

International Women's Day 2010

March 8 is International Women's Day, celebrated in Canada and around the world. It is a day when women's political, social and economic achievements are recognized and when women can unite to plan for the future.

Historically, the first National Women's Day was observed in the United States in 1909 following a declaration by the Socialist Party of America. The following year in Copenhagen an international day was established at the Socialist International meeting. In the following years International Women's Day was adopted by more and more countries and became part of many social and political revolutionary movements.

The Charter of the United Nations, signed in 1945, included affirmation of the principle of equality between men and women. In 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations began sponsoring International Women's Day and set March 8 as the day it would be celebrated. For 2010 the U.N. theme for IWD is **Equal Rights, equal opportunities: Progress for all.**

In Canada the Federal Government agency the *Status of Women Canada* has stated that the theme for IWD for 2010 is **Strong Leadership, Strong Women, Strong World: Equality.** There are events planned throughout Canada to celebrate IWD and International Women's Week (March 7-13)

There is a web site which lists events held to commemorate IWD, both internationally and locally:

www.internationalwomensday.com