

wife contributed to the Plan could receive a pension only if he was wholly or substantially dependent on her for financial support at the time of her death. But under an amendment to the Plan, passed in November 1974, the widower of a contributor has the same rights as the widow of a contributor.

Employers under federal and all but one provincial jurisdiction are required to grant maternity leave of varying duration but averaging 17 weeks. The qualifying periods vary also. One province requires previous employment with the same employer for 20 weeks. In six provinces and federally, 12 months is required, and in two provinces, qualifying periods have been abolished. The federal government and four provinces have passed legislation prohibiting dismissals or lay-offs for reasons of pregnancy.

Since 1971, the federal program of unemployment insurance, which covers all Canadian employees, men and women, has provided for the payment of benefits for a woman on maternity leave for a period of 15 weeks, subject to a two-week waiting period.

### *Citizenship*

The Canadian Citizenship Act imposes no disabilities on the married woman, which means that she neither acquires nor loses Canadian citizenship by marriage. A female or a male alien who marries a Canadian citizen and has been legally admitted to Canada may obtain

Canadian citizenship after living in Canada for three years. A married Canadian woman can pass on her citizenship to a child born to her abroad.

### *Legal Rights*

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

Under British common law and the Quebec Civil Code, a married woman's domicile, upon her marrying and as a result of her new situation, is the same as her husband's. Since 1968, however, when the new Divorce Act was passed, a married woman has, in order to permit her to file a petition for divorce, been considered as having a domicile separate from that of her husband.

In every province except Quebec the civil law is based on the British common law. A married woman has full legal capacity to own, purchase and transfer her own property, to enter into contracts and to dispose of her possessions, in a will, and she and her husband have equal rights and obligations with respect to the care and custody of their children.

In Quebec, where civil rights are governed by the province's Civil Code, the legal rights of a married woman were different from those of married women in other provinces. As a result of the Act Respecting the Legal Capacity of Married Women, passed in 1964, and the establishment of partnership of acquests under the Act Respecting Matrimonial Regimes, in force since