The Adventure:
When World War I broke out, women did not have the right to vote federally or provincially in Canada. When hundreds of thousands of men enlisted in the Armed Forces during World War I, however, things changed. Women took on many jobs to which they were not previously welcome, and they became more involved in politics. One goal many women shared was the right to vote.

Their contributions did not go unrecognized. In 1917, the federal government was persuaded to give the right to vote—called ‘suffrage’—to women related to soldiers. Shortly afterward, the same right was extended to all other Canadian women.

To understand how Canadian women felt before World War I, do things differently when planning your next adventure. Divide your Patrol into two random and equal groups, then flip a coin. The winning side has the vote, while the others do not get to vote. Plan your Adventure: decide what you are going to do, where you will go, what you will eat and so on. The members of the Patrol who cannot vote can take part by trying to persuade those who can vote that they have some good ideas to share.

Plan:
- When and where will you share this adventure?
- How will you make up your teams?
- Is there an actual upcoming adventure that you can practise planning?
- Will you take turns in the voting and non-voting roles?

Do:
- Find out what it feels like to not have a say when important decisions are being made. Do what you can to make your ideas heard!

Review:
- What do you know now that you did not know before?
- How did it feel to not have the vote?
- How did it feel to have the vote, knowing that half of your Patrol did not?
- How did those who could not vote influence the others?

Online Resources:
- Women’s Rights in Canada
- Women and War
- Women’s Suffrage in Newfoundland
- Women Get the Vote

Safety note:
While women could not vote before the First World War, they still had important conversations with the men in their lives. The Scouts with the power to vote must be polite to those who do not (and vice-versa).

Photo on opposite: suffragist Nellie McClung

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