

# Nellie McClung

Canada is destined to be one of the great nations of the world  
and Canadian women must be ready for citizenship.

— Nellie McClung

## **1873, Chatsworth, ON – 1951, Victoria, BC**

Nellie McClung (born Nellie Letitia Mooney) was a novelist, reformer, journalist, and suffragist. Feisty and charismatic, Nellie had a way of winning over opponents with her wit and humour. But beneath that charm was an iron determination. She led the fight to enfranchise North American women, and her efforts led to Manitoba becoming the first province to grant women the right to vote and run for office in 1916.



Her move westward to Alberta naturally coincided with both Alberta and Saskatchewan granting women the right to vote soon afterwards. Nellie became a Liberal MLA for Edmonton (1921–1926) where she often worked with Irene Parlby (despite representing different political parties) on issues affecting women and children. Nellie was the first female Director of the Board of the Governors of the CBC. In 1938, she was chosen as a delegate to the League of Nations in Geneva.