



Canadian Women  
in Medicine

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June 1, 2024

Canadian Medical Hall of Fame  
100 Kellogg Lane, Unit 10  
London, Ontario, N5W 0B4

Dear Selection Committee:

It is with great privilege and reverence that we nominate Dr. Jennie Kidd Trout to be posthumously inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

Dr. Trout was a pioneer for gender equity in the medical profession. As the first female physician to acquire medical licensure in Canada, she overcame adversity and paved the way for female physicians in Canada to have the confidence and the courage to pursue a career in medicine. Based on data published by the Canadian Medical Association, it is anticipated that as of the year 2030 over 50% of practicing Canadian physicians will be female (CMA 2023). Female physicians make irrefutable contributions to the health and wellness of Canadians. By demonstrating that it is both possible and plausible for women to practice and excel within the field of medicine, Dr. Trout is undoubtedly deserving of our utmost respect and recognition.

Dr. Trout was born in 1841 in Scotland but she moved to Ontario, Canada in 1847. In 1871, she began her pursuit of a career in medicine and was one of the first two females admitted to a medicine qualifying course at the Toronto School of Medicine. Dr. Trout passed her qualifying course in 1871 but unfortunately, at the time, no Canadian medical schools admitted females for formal medical training. This did not deter Dr. Trout. She traveled to the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania and obtained her medical degree in 1875. She then moved back to Canada and later that year, on March 11, 1875 she passed the examinations of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. She became the first licensed female physician in Canada.

The barriers faced by Dr. Trout are not insignificant. Anecdotally, Dr. Trout faced opposition and hostility from her male colleagues and professors in her medical qualifying course. Dr. Trout, however, persisted and passed her qualifying course. The inability to obtain a medical degree in Canada also did not stop Dr. Trout from pursuing her career ambitions. Despite not being able to obtain her degree in Canada, she returned to Canada after receiving her degree elsewhere to provide her expertise and service to the Canadian population. The tenacity of Dr. Trout to continue to pursue education and training in the face of blatant sexism and prejudice is both admirable and inspiring.