

This was not the whole school. They have four sections that close one day after another because they have so many attending that school that the closing used to last all day.

Senator Yuzyk: But, Senator Fergusson, do you not think it is important that we have these statistics. Otherwise how can we know?

Senator Fergusson: I am not asking you not to get the statistics, but you are giving the impression that it is very bad and I am saying that I have had this experience. I must have spoken to 20 or 25 of them, just spot checking myself, because from the information I had picked up on the Poverty Committee and from what I had read on the task force, I could scarcely believe that they were all provided for. Is this unusual, or are we now doing a better job in providing jobs?

Senator Yuzyk: First of all, regarding statistics, I believe you stated that you are two years behind on statistics regarding the whole manpower training program, is that right?

Mr. Meyer: That is part of the follow-up.

Senator Yuzyk: Why is it that you are two years behind? I can still understand one year, but why two years? Certainly we have much improved methods now of obtaining information compared to anything we have ever had before.

Mr. Meyer: If I talk about a two years' span, it relates to people who were placed in training for two years. The maximum training span, as I explained, is 52 weeks. In order to cover everyone who was placed in training at a particular point in time, we have to allow the maximum time spell. We follow up three months after the completion of the year, so that is 15 months; and then we start processing the data, and so on, and producing the information, so that means pretty close to two years, senator.

Senator Yuzyk: I can understand that now, but we are still really two years behind on the whole program?

Mr. Meyer: Yes.

Senator Yuzyk: And the statistics you are going to give us will be as of two years ago. You should be able to have some statistics on certain programs, in particular in a region—where I imagine the statistics are more readily available, are they not?

Mr. Meyer: No, senator. The follow-up statistics are only available in Ottawa. The follow-up survey is only conducted from headquarters. The regional offices do not conduct a separate follow-up.

Senator Fergusson: I wanted to make that comment, that I know a good many of them are coming out of these courses now with the opportunity to have jobs. Those that I was speaking to were in the business courses. Perhaps there are more openings for them in that sort of thing. Certainly they were provided with something to do.

Senator Yuzyk: Can I ask a question about the women, their employment after training and their accessibility to courses? The Royal Commission on the Status of Women claimed that there was discrimination against women in this whole manpower training program.

They also produced statistics indicating that women form 33 per cent of the labour force, that only 20 per cent of them receive any training, that which they do receive being usually for jobs which are reserved for women and are not management positions. Since women wish to play a role similar to that of men in this society, is it true that they are at a disadvantage in starting these courses?

Mr. Meyer: They were, or are, up to the point of royal assent for this bill, by virtue of what has become known as the three-year rule. A three-year attachment to the labour force is required before the trainee is eligible for allowances. This rule has mitigated against many women who, for a variety of reasons, do not have the three-year attachment to the labour force. Moreover, the legislation directly excluded housewives from the definition of the labour force. For these reasons, women were at a disadvantage.

Senator Yuzyk: Is there anything now being done to make it easier for them to upgrade themselves?

Mr. Meyer: One of the key amendments to the act is the removal of the three-year rule. From now on there is no requirement of attachment to the labour force. The sole qualification is to have attended school on a regular basis for a period of not less than one year before entry into training under the Canada Manpower Training Program. This applies only to those individuals who are placed in such training by a Manpower counsellor. It does not apply to situations in which the trainee receives training provided by an employer and the department reimburses the employer for the training. Neither will it apply to apprentice training, in which situations the training arrangements are really made under provincial jurisdiction and we assist the province financially in the operation of the program.

Senator Yuzyk: Are many women counsellors engaged in the Manpower training program?

Mr. Meyer: Yes.

Senator Yuzyk: So you are attempting to rectify the situation regarding the proportion of women from that point of view?

The Acting Chairman: Do you have the statistics?

Mr. Meyer: No.

Senator Yuzyk: You are still not trying to do that?

Senator Smith: I did not hear the answer.

Mr. Meyer: No, I do not have statistics.

Senator Yuzyk: That is again where we are working in the dark, because we do not have enough figures.