Francoise Marie Jacquelin: Lioness of Acadia (Acadian) (SUPMT01)
Francoise Marie Jacquelin was an aristocratic Frenchwoman who came to Cana-
da in 1640 to marry Charles LaTour, the Governor of Acadia. Francoise had a
keen sense of adventure and looked forward to a new life in the New World, but
she walked into a war zone. Her husband’s rival, Charles D’Aulnay, also claimed
to be Governor of Acadia. In 1645, LaTour went to Boston and D’Aulnay attacked
their fort. Francoise decided to risk her life and lead her husband’s garrison into
battle.

Eliza Parker: Fighting for Freedom (African Canadian) (SUPMT02)
16-year-old Toni Parker tells the story of her great-great grandmother Eliza Par-
er. After escaping slavery in Maryland, Eliza settled in the free state of Christia-
a, Pennsylvania where she married. In 1851, the young couple were harbouring
two runaway slaves when an armed posse, led by a slave-owner, came to claim
the men back. Eliza and her husband fought them off with help from their self
defence organization. Afterwards they moved to Canada, setting up home in the
free Black community, The Elgin Settlement, which is today located in North
Buxton, Ontario, where Toni Parker and other descendents still live.

Lydia Charles: Healing Spirit, Embracing Change (Algonquian/Eastern
Woodlands) (SUPMT03)
Lydia Charles and her husband Matthew were trappers in their woodland Cree
community in La Ronge, Northern Saskatchewan. Lydia had a special role in her
community because of her sacred duties as midwife, medicine-woman, and
mortician, but lost her livelihood and her status with the arrival of European
culture and economy. She also experienced great personal tragedy. Neverthe-
less, she taught her children and grandchildren that the only way to cope with
change is to embrace it.

Mary Lee Chan: Taking On City Hall (Chinese) (SUPMT04)
Mary Lee Chan’s family came from China to Vancouver in 1879. They
struggled for generations, but in the 1950s Mary was able to buy a home near
Chinatown. Later, she discovered her neighbourhood was to be demolished as
part of a controversial urban renewal program. Mary organized her community
into the Strathcona Property Owner and Tenants Association (SPOTA). They
were determined to fight for their homes and stand up to City Hall.

Anna Markova: Forgiveness in Exile (Doukhobor) (SUPMT05)
Most of her family had escaped persecution in Russia by coming to Canada but
Anna Markova, from three generations of Russian Doukhobor leaders, disapp-
peared into the Soviet Gulag of the 1940s. Innocent of any crime, Anna spent 15
years in a gulag where millions of political prisoners died. When Anna was finally
released, she joined her family in Canada. Here she became active organizing
women in the community and became a role model for generations to come.

Aina Wilen: Fighting for the Franchise (Finnish) (SUPMT06)
Aina Wilen was 17 when she came to Canada in 1901. Like many Finnish immi-
grants women at that time, she came to Canada on her own and looked for work
as a domestic. Soon she met and married but Aina was frustrated in Canada.

Maria DiZio: Setting a Pattern for Success (Italian) (SUPMT07)
Maria DiZio and her husband, Tommaso, came to Canada in the 1950s to start a
new life. They settled in Timmins, Ontario, where many Italians found well-paid
but dangerous work in the mines. Italian women in the 1950s were expected to
stay home but when Tommaso could not work in the mines because of health
problems Maria had to work to help her family survive. She found work sewing
skating costumes in Timmins. With the $25 that she earned for her first
costume, she was able to pay the rent and feed her family for a month. In the
decades to come, Maria would develop a thriving business sewing haute couture
wedding gowns.

Kimik Murakami: Triumph Over Internment (Japanese) (SUPMT08)
Mary Kitagawa tells the story of her mother Kimiko Murakami. Kimiko and her
husband had a successful farm on Salt Spring Island in the 1930s. When Japan
attacked Pearl Harbour in 1941 Mary’s family was sent to a series of internment
camps and beet farms where they lived in dire conditions and worked for mea-
gre wages. Despite 8 years of internment, Kimiko refused to allow the children
to lose hope and was determined to return to her farm again.

Sarah Mayoff: Enterprising Against the Odds (Jewish) (SUPMT09)
Sarah Mayoff grew up in The Main, Montreal, in the 1930s – where poor Jewish
immigrants lived. Jews had their own shops and cultural centres and their main
language was Yiddish. They lived together because of discrimination in the non-
Jewish world. But young Sarah Mayoff had dreams of leaving The Main and
building a career in mainstream Montreal. In the 1940s and 50s, when women
were expected to stay at home, Sarah became one of Canada’s pioneering ca-
reer women, providing a model for generations to come.

Roshan Jamal: Faith without Boundaries (Muslim) (SUPMT10)
Roshan Jamal grew up in a traditional Muslim family in India. When she and her
husband settled in Toronto she had difficulty finding a mosque where women
and men were treated equally. Then Roshan met a philanthropist, Hassanali
Lakhani, who yearned to establish an Islamic community centre where Muslims
could practice Islam as it was practiced at the time of the Prophet Mohammed
– with a stress on justice and gender equality. It was a struggle, but by 2004, the
two opened the innovative Noor Cultural Centre in Toronto where women and
men could pray and study together in an open and democratic environment.
The centre has grown increasingly popular with Muslims of all cultural backgronds
and sects.

Juliet Karugahe: Between Two Worlds (Rwandan) (SUPMT11)
Juliet Karugahe is a 23-year-old student at the University of Toronto, but she has
spent most of her life as a refugee in Kenya and Uganda. Juliet’s parents, who
escaped ethnic strife in Rwanda in the 1950s, always dreamed of returning to
their homeland. In 1994, Tutsi refugees were finally allowed to return to Rwanda
after a brutal civil war in which over a million Tutsis were massacred. When the
Karugahe family returned, it wasn’t the happy reunion they had hoped for. Her
journey to find a place to call home had only just begun.

Martha Bielish: Giving Rural Women a Voice (Ukrainian) (SUPMT12)
Senator Martha Bielish was the daughter of impoverished immigrants from
Ukraine. She grew up in rural Alberta where women in her community suffered
from isolation and a lack of education. As an adult, Martha devoted her life to
easing the plight of rural women. Her work, first for the Alberta Women’s Insti-
tute, then for the Associated Countrywomen of the World, would earn her an
appointment to the Canadian Senate in 1979. But her involvement with the
cause she loved came at a steep price.

May Truong: Coasting on a Dream (Vietnamese) (SUPMT13)
24-year old May Truong was born on a sinking boat in the South China Sea. Her
parents were Sino-Vietnamese refugees who risked their lives to escape the
communist regime in Vietnam. Since her dramatic birth on turbulent waters,
May’s life has been an epic journey to discover where she belongs. Is she Viet-
namese? Is she Chinese? Is she Canadian? While exploring her parent’s story,
May learns a lot more about herself.

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