

It is still true that women find it difficult to achieve executive positions and are often passed over when promotions take place. It is possible that this may be accounted for by their own attitude toward their work: many women fail to obtain the training they need or perhaps do not work as hard at making a career for themselves as a man does because they expect to marry and look on a job as a temporary stop-gap.

In 1954, the Federal Government set up a Women's Bureau under the Department of Labour. The Bureau is now engaged in research on the needs of women workers and the social implications involved in the increased number of married women working outside the home.

Citizenship

Canadian women have full citizenship rights. When a Canadian woman marries an alien, she retains her Canadian citizenship. An alien woman marrying a Canadian citizen and legally admitted to Canada is eligible for citizenship after one year's residence.

Legal Rights

Single women have the same legal rights as men in every part of Canada.

In nine of the ten provinces, the civil law is based on the Common Law of England. There are minor legal variations in each province, but in all of them a married woman has full legal rights. She may enter into contract, administer her own property and keep her own earnings. She and her husband have equal rights and obligations for the care, custody and discipline of their children.

Until 1964, the status of married women in Quebec was different from that obtaining in the other nine provinces. There is a historical reason for this. The Treaty of Paris, signed in Britain in 1774, guaranteed the French-speaking people living in what is now the Province of Quebec the right to keep the civil law under which they had been governed for over 200 years when they were members of a colony of France. In 1866, these laws were codified into the Civil Code of the Province of Quebec. In the following year, the British North America Act gave exclusive jurisdiction of property and civil rights to the provinces.

Under the Quebec Code, a married woman suffered under legal incapacities which made it necessary for her to get her husband's signature in order to appear in judicial proceedings, give, accept, sell or dispose of property during her lifetime (though she could dispose of it by making a will which becomes valid after her death without authorization or consent), and enter into contracts or obligations.

In 1964, these and other antiquated incapacities were removed, thanks to a bill passed by the Quebec Legislature. This bill was introduced by a woman, a Minister-without-Portfolio, Madame Claire Kirkland-Casgrain, a young lawyer