

22. That advertising for alcoholic beverages reflect responsible use and positive societal values.

23. That health warnings, directed toward pregnant women, be placed on alcoholic beverages.

3. Women

The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women advised the Committee that, because health services often do not take into account the fact that the health needs of men and women are different, there are instances where existing services do not meet the needs of women. This is particularly the case with those needs which derive from women's reproductive capacity and their experiences as women in society. The Council's concerns with regard to women's health care requirements include:

. . . access to reproductive health services, including abortion for all women in Canada; access to other health care services, including a broadened definition of such services and of professional categories covered by health insurance plans such as midwifery, especially taking into consideration the particular needs of women living in rural and remote areas; and the role of stress, which because of inadequate programs and services remains too often an unacknowledged, undiagnosed and untreated health hazard to Canadian women.⁹⁸

The Council believes that access to family planning services, in conjunction with sex education in the schools, is the most significant factor in reducing the need for abortion services. They identify regional disparities in access to family planning information and urge the federal government to take a leadership role, ensuring that such information is available to all women throughout Canada. Aboriginal women have particularly severe problems of access, often compounded by poverty and lack of sensitivity to their cultural concerns.

The Council suggests that improving access to appropriate health services for rural women would include either establishing services closer to home or studying the feasibility of transporting people to services in urban centres. Expenses incurred for transportation, lodging and child care must also be taken into account.

RECOMMENDATIONS

24. That the federal government take a leadership role and, consulting with the provinces and territories promote: (1) access to family planning information and (2) access to family life education in all regions of Canada.

⁹⁸ *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 22, p. 5.