

## **Muriel Morisey**

**Senior Legislative Assistant, Representative Shirley Chisholm of New York**

### **Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

#### **Delegating Responsibility**

Muriel Morisey remembers her role in Shirley Chisholm's office.

*Interview recorded April 19, 2017*

So this, this group of men—it was men—were going to meet with her, come in the office, in her office, and she sits down, and I'm there, and she's listening, and she's being very—listening, and paying them close, respectful attention. And then she says something like, "This is, this is so—thank you so much, and this is so important, and here's the best way to get this forward. I want you to work closely with Muriel and go forward with it." Which was, you know, a way of saying—I knew what she meant. "I don't need to talk with these people anymore, and now I've anointed you, Muriel, to deal with this." But they were always—I mean, I have this particular vivid memory of it happening, I think because it was all male and they were calling her Shirley. But that was typical of how it worked. The idea was that she had us because there were three or four of us, and she can't be but one place at a time. And when somebody important—politically important—wants to meet with Shirley Chisholm, some of those requested meetings are going to happen, but they're not supposed to get her all embroiled in the—today's lingo would be in the weeds of the proposals. That's, that was what we did.