

Louise McKinney

The purpose of a woman's life is just the same as the purpose of a man's life: that she may make the best possible contribution to the generation in which she is living.

— Louise McKinney

1868, Frankville, ON – 1931, Claresholm, AB

Louise McKinney (born Louise Crummy) was a lifelong organizer and staunch supporter of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). The WCTU was a worldwide organization that sought to protect women and children, particularly by eliminating what they saw as the destructive influence of alcohol.

Determined, hardworking and outspoken, Louise's activism helped give women the right to vote in Alberta, and led to the Prohibition of alcohol in 1916 (which was later repealed in 1923). She also championed the first Dower Act in Alberta — a bill that gave women the right to prevent the sale or mortgage of their homes without their knowledge.

In 1917, Louise was elected as an Independent to the Alberta Legislature. This made her the first woman elected to sit as a Member of any Legislative Assembly in the British Empire.

