

income supplement paid to pensioners who have little or no income other than the pension.

In addition, they may receive family allowances, payable for every child under 16 years of age, and youth allowances payable for children of 16 and 17 who are receiving full-time educational training or are prevented from doing so by physical or mental incapacity. Allowances are paid monthly, usually to the mother.

The only exception is the Canada Pension Plan, in which only persons between the ages of 18 and 70 earning more than \$600 a year as an employee or \$800 a year as a self-employed worker may participate. This means that women who are not part of the labour force are excluded from the Plan. However, the wife of a contributor is eligible on his death for a widow's pension, which varies according to her age and whether or not she has dependent children.

Women who receive widow's pensions may also have contributed to the Canada Pension Plan themselves and consequently may be entitled to retirement or disability pensions in their own right. However, the widower whose deceased wife contributed to the Plan may receive a pension only if he was wholly or substantially dependent on her for financial support at the time of her death.

Since 1971, the federal program of unemployment insurance, which covers all Canadian employees, men and women, has provided for the payment of maternity benefits for a period of 15 weeks, subject to a two-week waiting period.

In addition, in six provinces and in establishments under federal jurisdiction, the employer is required by law to grant any female employee who has completed 12 months of continuous employment with him maternity leave for a period that varies by province but is generally about 12 weeks.

**Citizenship** The Canadian Citizenship Act places no disabilities upon the married woman. She neither acquires nor loses Canadian citizenship by marriage. In addition, a female alien who marries a Canadian citizen and has been legally admitted to Canada may obtain Canadian citizenship after living in Canada for only one year, instead of the five years normally required.

**Legal rights** Single women have the same legal rights as men in every part of Canada.

Under the Common Law of England and the Quebec Civil Code, a married woman's domicile, upon her marrying and as a result of her