



# JEWISH HERITAGE MONTH



## NOTABLE JEWISH CANADIANS

### Stephen Lewis



Stephen Lewis is the son of former federal NDP leader David Lewis and the grandson of Moishe Lewis (1888-1950), an activist in the Jewish Bund in Russia and the Jewish Labour Committee in Montreal.

After working for several years as a labour mediator, columnist and broadcaster, in 1984 Lewis was appointed Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations by Governor General Jeanne Sauvé, on the advice of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Lewis served at the post until 1988.

From 1995 to 1999, Lewis was Deputy Director of UNICEF. From 2001 until 2006, he worked as United Nations UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

### Leonard Cohen



Leonard Cohen was born in Montreal. Through his work as a Canadian singer, songwriter, author, poet, and artist, he examined a wide range of subjects from politics to religion, often exploring his Jewish roots. He won many awards including the Companion of the Order of Canada and the Glenn Gould Prize.

### Jennifer Podemski



Jennifer Podemski is an award winning Film and Television Producer and Actor born and raised in Toronto, Canada.

Of mixed First Nations and Israeli decent, Jennifer began her acting career as a teen. Her career blossomed when she was cast as Pique in CBC's The Diviners followed by a starring role in Bruce McDonald's Dance Me Outside.

Most recently, Jennifer can be seen as Dr. Crowshoe on the award winning drama series Blackstone; HBO's Sensitive Skin with Kim Cattrall and in FireSong, written and directed by Adam Garnett Jones.

Jennifer still makes time for training aboriginal youth in film and TV, mentoring and holding self esteem workshops across the US and Canada.

### Paula Abdul



You probably know Paula Abdul as a judge on American Idol and the X-Factor. What you might not know about her is that she is Jewish! You don't believe us? We couldn't believe it either. Abdul's father was born into the Syrian-Jewish community, while her mother grew up to Ashkenazi parents in Manitoba, Canada.

### Helen Freedhoff



Helen Sarah Freedhoff (January 9, 1940 – June 10, 2017) was a Canadian theoretical physicist who studied the interaction of light with atoms. She gained her doctorate at the University of Toronto in 1965 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Imperial College in London. Freedhoff was the first woman appointed as a physics professor at York University in Toronto, and is believed to have been the only woman professor of theoretical physics in Canada at the time.

### Nathan Phillips



Phillips was first elected to Toronto City Council in 1926 and was the first Jewish mayor of Toronto. He served as mayor from 1955 until 1962, after thirty-six years in municipal politics. Phillips was dubbed "mayor of all the people". Nathan Phillips is best remembered as the driving force behind the construction of Toronto's New City Hall and the selection of a striking avant-garde design by Finnish architect Viljo Revell. Nathan Phillips Square was named in honour of the mayor.