

Treasury Board Secretariat Comments

There is no ready explanation of the fact that only 5 replies were received as a result of the Department's invitation to comment and make suggestions on the EOW policy and planned activities. A similar request on the Status of Women policy elicited only one response. Possibly employees in this Department use the approach of operating within existing systems rather than perceiving problems as stemming from a lack or absence of equal opportunities.

A well-publicized example of this was the petition submitted by the rotational SCY group in March 1977. Initially there were 127 signatures on the petition, but this number grew to 240 as the word spread (there are over 500 rotational SCYs in all).

(In response to clear indications that there was a lack of understanding of the most recent classification system, an open meeting had been held with the SCY group on June 4, 1976, to explain the effect of the proposed conversion insofar as was possible prior to ratification of the ST contract. A report of the meeting was sent to posts by telegram on June 8, 1976, to brief the SCYs overseas.) Following receipt of the petition, meetings were held with a Committee of SCYs and an agreed plan of action set out regarding the complaints expressed in the petition. Among other activities, all rotational SCYs were invited to request a review of their files. A total of 36 responded. The senior officer responsible for this review offered to see all those who had written and were serving in Ottawa. Thus, he interviewed 10 employees and wrote in detail to the remaining 26.

The response rate to a recent questionnaire, regarding the promotion system, addressed to rotational CRs was approximately one-third.