

## THE WOMEN'S PROGRAM

In its 1970 Report, the Royal Commission on the Status of Women recommended that the government support women's voluntary organizations working in areas of special concern to women. Recognizing the need to assist voluntary organizations working to improve the economic and social conditions of women, the Women's Program was created in 1973, with an appropriation of \$223,000. In 1974, the Program's budget was increased to \$2.5 million to enable it to carry out special activities for International Women's Year. In 1984, the budget was substantially increased to \$9.3 million, and currently stands at \$12.4 million.<sup>(2)</sup>

The purpose of the Women's Program is to promote greater participation by women in all aspects of society, particularly in decision-making and the political process and to increase the capability and effectiveness of women's organizations working to improve the status of women.

### PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

The Program provides project and operational funding. Priority areas for project funding are issues relating to women's economic development and violence against women. Operational funding is granted to a cross-section of national and regional women's organizations which:

- promote action and coordination on status of women issues;
- provide human and technical resources and information on a variety of status of women issues to the public and women's organizations;
- coordinate status of women activities with priority on northern, isolated and rural regions.

Short-term project funding is available for voluntary organizations which:

- promote understanding of, and action on, status of women issues through advocacy and information exchange;
- develop women's organizational skills to increase the effectiveness of groups in improving the status of women;
- encourage institutions to promote equal representation of women and status of women interests in their decision-making structures.