

Text 2 **Queen Victoria is cool again.**
Who would have guessed?

Canada is the only country with an official holiday to mark Queen Victoria's birthday, which occurred 200 years ago this May 24. (...) But most Canadians, and most people, have been virtually ignoring the 19th-century's most influential female.

Until recently, that is.

Young women around the world are coming to view Victoria, who became queen at age 18, as a near-feminist icon, as someone they would like to be like.

It's a remarkable rediscovery of the monarch who oversaw the British Empire, which is associated with the things that contemporary culture condemns: colonialism, inequality and privilege. (...)

"I meet so many women who love Victoria. And I think the reason they love Victoria is she's the boss," says writer Daisy Goodwin, creator of the hit TV series *Victoria*, one of many recent dramas about the feisty queen, including films such as *The Young Victoria* and *Victoria and Abdul*.

“Young girls everywhere are really enjoying Victoria. I think that’s because they identify with Victoria, because she’s a young woman who isn’t perfect, but is powerful,” says Goodwin. “I have a 16-year-old daughter and I’m glad she’s able to watch this show about a woman who calls the shots.” (...)

While the Victorian era is often dismissed as rigid and stifling, it came with what even the skeptical American writer Mark Twain called “moral advancement.” (...)

Women were given access to “a hundred bread-winning occupations,” said Twain, including in medicine and the law. The modern newspaper became available to the common person.

Douglas Todd, vancouver.sun.com, May 17th, 2019