingit 1896
3	Become a registered nurse. She had to go to the USA to study nursing because it was illegal in Canada for a status Indigenous person to attend post-secondary	Charlotte Edith Anderson Monture	Mohawk 1914
4	Hold a teachers license (Nova Scotia). Also the 1st licensed teacher to teach in a non-Indigenous school	Dr. Elsie Charles Basque	Mi'kmaw 1937
5	Become a peacekeeper pilot in WWII. She was known to say, "if a woman can sew, she can fly"	Evelyn Katie Buffalo-Robe	Cree 1939
6	Officially serve in the Canadian Armed Forces	Private Mary Greyeyes	Cree 1943
7	Become an Editor of a newspaper <i>Native Voice</i> . She edited the 1949 story about BC granting Indigenous people the right to vote, which was the first Cdn. province to amend	Ruth Smith	Sto:lo 1947
8	Publish the first novel <i>Sanaaq</i> in the Inuit language	Mitiarjuj Nappaaluk	Inuit 1951
9	Become an elected Band Councillor, at Sagkeeng First Nation, formerly known as Fort Alexander. Upon starting the position, she was a widowed single mother of 9	Agnes Fontaine	Ojibwe 1952
10	Become an elected Chief, Curve Lake First Nation	Elsie Knott	Ojibwe 1954
11	Become a professional wood carver	Ellen Neel	Kwakwaka'wakw 1954
12	Construct a Cree syllabic typewriter	Marie Maria Neegan-Gagnon	Cree 1956
13	Graduate from the University of British Columbia. Also the 1st to work for the John Howard Society counselling female prisoners	Gloria Cranmer-Webster	Kwakwaka'wakw 1956
14	Become a Flight Attendant	Annie Weetaltuk	Inuit 1959
15	Be on a Canadian stamp (1st author & 1st woman other than the Queen)	Pauline Johnson	Mohawk 1961
16	Be a runway model in New York City. Also posed nude for Salvador Dali	Marji Pratt-Turo (Carla Blakey)	Cree-Saulteaux 1963
17	Publish and own an Indigenous newspaper <i>Tekawennake</i>	Wilma Jamieson	Mohawk 1963
18	Graduate from a university with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (University of Saskatchewan). She was one of only 60 Indigenous people in all of Canada to hold a university degree	Janet Spence-Fontaine	Cree 1965

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19 Challenge the Royal Commission on gender discrimination and won back her Indian status. This ruling is connected to the UN holding Canada in breach of human rights in '81 (see Lovelace) and would later become Bill C-31 in '85	Mary Two-Axe Earley	Mohawk	1967
20 Be appointed Officer of Order of Canada Promoted to Companion of Order of Canada in '82	Kenojuak Ashevak	Inuit	1967
21 Be the recipient of the Tom Longboat award for the most outstanding Aboriginal Athlete of the Year. She also led her softball team in the Cdn. Women's Championship. And she was also a member of the Ontario gold-medal winning team at the Canada Games in 1969	Phyllis Bomberry	Mohawk	1968
22 Become a registered Public Health Inspector	Rita Swakum (Manuel)	Sylix	1969
24 Become Olympians (cross-country ski) And the 1st Cdn. women to compete in 4 straight Olympics. In 2015, The Firth twins were inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame	Sharon & Shirley Firth	Dene	1972
25 Host & produce CBC's national program <i>Our Native Land</i> . In '54, she started working for the CBC as a radio announcer at age 17	Bernelda Wheeler	Assiniboine-Cree-Saulteaux	1972
26 Become a Human Rights Commissioner for Alberta Also founded the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women. In 2017, Alberta named a provincial building in Edmonton after her, now called the Muriel Stanley Venne Provincial Centre, another first	Muriel Stanley Venne	Métis	1973
27 Host Radio-Canada (CBC's French station)	Myra Cree	Mohawk	1973
28 Become the Assistant Director of Training at the Nechi Institute on Alcohol and Drug Education. Rebecca is a leading expert on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	Rebecca Martell	Cree	1974
29 Become President of NWAC (Native Women's Association of Canada)	Bertha Clark-Jones	Métis	1974
30 Own and operate a radio station called SPIRIT 91.7 (now CIXL-FM)	Suzanne Rochon-Burnett	Métis	1974
31 Become a certified Electron Microscopist. Also, the 1st to get published in an American science journal; 1st Director of Indian Self Government, Assembly of First Nations '82 and 1st Member of the Board of Directors, Ontario Hydro '91	Anne Noonan	Ojibwe-Cree	1974
32 Co-found & become President of the Aboriginal Nursing Association of Canada	Jean (Cuthand) Goodwill	Cree	1974

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33 Own and operate a dance and modelling studio, Michelle Farmer's Studio of Dance and Modelling, teaching tap, jazz, ballet and modelling. She opened for business at 14 yrs. old, and danced professionally in New York City, as well as earned her Masters in Dance. She is also a talent agent, specializing in Native talent	Michelle Farmer	Cayuga	1975
34 Become an OPP Officer (Ontario Provincial Police)	Katsitsaienne (Jennifer) Martin	Mohawk	1976
35 Become a Director/President of a university. First Nations University of Canada/University of Regina was originally called the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, which was also the 1st Native controlled college in North America	Ida Wasacase	Cree	1976
36 Become a commerical pilot (Land, Sea & Block Airspace)	Dr. Alis Kennedy	Métis	1976
37 Become a lawyer	Marion Ironquill Meadmore	Ojibwe-Cree	1977
38 Become a prison guard (at the Prison for Women in Kingston)	Jane Chartrand Nokomis	Algonquin	1978
39 Attain a black belt in martial arts (Tae Kwon Do)	Janet Bernard	Mi'kmaw	1979
40 Become a medical doctor	Dr. Elizabeth Steinhauer	Cree	1980
41 Earn a Masters in education	Verna Kirkness	Cree	1980
42 Earn a Ph.D. in educational theory	Dr. Marlene Brant Castellano	Mohawk	1981
43 Succeed in having the United Nations declare Canada in breach of human rights. Indigenous woman's Indian status was revoked if she married a non-Indigenous man	Sandra Lovelace	Maliseet	1981
44 Become a Dietitian	Rhea Joseph	Gitksan	1981
45 Earn a Masters in library science	Phyllis Lerat	Cowessess	1981
46 Earn a Ph.D. in biological psychiatry	Dr. Lillian Dyck	Cree	1981
47 Become a Member of Legislative Assembly of a Territory (NDP MLA for Yukon Territories)	Margaret Commodore	Sto:lo	1982
48 Be appointed non-parliamentarian ex-officio member of a House of Commons Committee. In '89 the 1st female to serve the Legislative Assembly as Ombudsman of Ontario. And in '92 the International Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution awarded her the 1st Mary Parker Follett Award	Roberta Jamieson	Mohawk	1982
49 Win an Oscar, for the song "Up Where We Belong". Her Oscar sits in the Smithsonian, because it is the 1st in the world to be won by an Indigenous person. She was also the 1st person in the world to transmit music over the internet in '91. And quite possibly the 1st to breastfeed her baby on television, while appearing on Seseame Street in 1977	Buffy Sainte-Marie	Cree	1983
50 Be ordained by the United Church of Canada	Christina Baker	Cree	1983

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51 Produce a professional play, <i>Flight</i> , with the 1st all Indigenous cast. She also wrote the famous novel <i>Half-Breed</i> in '73	Maria Campbell	Métis	1985
52 Become a full university professor (UoA) She also wrote <i>A Concise History of Canada's First Nations</i> . The 1st Canadian Indigenous history book for university level education that was written by an Indigenous person	Dr. Olive Dickason	Métis	1985
53 Become a Chartered Accountant And the 1st Director at the Office of the Auditor General of Canada	Charlene Taylor	Heiltsuk	1986
54 Be awarded the Order of Canada for her contribution to the preservation of the Native Cultural Heritage	Angela Sydney	Tlingit/Tagish	1986
55 Direct an Indigenous documentary film called <i>Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief</i>	Carol Geddes	Tlingit	1986
56 Become an opera singer. While recovering from 2 brain tumors, she went on to win a Native music award for the cd <i>Kayas</i> , which was performed in 5 languages: Cree, English, Italian, French & Latin	Rhonda Head	Cree	1987
57 Become a Rhodes Scholar to study at Oxford University (considered one of the most prestige awards in the academic world), earning her a Masters & PHD in International Relations	Dr. Jennifer Welsh	Métis	1987
58 Become a Federal Member of Parliament (Liberal) And the 1st appointed to privy council when named Minister of State for Youth and Training in '93	Ethel Blondin-Andrew	Dene	1988
59 Anchor a national news television broadcast (CBC). She began as the weekend news anchor at 19 yrs old in '83	Carol Morin (Carol Daniels)	Cree-Chipewyan	1989
60 Become a President of a University Student Union, University of Regina	Danielle Ewenin	Cree	1989
61 Graduate with a Ph.D. in law from Harvard University. Also BC's 1st Representative for Children and Youth	Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond	Cree	1990
62 Launch Canada's first Indigenous commercial fishery	Wendy Grant-John	Musqueam	1990
63 Become a dentist. She started as a dental assistant in '73, dental nurse in '77 & dental therapist in '79	Dr. Mary Jane McCallum	Cree	1990
64 Be appointed a Provincial Court Judge	The Honourable Justice Terry Vyse	Mohawk	1991
65 Be elected Premier of a Canadian Territory (Northwest Territories)	Nellie Cournoyea	Inuit	1991
66 Earn a Masters in civil engineering	Karen Decontie	Algonquin	1991
67 Become a CEO of a steel company	Hilda Broomfield-Letemplier	Inuit	1991
68 Refuse and win the right to not pledge her oath to the Queen of England (The oath is a requirement to be called to the bar as a lawyer)	Patricia Monture-Angus	Mohawk	1992

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69 Win an Olympic medal (Bronze in 3,000 meter)	Angela Chalmers	Sioux	1992
70 Become a Journeyperson in carpentry	Deborah Nelson	Nuxalk	1992
71 Win the Grand Gold medal at the World Culinary Olympics in Germany. She was the only female chef in a 5-member team. The team was representing Native Haute Cuisine and took home the most medals (11 in total, 7 of them gold) out of the entire competition. This was also the first time a Native team participated in the competition, which consisted of 14,000 chefs from around the world	Bertha Skye	Cree	1992
72 Chair the council for Yukon Indians (CYI) when they signed the first Modern Day Treaty that included the right to self-government. In '95 she became the 1st Commissioner of the Yukon	Judy Gingell	Tagish Kwan (Southern Tutchone)	1993
73 Receive a Rudy Martin Award	Tantoo Cardinal	Cree	1993
74 Serve as the Speaker of the House (Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories) Also the 1st Cabinet Minister in NWT serving in '87	Jeannie Marie-Jewell	Dene	1993
75 Own and operate a publishing company, Kegedonce Press	Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm	Chippewas	1993
76 Be appointed a Superior High Court Judge	The Honourable Madam Justice Rose Toodick Boyko	Tsek'Ehne	1994
77 Be appointed Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs (1st person in Canada)	Mary May Simon	Inuit	1994
78 Win a Juno Award (for the album Artic Rose)	Susan Aglukark	Inuit	1995
79 Serve as Commissioner in NWT and the 1st to serve as Commissioner in Nunavut in '99	Helen Maksagak	Inuit	1995
80 Become a Provincial Member of Parliament (Liberal MHA for Newfoundland)	Yvonne Jones	Métis	1996
81 Become a Dean of a university, First Nations University of Canada	Esther Sanderson	Cree	1996
82 Own a television production company, Brenco Media Inc.	Brenda Chambers	Tlingit	1997
83 Become a Canadian Senator	Thelma Chalifoux	Métis	1997
84 Write, produce, direct and act in a dramatic film in Canada called <i>Silent Tears</i>	Dr. Shirley Cheechoo	Cree	1997
85 Become a General Surgeon (also a cancer surgeon)	Dr. Nadine Caron	Ojibwe	1997
87 Become registered midwives (they graduated from the same class)	Carol Mercedes Couchie Julie Hill	Nishnawbe Kwe Mohawk	1998
88 Become a psychiatrist	Dr. Cornelia Wieman	Ojibwe	1998

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89 Own a company that was franchised nationally, The Aboriginal Gifting Company	Marie Yvonne Delorme	Métis	1999
90 Found and own the first international executive search firm that specializes in Indigenous candidates, Higgins Executive Search	Brenda LaRose	Métis	1999
91 Become President of the first independently accredited Indigenous institution to offer its own degrees (Blue Quills First Nations College)	Leona Makokis	Cree	2000
92 Become the World Champion Hoop Dancer In the adult female and male combined division (1st female in the world)	Lisa Odjig	Odawa-Ojibwe	2000
93 Earn a Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Native American Studies (University of Berkeley)	Dr. Winona Wheeler	Assiniboine-Cree-Saulteaux	2000
94 Co-captain Canada's 1st Women's Water-polo team. They competed at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney	Waneek Horn-Miller	Mohawk	2000
95 Become a dual Justice of the Peace (Federal & Provincial, 1st person in Canada)	Her Worship Norma General-Lickers	Mohawk	2000
96 Earn a Ph.D. in Aboriginal economy	Dr. Wanda Wuttunee	Cree	2001
97 Win a gold medal at the World Champion Junior Wrestling. Also a gold in '03 at Pan American Championship Senior Wrestling	Tara Rose Hedican	Ojibwe	2001
98 Be the recipient of the Governor General's Award for outstanding contributions to equality resulting in positive change. In 1929, Ootoova participated in the Canadian court battle that resulted in women achieving the legal definition of persons	Elisapee Ootoova	Inuit	2002
99 Achieve the rank of full university professor based on traditional knowledge (Trent)	Shirley Ida Williams	Ojibwe-Odawa	2003
100 Be an Olympian for the sport of modern pentathlon (1st for both men & women). A pentathlete must compete in 5 disciplines: pistol shooting, epee fencing, 200 m freestyle swimming, show jumping & a 3 km cross-country run	Monica Pinette	Métis	2004
101 Become a Sous Chef/Pastry Chef at 24 Sussex Drive (residence of the Prime Minister of Canada)	Lea Nicholas-MacKenzie	Maliseet	2004
102 Become a RCMP Superintendent	Shirley Cuillierrier	Mohawk	2004
103 Represent Canada at the <i>Venice Biennale</i> Her video installation was titled <i>Fountain</i>	Rebecca Belmore	Ojibwe	2005
104 Law Clerk for the Supreme Court of Canada	Madeleine Redfern	Inuit	2005

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105 Launch the world's first international legal action on climate change. She claimed Inuit hunting culture may not survive the loss of sea ice and other changes projected over the coming decades. The petition alleged that greenhouse gases have violated Inuit rights as guaranteed by the 1948 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man	Sheila Watt-Cloutier	Inuit	2005
106 Participate in an international cycling expedition (Canada, Russia, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia & South Africa)	Miranda Huron	Algonquin	2005
107 File the first class action suit against the Federal Government for over 70,000 Residential School Survivors	Nora Bernard	Mi'kmaw	2005
108 Become an archaeologist	Brandy George	Chippewas	2006
110 Be nominated for a Gemini for the best dramatic series (Moccasin Flats)	Jennifer Podemski Laura J. Milliken	Saulteaux Ojibwe	2006
111 Be named as one of the Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada, by the Women's Executive Network (WXN)	Lynda Powless	Mohawk	2006
112 Have a hospital wing named after her. Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg	Ann Thomas Callahan (Wapiskisiw Piyésis Iskwéw)	Cree	2006
113 Become a climatologist	Dr. Jeannine-Marie St. Jacques	Métis	2007
114 Become a Provincial Court Judge of Manitoba	Doreen Redhead	Cree	2007
115 Sing O'Canada in her native Cree language, to a nationally televised audience. At 13 yrs old, she sang O 'Canada at the Calgary Saddledome, which was aired on the CBC's Hockey Night in Canada. Also, making NHL history	Akina Shirt	Cree	2007
116 Earn a Ph.D. in law from a Canadian university (Ottawa). Also the 1st to earn a Governor General Gold Medal for outstanding academic achievement	Dr. Tracey Lindberg	Cree-Métis	2007
117 Become a Human Rights Commissioner for Canada. She is also one of the holographic narrators at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. And in 2018, the 1st Ontario Senator, sitting in the Red Chamber	Dr. Yvonne Boyer	Métis	2008
118 Conduct the first study of 64 Canadian female chiefs	Dr. Cora Voyageur	Athabasca-Chipewyan	2008
119 Hold the most senior position at Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (formerly INAC). Her title was Senior Assistant Deputy Minister	Gina McDougall-Wilson	Algonquin	2008
120 Become a Conservative Federal Member of Parliament	Leona Aglukkaq	Inuit	2008
121 Direct a feature-length film <i>Older than America</i> . She wrote, directed and starred in the thriller and was awarded the White House Project-Epc-Award for Emerging Artists in	Georgina Lightning	Cree	2008

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122 Become a veterinarian dentist (1st person in the world)	Dr. Candace Grier-Lowe	Cree	2009
123 Lead negotiations and sign the first Modern Urban Treaty. (Tsawwassen Treaty in BC). In 2015, Kim was appointed to The Vancouver Board of Trade. This board became Canada's first major business organization with more women than men on its board of directors	Kim Baird	Tsawwassen	2009
124 Become a certified Hydro Operator (Island Falls Facility in Sandy Bay, Saskatchewan)	Nicole Stewart	Cree	2009
125 Have a solo exhibit at the National Art Gallery of Canada. In 1978, the Federal Gov't commissioned her to paint <i>The Indian in Transition</i> , on display in the National History Museum in Ottawa. At the time, this painting was the largest canvas artwork ever created by an Indigenous person	Daphne Odjig	Ojibwe	2009
126 Become a deaf medical doctor	Dr. Jessica Dunkley	Métis	2010
127 Win an Olympic medal in the Winter Games (Silver in Curling)	Carolyn Darbyshire	Métis	2010
128 Earn an Indigenous environmental studies bachelor's degree	Teyotsihstokwáthe Dakota Brant	Mohawk	2010
129 Earn a Ph.D. in geography	Dr. Cynthia Anne Jones	Nipissing	2010
130 Co-found & become President of the Aboriginal Professional Association of Canada. At age 22, she was also the youngest associate accepted into RBC's Graduate Leadership Program	Gabrielle Scrimshaw	Dene	2011
131 Earn a Ph.D. in criminology	Dr. Lisa Monchalin	Algonquin-Huron-Métis	2011
132 Be awarded a Performing Arts Award in Nunavut (for Inuit drum dancing)	Veronique Nirlungayuk	Inuit	2012
133 Be appointed a Supreme Court Justice of a Territory	Supreme Court Justice Shannon Smallwood	Dene	2012
134 Design a stained glass window that is displayed in Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The window commemorates the legacy of Indian Residential Schools	Christi Belcourt	Métis	2012
135 Join the Cdn. Olympic Boxing team (1st male or female Indigenous boxer), competing in the London Olympics	Mary Spencer	Ojibwe	2012
136 Become a Roman Catholic Saint (the 1st Indigenous person in the world)	Kateri Tekakwitha	Mohawk	2012
137 Become a Canadian Red Cross National Director, Aboriginal & Northern Affairs, Disaster Management	Melanie Goodchild	Ojibwe	2013
138 Become a RCMP Chief Superintendent. And in 2017, she became the 1st Commander of the RCMP, she joined the RCMP in 1987 as a Native Special Constable	Brenda Butterworth-Carr	Tr'ondek Hwech'in	2013
139 Earn a Masters in infrastructure protection and international security	Teresa Nadon	Algonquin	2013

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140 Be awarded the Law Society Medal. Also the 1st to run for National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations & the 1st to be called to the bar in Ontario & Saskatchewan	Delia Opekokew	Cree	2013
141 Win the Polaris Prize for best Canadian album, titled <i>Animism</i> . The album also won a Juno in '15. Tagaq's unique style originates from being an Inuit Throat Singer	Tanya Tagaq	Inuit	2014
142 Become an Anatomical (Forensic) Pathologist	Kona Williams	Cree-Mohawk	2014
143 Become a Grand Chief	Bernice Martial	Dene	2014
144 Win Canada's National Quilting Award of Excellence. The quilt is titled, <i>Pillars of Strength</i>	Veronica Puskas	Inuit	2014
145 Become a Vice President, Canadian Commission for UNESCO	Danika Billie Rose Littlechild	Cree	2014
146 Become an Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon	Dr. Lisa Phillips	Métis	2014
147 Become MRS Universe 2015, the 1st Canadian to hold this title	Ashley Callingbull (Burnham)	Cree	2015
148 Be sworn in as Chief with a traditional ceremony that hasn't been used in 150 years (Oromocto First Nation)	Shelley Sabattis	Maliseet	2015
149 Be called to the bar to be sworn in as a lawyer while wearing her traditional Indigenous ceremonial regalia	Estella Charleson	Hesquiaht	2015
150 Become the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada	Jody Wilson-Raybould	Kwakwaka'wakw	2015
151 Be elected to traditional government, Lubicon Lake Nation	Councillor Cynthia Tomlinson	Cree	2015
152 To play for Team Canada Women's Hockey, she is headed for the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea	Brigette Lacquette	Cree	2015
153 Become a Native American Advisor to USA Presidential Candidate (Democrat - Bernie Sanders)	Tara Houska	Ojibwe	2016
154 Be named the winner of the Most Influential Women List for 2016 by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS). She developed a physical activity strategy for nine Mi'kmaw communities in Nova Scotia	Krista Devoe	Mi'kmaw	2016
155 Become a Provincial Member of Parliament for BC (NDP MLA)	Melanie Mark	Nisga'a-Gitksan-Cree-Ojibwe	2016
159 Have their art showcased in an exhibit dedicated to Indigenous art & culture at the Ontario Legislature (Queen's Park). The exhibit is called 'Gathering Place'	Tracey Anthony Rebecca Baird Kristy Cameron Kelly Duquette	Ojibwe Cree Métis Métis	2016
160 Be awarded the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award for her literary work	Dr. Jeanette Armstrong	Okanagan	2016
161 Become the Director of Justice at Canada's first independant Indigenous Court for and by Indigenous People	Joyce King	Mohawk	2016

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162 Be awarded an International Children's Nobel Peace Prize. She is a clean-water advocate, in 2018 she addressed the UN and demanded that they "Warrior Up" and protect our water, she was 13 years old when delivering the UN address	Autumn Peltier	Ojibwe	2017
163 Have a public library named after her, formerly the Saskatoon Public Library	Freda Ahenakew	Cree	2017
164 Place 3rd at the Spelling Bee of Canada (1st Indigenous person ever). McKenna was an 8yr old student in grade 3	McKenna Fineblanket	Cree	2017
165 Become an airline captain and get her own commemorative stamp by Canada Post. She started her career as a flight attendant	Melissa Haney	Inuit	2017
166 Become a heart surgeon	Dr. Donna May Kimmaliardjuk	Inuit	2017
167 Become Miss Teen Canada	Emma Morrison	Cree	2017
168 Become Assembly of First Nation's Regional Chief for Alberta	Marlene Poitras	Cree	2018
170 Become pilots on a Medevac Air Ambulance Team	Raven Beardy Robyn Shlachetka	Cree Cree	2018