

Henrietta Muir Edwards

If women had the vote there would be no need to come twice asking for better legislation for women and children.

— Henrietta Muir Edwards

1849, Montreal, QC – 1931, Fort MacLeod, AB

The eldest of the Famous Five, Henrietta Muir Edwards (born Henrietta Louise Muir), was an artist as well as a legal expert. Women and men alike often came to her for help with legal issues affecting women and children. In 1893, she helped found the National Council of Women of Canada — an organization that continues, to this day, to work to improve the quality of life for women, families and society.



Thoughtful, caring and determined, Henrietta believed, among other things, that women should not be slaves to fashion as it distracted from more important goals. She steadfastly refused to wear corsets. In addition to her work with the NCWC, she published Canada's first women's magazine and established the prototype for the Canadian YWCA. She also helped found the Victorian Order of Nurses in 1897.