Joan Sangster, *Demanding Equality: One Hundred Years of Canadian Feminism* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2021), 470pp. Hardback. C\$45.00. ISBN: 978-0-7748-6606-4

Joan Sangster has written an impressively detailed and inclusive history of feminism in Canada from the 1880s to the 1980s. Her definition of feminism includes all 'women's efforts to secure equality, autonomy and dignity,' and she wisely includes women who did not self-identify as feminists, but who were concerned with gender oppression while also fighting for class and racial justice. (p.4) The book pays particular attention to collective struggles against injustice. Sangster has provided international audiences with an impressive window into the history of feminism in Canada – she shows the ways Canadian feminists were influenced by their international peers, especially the American feminist movement, while also demonstrating the uniqueness of the feminist movement in Canada, which has been shaped by Canada's colonial past, its immigration history and tensions between the French and the English. One of Sangster's key points is that the 'wave' metaphor of feminist action provides a misleading history of feminism in Canada. It obscures the contributions of left-wing and racialized women, ignores the ideological diversity of the feminist movement over time, and over-emphasizes certain struggles like voting and the fight for birth control and abortion.

Sangster's range of sources is impressive. She writes about novels, mainstream newspapers, *Chatelaine* (Canada's leading women's magazine) and the alternative press. At the same time, she pays careful attention to women's political advocacy, and to a multitude of feminist organizations including trade unions, peace groups, business and professional women's clubs and local status of women committees. Her geographic reach is also noteworthy – there are stories here of feminist action across the country, although the focus is more on English-speaking Canada than on French-speaking Canada.

There are familiar figures in this history: Nellie McClung (the novelist and suffragist); Agnes McPhail (Canada's first female member of parliament) Doris Anderson (the feminist editor of *Chatelaine*); and Rosemary Brown (a well-known human rights advocate and New Democratic Party member of the British Columbia legislature, who was born in Jamaica). But there are also many lesser-known figures. The chapter on 'Liberating Feminism' opens with Yvonne Piche, a Cree woman from the Saddle Lake Reserve, setting up a tepee with her four children in Edmonton's Sir Winston Churchill Square to protest discrimination against and lack of housing for Indigenous women. A chapter on socialist and labour feminism introduced me to Marie Joussaye, a poet and domestic worker, who tried to organize domestic workers into a union, but also marched with other suffragists to demand the vote from the Ontario legislature. Given Sangster's attention to collective action, this is not just a history of 'great women'. She also pays significant attention to groups like the Canadian Negro Women's Organization (which grew out of a social club in Ontario); the fight by Mohawk women to have their traditional rights as clan mothers recognized by the federal government; and a strike of Bell telephone workers in 1979-80.

One of the huge strengths of the book is Sangster's attention to women's peace activism and labour activism throughout the hundred years being examined here. While the anti-nuclear peace group, the Voice of Women, has long been seen as an incubator of second-wave feminism, Sangster addresses women's pacifism before and after

World War I, especially the work of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which mobilized feminists in the interwar years to fight for causes ranging from the end of cadet training in schools to the struggle against fascism in the 1930s. Similarly, Sangster shows the importance of feminist leadership in socialist and agrarian movements in the first half of the twentieth century. In the years after World War II, she details the struggle to organize female-dominated workplaces in the 1970s and 1980s as well as the fight for pay equity and the struggle against the exploitative temporary foreign worker program, which has brought racial minority workers to Canada for domestic labour.

Demanding Equality celebrates the vibrancy and diversity of the feminist movement in Canada, but Sangster does not shy away from criticizing the feminist movement. She calls out the racism of some feminist leaders and the failure of most to recognize Canada's internal colonialism. She recognizes the homophobia that too-often hindered feminist organizing. It is an impressively balanced account that will undoubtedly become required reading for gender and women's history classes across the country.

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