

# Foe of mandatory retirement takes plunge into federal politics

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A former University of Alberta professor who fought her mandatory retirement to the Supreme Court of Canada is entering politics.

Olive Dickason, 72, will bid for the NDP nomination for the federal riding of Edmonton-North.

Dickason stopped teaching native history at the U of A in December after the Supreme Court ruled against her last September.

She hasn't ruled out teaching again, on contract, but for the time being will concentrate on her bid for the nomination which will also be contested by homemaker Tori

Hall and United Church Minister Bob Settle.

"The NDP invited me to let my name stand for this nomination," Dickason said Thursday. "I did some serious thinking about it and I thought, 'let's give it a go.'

"I've been working in the realm of academic research, which has direct applications in life, of course, but it's the kind of research that is one step removed from the practicalities of life.



**Dickason**

"When you get into politics, you're into the practicalities. It certainly would be a learning process and perhaps one could get a better understanding of problems and contribute in a different way than I have in the past."

The long-time NDP member has never before been active in politics. She lives in the federal riding of Edmonton-Strathcona and currently has no plans to move.

No date has been set for the nomination.

After 24 years in journalism, Dickason earned her PhD in native history at the age of 57 and began teaching at the U of A. Her legal battle against mandatory retirement at 65 took seven years before the Supreme Court ruling ended it.