

# **Education Empowers:**

## **Personal Reflections**

**Hon. Lillian Eva (Quan) Dyck, PhD, DLitt**  
**Saskatchewan Senator**

[www.sen.parl.gc.ca/ldyck/](http://www.sen.parl.gc.ca/ldyck/)

**CFUW Sept 14-2013**




(photo removed)






Gr 12 Graduation, 1963

Senate of Canada



## ● Why did I go to university?

- Right time, lucky to be smart
  - No choice – needed to support myself!
  - Not for an “MRS”
  - University education leads to higher salary and a more satisfying job.
  
  - Nowadays – higher cost - ?able \$\$ benefit
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- B.A. Chem, 1966
  - Year off
  - B.A. Honors Biochem, 1968
  - M.Sc., Biochem, 1970
  - Marriage, son, working
  - PhD, Biological Psiat, 1981
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# What's changed on campus since 1963?

1963:

- ~0 Aboriginals
- UG women a minority
- Overt sexism, racism
- SEM female faculty rare

2013:


- ~1700 Aboriginals
  - UG women the majority
  - Subtle sexism, racism
  - Still under-represented
- 



# 1963

- Date rape
- Sexism accepted  
(Lady Godiva ride OK)  
(rape chants OK)  
(sexist jokes OK)  
(sexual imagery low)

# 2013

- Date rape drugs
  - Not acceptable  
(no longer occurs)  
(rape chant decried)  
(sexist jokes ??)  
(sexual imagery  
common – games,  
videos, movies)
- 



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# WEEKENDER

BREAKING NEWS AT THESTARPHOENIX.COM


SECTION E      SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

## Campuses struggle with pervasive 'rape culture'


Controversial frosh week chants bring awareness to toleration of sexual violence

DOUGLAS QUAN


Judging from the swift reac- the party line and then go off to




# Taking leadership as a Woman

- Dealing with porno files on a lab computer:
    - Reporting it
    - Being told ‘we can’t do anything’!
    - Deleting them anyways!
    - Calling in IT to give a talk
- 






Women's centres and WGST departments are still essential to counteract sexism and achieve equity.

- Are campus women's centres still supported?
  - Where are our WGST departments?
  - What about sexual harassment officers?
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# First Ministers' Spouses


Cartoon depicting  
the premiers' spouses who  
are all men






# **My story: from Pauper to Pharmaceutical Priestess to Parliamentarian**

- Despite the odds (the obstacles):
    - being ashamed of being Indian
    - being picked on as a Chinese girl
    - moving from small town to small town
    - in rural SK and AB
    - being poor, being shy
    - mother died when I was in gr 5.
    - father died when I was in gr 12.
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- Despite being undervalued as a Prof  
and unbelievable harassment


I became a Full Professor  
an Associate Dean, CGSR  
and a Senator






# Finding my Brand – my Label

- The Go-To Person for equity issues
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# Hitting Rock Bottom lead to Finding Inner Power

- Mid-1990's
    - Divorce
    - Bullying at work
    - Walking home – crying
  
  - My mother's words
- 




# My Rewards

- The unexpected thank you's
  - Knowing I've made a positive difference in someone's life.
- 




# My proudest moment as a scientist


- Saying “NO” to joining Alviva
  - Runner-up – my 1<sup>st</sup> sole author paper
- 





## 2005 - Summoned to the Senate

- Why me?
  - Because I was a highly educated.
  - Because I'm an Aboriginal female.
  - Because I had a public profile.
  - Because I did public work that I was told not to do! Speaking about equity issues, discrimination, WIS, Aboriginals.
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# Taking leadership as a racialized person

- Speaking about discriminatory laws
  - Affecting Chinese
  - Affecting Aboriginals
- Speaking in the senate on bills affecting FNs





# Re-grounding


(Photos removed)






One must also laugh

(photo removed)



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- Education is our buffalo.
  - L' éducation est notre bison.
  - Paskwa mooswa kis-kinaw mah-sowin
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