

Under the Common Law of England 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 that of her husband. Since 1968, when the new Divorce Act was passed, she has been considered to have a domicile separate from that of her husband in order to permit her to file a petition for divorce.

In every province except Quebec, the civil law is based on the Common Law of England. 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 1970, married women in Quebec have acquired the same legal capacity as women in other regions of Canada.

Politics Canadian women were first given the right to vote in 1916 in the Province of Manitoba. This example was soon followed in the other provinces, with the exception of Quebec, where women did not obtain the right to vote until 1940.

Women obtained the right to hold public office following a decision by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England in 1929.

Canada now has eight women in the 102-member Senate, eight female members and six female ministers in provincial legislative assemblies, and four female members and one woman minister in the Federal Parliament.

Women's organizations There are many organizations in Canada involved in public-service activities or activities of particular interest to women. In addition to these volunteer organizations, there are several created by the federal and provincial governments.

In 1954, the Federal Government set up the Women's Bureau, a division of the Department of Labour, and assigned it the task of studying the situation of women in the Canadian labour force, preparing reports on this subject, making known the conditions encountered by working women, informing the public about legislation passed to fight discrimination against women, and promoting the acceptance of women in all sectors of the labour force.