



University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.

Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montreal April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### THE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF MONTREAL (UWCM) IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT ONE OF ITS FOUNDING MEMBERS, ELIZABETH. C. MONK, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED HISTORIC PERSONAGE

To commemorate International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2019, Ms. Nathalie Roy, Quebec Ministre de la Culture et des Communications and Ministre responsable de la Langue française designated Elizabeth C. Monk a "Historic personage" under the Cultural Heritage Act.

#### ABOUT ELIZABETH C. MONK

Elizabeth Monk (1888-1980) graduated in Civil Law at the Faculty of Law, McGill University, in 1923. She was the first woman to win the faculty's gold medal for academic excellence. Because of sex-based discrimination in law at that time, Monk had to fight for 20 years before becoming one of the first two women officially admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1942. She was one of the first women to sit as a Montreal city counsellor in 1940. She was the first Quebec woman lawyer to receive a Queen's counsel designation in 1955.

Over her illustrious career as a corporate lawyer, she advocated for the advancement of women within the legal profession, the political arena and in Quebec society. She was president of the UWCM from 1932 to 1938.

Because of her pioneer work, Monk and seven others were designated **historic personage** and are registered at the Registre du patrimoine culturel du Québec. Henceforth, Elizabeth C. Monk is part of the Registre du patrimoine culturel du Québec: <http://www.patrimoine-culturel.gouv.qc.ca>

#### ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF MONTREAL INC.

The UWCM was founded in 1927 in Montreal by women university graduates involved in promoting quality education for girls and women. UWCM is a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), a non-partisan, voluntary, self-funded organization with over 100 Clubs and 8,400 members, located in every province of Canada. Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women and girls, and to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace in Canada. CFUW holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. CFUW regularly sends a delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. CFUW is affiliated with Graduate Women International (GWI), located in Geneva, and is also member of the International Alliance of Women.

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