

# Chapter 19

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## Women's Class Strategies as Activism

### In Native Community Building in Toronto, 1950-1975

Heather A. Howard

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#### Questions for Critical Reading

1. How did “woman’s work” contribute to building Aboriginal cultural identities? Think of the examples of Verna Johnston and Ella Rush.
2. While historians have examined the intersections between race and gender in terms of Aboriginal women’s experiences, class has been relatively understudied. How does a class-based analysis add to our understanding of Aboriginal women’s experiences in urban areas?
3. Elaborate on the importance of the clubs to First Nations women and First Nations communities, more broadly.
4. What do the various recollections tell us about Native women’s adaptability in the urban context?

#### List of Primary Sources

- “The Alberta Committee for Indian Rights for Indian Women, Gibbons, Albert.” Harris, Pamela. Photograph. N.d.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=4326458&rec\\_nbr\\_list=4326458](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4326458&rec_nbr_list=4326458)
- “Headquarters – Correspondence concerning the seminar conference at the University of Toronto and Yale on the Northern American Indian today.” Text. 1939-1943.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=2075991&rec\\_nbr\\_list=2075991](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2075991&rec_nbr_list=2075991)
- “Group at First Meeting of Indian Advisory Council for Ontario at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto.” Photograph. 1965.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=4298018&rec\\_nbr\\_list=4298018](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4298018&rec_nbr_list=4298018)
- “Nurse Interacting with Baby who is on Mother’s Back outside of the Native Family’s Home.” Photograph. c.1950.

[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3603832&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3603832](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3603832&rec_nbr_list=3603832)

- “A Registered Nurse Explaining some Health Material.” Photograph. 1958.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3603643&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3603643](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3603643&rec_nbr_list=3603643)
- “Native Nurses-in-Training are Standing beside a Bed with a Dummy Propped upon the Pillows.” Photograph. 1960.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3603689&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3603689](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3603689&rec_nbr_list=3603689)
- “Indian Treaty Rights.” Soop, Everett. Drawing. 1974.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3026072&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3026072](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3026072&rec_nbr_list=3026072)
- “Group Portrait Outside Indian Leadership Institute, University of Western Ontario, London. Photograph. 1963.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=4298015&rec\\_nbr\\_list=4298015](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4298015&rec_nbr_list=4298015)
- “Meeting on Self-government.” Photograph. 1965  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=4298016&rec\\_nbr\\_list=4298016](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=4298016&rec_nbr_list=4298016)
- “Miss A. Thomas, Registered Nurse.” Photograph. 1960.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=3574712&rec\\_nbr\\_list=3574712](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=3574712&rec_nbr_list=3574712)
- “The Things that Make Us Beautiful.” Kukkuvak, Marie. Photograph of Necklace. Late 20<sup>th</sup> century.  
[http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam\\_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec\\_nbr=2970113&rec\\_nbr\\_list=2970113](http://collectionscanada.gc.ca/pam_archives/index.php?fuseaction=genitem.displayItem&lang=eng&rec_nbr=2970113&rec_nbr_list=2970113)
- “Indian Red Paper Brief to Government.” 1970. Photograph.  
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## Multimedia Resources

- Information on Urban Aboriginals  
<http://www.turtleisland.org/news/news-urban.htm>
- Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres  
<http://www.ofifc.org/>

- Native Women's Association of Toronto  
[www.nwac.ca](http://www.nwac.ca)
- No More Stolen Sisters  
[www.amnesty.ca/our-work/campaigns/no-more-stolen-sisters](http://www.amnesty.ca/our-work/campaigns/no-more-stolen-sisters)
- Native Women in the Arts  
[www.nwia.ca](http://www.nwia.ca)