

# Violet King

By Miel Gonzales

Have you ever heard of someone who changed Alberta for the better? Well let me tell you about....Violet King, the first black female to become a lawyer in Canada. Violet King is a true Alberta Champion who continues to inspire people in today's world. When I first learned about her I was truly amazed by the things she had done in her lifetime because she could've let the negativity of people stop her, instead she went ahead and made many achievements. This is the story of someone who inspired me with her courage, passion, determination, and dedication.

Violet Pauline King was born on October 18 1929. Her parents are John King and Stella King and her siblings are Ted King, Lucille King, and Vern King. King's family faced discrimination In West Hillhurst Community because they were the first black family to move into that neighborhood, a neighbor tried to use a racist petition to keep them out of the area. King went to highschool at Crescent Heights High School, that was when she developed her love and passion for law. In her grade 12 yearbook she wrote "Violet wants to be a criminal lawyer."

When King was pursuing her career, people said many negative things to her, she even made a quote about it "People told me it wasn't a good idea for a girl to become a lawyer, specifically a colored girl, so I went ahead." That's one of the many amazing things about King, she could've let the negativity stop her, but she didn't. This dedicated woman worked as a pianist to finance her studies, she attended The University of Alberta in 1948 and she was one of only three women in the faculty of law!

In 1952 King received her Bachelor of Arts degree, and in 1953 she obtained her LLB degree. And Finally King got titled the first Black Woman to graduate law school in Alberta, and Canada she was the one and only woman in her graduating class! In 1954 June 2 King got called to the Alberta Bar, and became the first black female to practise law in Canada. When she got called to the Alberta bar she made HEADLINES in several local newspapers, people described it as a huge milestone in the history of Canada. Throughout her career she was a strong advocate for women and racial equality.

Violet King did many important, impressive, and inspiring things in her lifetime but sadly, she passed away on March 30, 1982 at the age of 52 from cancer. Even though Violet King passed away, her legacy is still alive, she broke down racial and gender barriers, and was a big part of paving the way for people in future generations who aspire to become a lawyer. Her actions have helped many people, especially people who were afraid of what other people would think if they pursued their dreams. She was living proof that someone's race and gender can't limit someone's potential in the law field.

Violet is a real inspiration to me because one of my dreams is to become a criminal lawyer and learning about this courageous hero gives me confidence to go on with my dream. Truely, she strengtheneth my passion and dedication of becoming a lawyer. She showed me that even one person can make a big difference in history by just pursuing their dreams. After learning about Violet King, I aspire to become a good lawyer with a good heart just like her. She also inspired me to learn more about marginalized communities and to be a voice for them. King has inspired me to look at things from a different angle and to stand up for people who are getting

discriminated against because of their gender, race, and beliefs. I want to be a role model and a good example like her too, like in our buddy classroom sometimes we work with the kindergartens, we do many activities together. She has helped me realize that my perseverance is one of the most important things if you're pursuing your dreams.

Without a doubt, Violet King has made history in the law industry. Even after her lifetime, her work continues to inspire people, her work inspires people to be more courageous and to stop always caring about what others think. Her lifetime was full of achievements and challenges, just imagine how much discrimination and how many times people have tried bringing her down, yet, she chose to continue her story. This inspiring woman's courage and passion definitely broke doors and shattered glass ceilings for many, from her actions to her words, all of it proves that even one person who follows their dreams and chooses to continue despite other people trying to bring them down, and despite people's negativity, even one person who ignores all of it and chooses to continue following their dreams can really make history. You should absolutely try hard and pursue your dreams, because who knows, maybe you could be the one that makes history.

## Resources

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/violet-king>

<https://www.torontomu.ca/criminaljusticefirsts/courts/Violet-King/>

<https://www.hsca.ca/blog/2024/1/28/building-social-and-community-life-violet-king-and-theodore-king#:~:text=She%20was%20also%20Canada's%20first,these%20>