In September, Canada took part in a Conference on Primary Health Care, held in the Soviet Union and jointly sponsored by the World Health Organization and the U.N. Children's Fund. The conference was significant because it allowed Canadian experts to compare health care experiences in Canada's remote North with those of other countries that also experience some health-care delivery difficulties.

The Preparatory Committee for the 1980 World Conference pertaining to the United Nations Decade for Women held its first session from June 19 to 30 in Vienna. The committee drew up an action-oriented agenda for the conference, with concentration on the priority objectives of employment, health and education within a broader context of the objectives of the decade: equality, development and peace.

Work has continued towards the implementation of the World Plan of Action on the Status of Women and, in Canada, a national plan of action for accelerating progress towards women's equality in the remaining years of the decade has been presented to Cabinet.