
Commitment to Action

The Government of Canada is determined to create the conditions that will enable Canadian women to pursue their ambitions on an equal footing with men and to realize their full potential in all spheres of society.

Much was accomplished in the first session of the 33rd Parliament. Women's economic equality has been advanced by employment equity legislation, pension improvements and training initiatives. The social policy concerns of women are being addressed in such areas as child care, family violence and social assistance. Working in concert with the provinces and territories, the federal government has encouraged women's participation in society by broadening access to all of society's opportunities. On the international stage, Canada has worked diligently to promote the advancement of women world-wide.

With this solid record of achievement as a base, the federal government intends to move forward in a range of areas and with a variety of activities, as the measures in the following work plan illustrate.

Many of the initiatives contained in the work plan will require close cooperation with the provinces and territories. Several will tap Canada's expertise in the international arena. Still others will involve consultations with women's and other interest groups. A number entail the government's support of work being undertaken by voluntary groups.

For some of the initiatives in the work plan, the Government has been able to set achievable short-term targets, such as its pledge to double the proportion of women appointed to federal boards, agencies and commissions. In this case, the Government is already more than two-thirds of the way to achieving its goal. In other

areas, such as wife battering, some of the goals are necessarily long-term, as work continues on changes of attitude that may take more than one generation to accomplish.

Under the work plan, a number of existing government programs will be reviewed in light of women's evolving roles and responsibilities. Another important component of the work plan is research, which is an aid to finding new strategies or better methods of dealing with, among others, women's health concerns and training needs.

This work plan for the status of women represents a comprehensive effort on the part of federal government departments. It is an effort that will be pursued jointly with the provinces and territories. It will encourage the active participation of the private sector and call on the expertise and energies of women's organizations in particular. On the international stage, it will mean Canada working with nations around the world to advance the status of women.

The dimensions of the government's activities to promote the status of women are as broad and as varied as the scope of endeavours in which women are involved. These initiatives are designed to further women's progress towards their rightful due -- genuine equality in every facet of human endeavour.