

Point of Comparison

In the U.S. women also now outnumber men, 119 million to 113 million.

Of the 32,000 U.S. residents who are over 100, 24,000 are women.

have been the first to lose their places.

A recent study by the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women only slightly modified Mrs. Bird's overview of 1969: "There are now some women in almost all paid jobs, but most are at the bottom of the heap doing women's work at women's wages."

One factor that contributes to the dismal statistical picture is that women live longer than men and the old are often poor. There are more males than females among those less than nineteen years old but more women than men among those over fifty. There are five widows for every widower. Past the age of eighty, women outnumber men two to one.

The number of women with income of their own has increased — from six out of ten in 1971 to eight out of ten in 1981 — but this silver lining has a cloud. The increase reflects to a great degree the fact that there are more women over sixty-five who are getting old-age pensions.

The most significant and the most positive change affecting women may well be one that has no explicit connection with jobs or income. Their fertility — the number of children they have during their childbearing years — is down. In 1971 the average woman who was past childbearing had given birth to a statistical 3.2 children. In 1981 her counterpart had had 2.8. Women are having their first child at an older age — the number who are married while in their teens or twenties has declined. Young women who do not have babies

have a better chance to get a solid start in the work place.

The fertility rate has, however, remained relatively high in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, where it ranged from 3.2 children per woman to 4.0.

Quebec, which had the highest rate, 3.9, in 1961, had 2.7, among the lowest, in 1981. Ontario's was as low, and British Columbia's was the lowest at 2.6.

Cities

Nothing Canadian changed more rapidly during the 1970s than the shape of its cities.

For the census takers the word itself became obsolete — the new measurements are in Metropolitan Areas and some of these combine cities and even provinces; the Ottawa-Hull Metropolitan Area, for example, leaps across the Ottawa River from Ontario to Quebec.

Once the limits of cities were determined by how long it took a worker to walk to work. The city ended and the country began where a worker could still make it downtown in a reasonable time. Montreal, a compact city on an island, was Canada's greatest metropolis for a long, long time. Toronto was indisputably second and from 1911 until the 1920s Winnipeg was third.

Transportation changed everything. Railways, interprovincial highways and airlines made it easy to move out of the East, and within the cities electric tramways first extended the practical boundaries, and superhighways and two-car families extended them more.

In the past twenty years, the old city, which had been surrounded by fields and small, independent towns and villages, became simply the centre of densely populated areas, the urban planners' core.

The urbanization of Canada, which has been underway since Confederation, has taken new forms since 1971. Big cities grew, most of them mightily. By and large their cores have not suffered the deterioration that has plagued some American cities, perhaps because they were smaller, less densely packed and had modest single-family homes rather than tenements and large apartment complexes.

Montreal, for example, is among the most strikingly and successfully up-to-date. Some twenty years ago it replaced much of its grimy downtown with a dazzlingly sophisticated network of high-rise hotels and offices linked by underground shopping malls, promenades and subway routes. The population of the central city declined by some 8 per cent between 1976 and 1981, but the fringe population grew by 21.4 per cent.

Toronto has had a similar if less dramatic sprucing up, and it has kept its old central residential area intact by laws that discourage high rises.

WOMEN AT WORK



There were more women professionals in 1981 than there were ten years before, but the overwhelming majority of working women remained clustered in low-paying jobs.