

We chose this topic because we strongly believe in the importance of women's rights. Lois Jenson's stand for equality in the workplace is very empowering to young women today. We hadn't heard about Jenson's fight against sexual harassment before our topic search. She should be recognized and her story shared. Lois persisted and suffered through great conflict and inspired many women to share their stories.

We had the privilege of personally interviewing Lois Jenson and Michelle Miesche, two of the main plaintiffs in the case. We traveled to the MN Discovery Center on Minnesota's Iron Range where Lois had donated a box of artifacts from the case. We were the first historians ever to dig through the box and we were featured on the front page of the *Mesabi Daily News* about our project and research. We also interviewed Clare Bell, Psychiatrist who testified in the case for the women.

We conducted personal interviews with MN State Representative Ann Winyia and Jean Boler, attorney for Lois Jensen. We e-mailed with Lois and she read our script and answered many questions. We also conducted a phone interview with Elizabeth Rome, a woman who investigates sexual harassment claims. We also meet with a research librarian, Jennifer Kleinjung who helped us find primary newspapers articles, like "*A First Sex-Harassment Case Still Awaits Its Finale*", and "*Eveleth Mines Sex Harassment Lawsuit Settled.*" We also talked to Jessica Ellison, the President of the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies and teacher educator at the Minnesota Historical Society.

We also went to libraries such as St. Paul Public, Roseville and MNHS Library where we looked at Microfilm Newspapers. We explored many websites such as the [metoomvmt.org](http://metoomvmt.org) and [mnpedia.org](http://mnpedia.org).

We chose to portray Lois Jenson and her refusal to compromise in a performance to better communicate her actions. We thought a performance would be a team building exercise and develop our confidence, leadership and communication skills while having fun! We worked really hard and redid our script from the very beginning multiple times, teaching us to work hard and persist. We worked after school to help give us time to grow and decide what we wanted our project to feel like, for us and the audience. Throughout this experience we have grown as independent young women and as a partnership.

Eveleth Taconite Company's work environment was filled with conflict towards women employed there in the 1980's. Because of this conflict, Lois Jenson and other female miners filed a case that would become the nation's first class action sexual

harassment lawsuit in 1991. The women forced the mine to compromise in 1998 and received \$3.5 million in total damages from the taconite company. By refusing to compromise until the taconite company changed their policy and paid money to the women, the Eveleth women miners sparked a chain reaction across the country. Now 97% of companies have policies against sexual harassment in the workplace. This is the story of the first Me Too.