

Proposed changes in Indian Act help women's cause

Indian Affairs Minister Hugh Faulkner said on June 12 that he would ask Parliament to eliminate discrimination against Indian women in the Indian Act.

Mr. Faulkner made the statement at a news conference after he and five other ministers met representatives of Indian Rights for Indian Women, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the National Indian Brotherhood.

Section 12 (1) (b) of the act, which Mr. Faulkner promised to eliminate, currently removes Indian status from women who marry non-Indian men. Such women are often evicted from reserves, must dispose of property, are barred from band business, cannot be buried on the reserve and their children do not get Indian status.

No penalties are imposed on Indian men who marry non-Indian women. Their wives and children get full Indian rights and status.

Mr. Faulkner said he would ask Parliament to remove the penalties on women even if there is not widespread Indian support for the idea, although he "would prefer to do it on behalf of the Indian people".

The amendment, probably to be proposed in the next Parliament, will not be retroactive.

There is a strong degree of resistance in the Indian community, particularly among male elders, to removing the discriminatory clause. They fear an influx of formerly-evicted women, their non-Indian husbands and children back to the reserves, Mr. Faulkner said.

Government encourages research

The Federal Government plans to spend \$28.7 million on new scientific and industrial research this year, increasing its current spending on research and development from about 0.9 per cent of gross domestic product to 1.36 per cent by 1983.

"The new national priority" for scientific and technological development will also include an increase in tax breaks for industrial science spending, a \$3-million increase for a program which allows scientists and technicians to do research projects in universities at the request of

firms, and \$5 million to "open up" federal laboratories to industry to encourage more technology exchange.

Science Minister Judd Buchanan also announced plans to spend \$6.8 million on developing "regional centres of excellence" to allow better integration of government, university and industrial research activities. An example is the new National Research Council (NRC) ice tank to be located in St. John's, Newfoundland as an addition to the existing cold water engineering facilities.

About \$2 million has been set aside for five university-based "industrial research and innovation centres", which are expected to help industry, particularly small businesses and private inventors, in the development of new products or ideas.

The department will also supplement the budgets of the three university research-granting councils by \$10 million.

Private industry will have greater access to federal laboratories through the \$5.35-million expansion of the NRC's program of industry-laboratory projects. And \$350,000 has been allocated to expand the Council's technical information services for small businesses.

While the largest impact of the announcements will be felt by industrial development of new products and technology, priorities for university and pure researchers are focused on energy, toxicology and oceanography.

Pension debate overlooks women

The Canadian Council on Social Development has called on the private pension industry to move towards full indexing of pension benefits, and it says government support may be needed for them to achieve this.

The Council, a non-profit, non-government organization, puts forward its case for indexing in a 254-page report entitled, *Women and Pensions* which says women have not been given enough attention in the "great pension debate". It also says women particularly suffer when pensions are not indexed because they usually live longer than men.

Private pension plans should move towards "immediate vesting" of pension contributions, says the report. This would mean that an employee would not lose the contribution the employer made towards his or her position by changing jobs. Under most existing arrangements, an employee has to stay with the present employer for a long time before having a right to the employer's contribution.

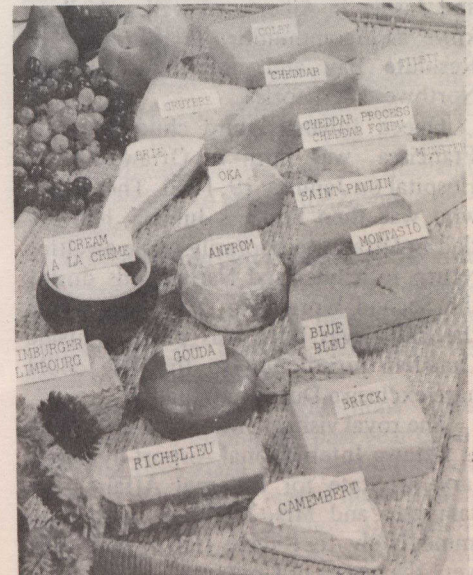
The Council says women take a big beating under the present system because of their high job-turnover rate. They wind up frequently subsidizing private plans because all they get back are their own contributions, often without interest, when they leave their jobs.

Specialty cheeses in New York

Federal Government marketing specialists and cheese industry leaders will hold a mini cheese fair on July 11 at the Canadian Consulate in New York, as part of a campaign to sell an additional two million pounds of specialty cheeses to the existing American market. About half of the 67 varieties of specialty cheeses produced in Canada will be on display.

If the New York promotion proves successful, similar campaigns will be launched in Chicago, Detroit, and Los Angeles.

Already Canada ships about one million pounds of aged cheddar cheese to the U.S. annually, 400,000 pounds of non-aged cheddar, and about one million pounds of specialty and processed cheese. Sales for an additional two million pounds of cheese would create a market for 20 million pounds of Canadian milk. Rather than viewing Canadian specialty



cheese as a threat to their market, U.S. processors and wholesalers generally see the imports as complementing their own lines.