

you will  
~~not~~  
fail!

Black Women  
can't  
be a  
lawyer

We  
believe  
in  
you!

A lawyer!  
You ~~don't~~  
have  
to be a  
housewife!

you can't  
do  
it

you  
can  
do it!





# Violet King Henry

By Arianna Smith

Violet King Henry, an inspiring heroine who took initiative to change history. After many years of being discriminated against for her race and gender, she did what many would deem to be unacceptable and dishonorable. She proved many wrong, she was the first black woman to be called to the Alberta Bar and was the first black female lawyer, all before she was even 40 years old. Like Violet King, I don't want to sit around and contribute to society's low standards for women. I want to succeed as she did, I want to contribute to Canada's society like she has. Within my school community, I've been a part of different programs and clubs, like a STEM program that was at my school. I was able to learn about science, things that would normally be considered for men. I was a part of my school's AMA patrol team for two years, I was able to keep children and parents safe as they crossed the streets. Although people would think of it as a job for men, something that would be burdening for a female, I found that the job is no harder for a woman than it is for a man. I wish to strive in life and become a lawyer, just like Violet King, so that I can also pursue my dreams even if I am considered disgraceful in the eyes of the world's inhumane standards. Like Violet King Henry said, "People told me it wasn't a good idea for a girl, particularly a coloured girl to be a lawyer, so I went ahead." That quote is inspiring to me, it shows that even when people told her it wasn't a good idea, and said things that could discourage someone she took it as a reason to do it. She didn't care what people thought, she showed many leadership qualities throughout her life and to me, that is the most inspiring thing that someone can do.

To display her courageous efforts to make Canada a better environment, I've shown Violet in both clothes of a lawyer and also the clothing she wore when she was interviewed. Papers in the background that have been torn and "edited" with red pen. The red pen crosses off words and adds new words, changing the narrative from a masculine ruled society to an egalitarian society. Below her is a pathway, and path that she strived to build, a legacy for those who have nowhere to go and chose to pursue law. Although the path has thorns and spikes, her footprints are forever engraved into the trail, her path wasn't smooth sailing, but with her perseverance and determination she was able to push through and succeed.

## References:

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