

1970, married women in Quebec have acquired legal status similar to that of women in other parts of Canada.

Politics

Canadian women were first given the right to vote in 1916 in the provinces of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan. This example was soon followed in the other provinces, with the exception of Quebec, where women did not obtain the right to vote until 1940.

Women obtained the right to be appointed to the Senate following a decision by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England in 1929.

Canada now has nine women in the 104-member Senate; 14, including two Cabinet ministers and the Speaker, in the House of Commons; and 44, including 12 Cabinet ministers, in provincial legislatures.

Women's organizations

There are many women's organizations in Canada involved in public-service activities of particular interest to women. In addition to these volunteer organizations, there are several created by the federal and provincial governments.

In 1954 the federal government set up the Women's Bureau, a division of the Department of Labour, and assigned it the tasks of studying the status of women in the Canadian labour force, preparing reports on this subject,

making known the conditions encountered by working women, informing the public about legislation passed to combat discrimination against women, and promoting the acceptance of women in all sectors and at all levels of the labour force. Three provinces and one territory have established similar bureaus.

The creation in 1967 of a Royal Commission to inquire into the status of Canadian women marked a major step in bringing to light the condition of women in Canada. In 1970, the Commission published a report containing 167 recommendations, some aimed at the federal government and others aimed at provincial and municipal authorities. To date only 23 recommendations within federal jurisdiction have not been acted upon.

In 1973, the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women was created to bring before government and the public matters of interest and concern to women. A minister was given the responsibility for the status of women in the federal government and in several provincial governments which also have advisory councils. The province of Quebec now has a Ministry on the Status of Women.

Many other organizations, public, para-public and private, take an active interest in the status of women in Can-