 **What Impact Did Inventors**

**and Pioneers Have?**

**Introduction**

* Late 1800s and early 1900s was a period when many inventors and pioneers had an influence on the development of Canada;
* Some directly helped businesses expand, or people to live better lives;
* Others pioneered new roles for women or better schools for children.

**George Ross (1841-1914)**

* Ontario Minister of Education (1883-1896);
* Premier (1899-1905);
* Improved education system and built many schools to meet the increase in population;
* Reduced tensions and issues concerning education system including religion and language in schools.

**Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922)**

* Scottish immigrant;
* Worked with father as a speech therapist;
* Interested in how sounds are transmitted;
* Developed first telephone system in 1876;
* First demonstration in Brantford, Ontario.

**John A.D. McCurdy (1886-1961)**

* Partner in the Aerial Experimental Association at Baddeck, NS;
* Worked with Alexander Graham Bell to develop a “flying machine”;
* Launched more than 200 short flights before great success in 1909;
* “Silver Dart” was first powered airplane to take flight in the British Empire.

**Adam Beck (1857-1925)**

* Business person in London, Ontario;
* Later elected mayor;
* 1905, persuaded the Ontario government to develop a hydroelectric plant in Niagara Falls;
* Began operations in 1910;
* Electrical machines began replacing steam-powered ones.

**Martha Black (1866-1957)**

* Came from Chicago;
* Prospected for gold in Yukon in 1890s, and later ran a sawmill;
* Later became a member of Parliament;
* Member of Royal Geographical Society in 1917;
* Second female member of Parliament.

**Robert Samuel McLaughlin (1871-1972)**

* Worked in carriage-building business in Oshawa with father and brother;
* 1908, expanded the business to include automobile production;
* Built Buicks and Chevrolets for American company;
* 1918, GM bought the business and employed 3000 people.

**Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937)**

* Born in Italy;
* Interested in electricity and radio waves;
* Believed it was possible to send signals across the Atlantic;
* 1901, launched a kite containing a radio antenna in to the air at Signal Hill in St. John’s, Nfld;
* Received signals back from Cornwall, England 3500 km away.

**Mabel Hubbard Bell (1857-1923)**

* Born in Boston;
* Deaf at age of five from Scarlet fever;
* Married Alexander Graham Bell in 1877;
* First editors of a magazine published by National Geographical Society;
* Assisted her husband and McCurdy in many of their experiments including the “Silver Dart”;
* Strong interest in women’s rights.

**Conclusion**

* These pioneers and inventors helped to create change in Canada;
* Life in cities and factories began to improve;
* Transportation also improved;
* Women and children started to get fairer treatment.