

Flora Power: No Boundaries, No Limits

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A pioneering political feminist tells her extraordinary story for the first time.

If Flora MacDonald had been born twenty years later, she might well have been Canada's first female prime minister. As it was, the Cape Breton-born politician broke down the invisible door that barred women from high office. That's the kind of woman she is: a pioneer, cheerily breezing through barriers erected against women as if they do not exist, blazing paths that today we take for granted.

Her political career is studded with "firsts": the only Tory woman elected to Parliament in the 1972 election, she was the first woman ever, anywhere in the world, to serve as foreign minister, the first serious female candidate to run for the Tory leadership (in 1976), and, surprisingly, the first MP to open a constituency office.

After she lost her seat in the 1988 "free-trade" election (she was no fan of Mulroney, nor is she of Stephen Harper), Flora found a new vocation in assisting people in the developing world. Her sense of adventure is irrepressible, and she has now visited exactly one hundred countries, some of them many times. This is the story of her remarkable life, complete with details about campaign strategies, leadership battles, and heated cabinet discussions that have never before been revealed.

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