E. Margaret Fulton
1922 - 2014

Ethel Margaret Futers Fulton was a leading activist during Canada's 'second wave' feminist movement. Her work as a teacher and administrator helped achieve lasting change for women in politics and education, here and abroad.

Margaret was born in Brittle, Manitoba, in 1922, just one year before women were constitutionally recognized as "people". She began her career as a teacher in a one-room school near her hometown, a post she occupied from 1942 to 1953. In 1955, she earned her BA from the University of Manitoba. She then obtained her MA at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1960 and her Ph.D. at the University of Toronto in 1969. She taught literature at Wilfried Laurier University for seven years, until she was offered the position of Dean of Women at UBC in 1974, where she had been an Adjunct Professor since 1969. She kept this position until it was eliminated in 1978 but remained an Adjunct Professor at UBC until 1996. From there, she was appointed President of Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), in Halifax, a post she held until her retirement in 1986. During both her tenures, she vigorously fought on-campus sexism and cleared a curricular space for women's issues. Notably, she helped shape MSVU into a "centre for feminist scholarship and for community interaction". Her institutional feminism served a pivotal role in cementing Women's Studies as a core program in universities across the country. She solidified this new vision abroad by becoming Vice-Chair of the Women's World Summit Foundation and by joining numerous other organizations fighting for women's rights. At the early stages of her career as an educator, she discovered her talent for public speaking, a skill she used to advocate for gender equality, peace, justice, and the protection of nature.

In recognition of her lifework, Fulton was awarded 15 honorary degrees, including one from the University of Winnipeg in 1985. She was also

named an Officer in the Order of Canada the same year, received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012. She died in 2014 at the age of 91.