# **Women’s History Month writing prompts**

People have multiple identities that cannot be separated – such as age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, class, ability, language. These collectively form a person’s lived experience. Society tends to focus on identities in a vacuum – being EITHER queer OR a woman OR able-bodied – but you cannot disentangle a person’s experience based on individual characteristics. They all happen at the same time, and their effects build upon each other. This concept is known as “intersectionality”.

TBS Social Media welcomes and encourages contributions, including personal stories, from women with intersectional identities, such as Black women, Indigenous women, racialized women, women living with a disability, women with a first language other than English or French.

**Now, on to the questions!**

Feel free to answer one or a few, or jump ahead to the last question, and write your own piece:

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you joined the federal public service.
2. What has been your most memorable experience that informed or shaped your professional experience and helped you to step into your current role?
3. Who were some of the influential figures for you growing up? In your personal life, historical figures, fictional protagonists, etc.?
4. Did you have trouble finding figures with whom to identify? Was there something specific to your interests or experience that you were looking for in a guiding figure that was difficult to find?
5. This year’s theme for Women’s History Month is "Women Making History Now”. Is there an historic or contemporary story, or a personality related to women, trans women, genderfluid or non-binary communities that you really want people to know about?
6. Tell us about the aspects of your culture, nationality, regional or linguistic identity that influenced you to become the person you are today, and who you want to be in the future.
7. What guidance or advice would you give your younger self entering the public service? Or, if you’re a new employee, what do you want managers to know about being a young professional woman entering the federal public service and how best to support and develop them?
8. What guidance or advice would you give to your younger self or to women, trans women, genderfluid and non-binary people considering going into the field of STEM, digital or other non-traditional fields where these genders are under-represented?
9. What are some ways in which you work to inspire, develop and support other women, trans women, genderfluid and non-binary people?
10. The pandemic has been hard on everyone, but has had particular impacts on women, trans women, genderfluid and non-binary people. What have been your sources of strength throughout the pandemic? How has the pandemic influenced your priorities?
11. Learning to listen more carefully to the lived experiences of Black, Indigenous, marginalized people and people of colour is important to telling the Canadian story.
    * What is something that you have learned or want others to know about these important voices and stories?
    * What would you say to colleagues who are unsure of how to support their colleagues who are Black, Indigenous or people of colour?
12. How do you maintain the balance of protecting your energy, while still being active and involved in an institution/society grappling with racism, sexism, homophobia, misogyny and discrimination?
13. How are you working to be an agent of change to challenge racism and other forms of discrimination within your spheres of influence (work, family, social, online communities)?
14. What are some things, or who are some of the people that bring you joy?

1. There are many commemorative campaigns happening in the month of October, that may relate to your work, or have personal meaning for you. Feel free to use your piece to also share your thoughts on (but not limited to) these special events of note
   * Cyber Security Awareness Month
   * Disability Employment Awareness Month
   * Mental Health Month
   * Healthy Workplace Month
   * Islamic History Month
   * Breast Cancer Awareness Month
   * Mental Illness Awareness Week
2. Other/write your own short paragraph: