

household chores considerably and reducing the amount of time spent on them, and, in industry, decreasing the importance of physical strength in quite a number of occupations, thereby opening them to women in general. As a result, the notion, once generally accepted, that there are certain jobs suitable for men and others suitable for women is no longer as widely held, particularly since, during the two world wars, women demonstrated their skills in a great many tasks previously considered exclusively masculine.

The traditional view of the role of women has also changed. Ten or 20 years ago, most women gave up their jobs when they married or had their first babies, and, with the occasional exception, did not re-enter the job market, whereas today a large number of women work until they are married, resign to raise a family and take a job again when the last child has entered school or a nursery.

#### Working conditions

On the whole, labour legislation, which, except where federal employees are concerned, comes under provincial jurisdiction, applies to men and women equally in the areas of minimum wages (Prince Edward Island is the only province in which the minimum wage for women is lower than that for men), maximum hours, unemployment insurance, days of rest, holidays, annual vacations and workmen's compensation.

However, certain provisions in these laws were written exclusively with women in mind, or contain terms that vary depending on whether they are applied to men or women. Thus, in almost every province, women are forbidden to work in mines, except under certain circumstances, which vary from one province to another.

In five provinces, women are permitted to work at night only if their employers meet certain conditions, such as providing free transportation for female night employees between home and place of employment. Other provincial laws impose certain standards of hygiene and safety that apply to women only. Under existing legislation on workmen's compensation, the wife of an employee killed on the job is entitled to an allowance and the pension provided for in the legislation whatever her financial situation, whereas the husband of an employee is not entitled to a pension unless he is an invalid.

Although the working woman's contribution to the economy is generally recognized, the principle of equal pay for equal work is not yet universally applied. (It is, however, the rule in the federal Public Service, where salaries are determined according to position, regardless of the sex of the incumbent.) In a number of