

Not only are women required to show that they can earn enough money to support themselves and their families (in a society in which sexism and racism mean that many women work at low-paying jobs) but they must do so despite the fact that, lacking permanent resident status, they are ineligible for subsidized daycare and subsidized housing. Without adequate, affordable daycare, they may not be able to leave their children to work for wages. Without affordable housing, their wages may not meet their financial needs.

9. Proposals for Law Reform

As noted above, immigration policy regarding sponsorship withdrawal and marriage breakdown can result in extreme disadvantage to women who are being or have been abused. The current policy of Canada Immigration regarding sponsorship withdrawal participates in the abuse of women by their husbands by giving weight to men's threats to have their wives deported. While some women may be able to meet the criteria established by Canada Immigration and therefore be able to remain in Canada, many others will not. It is crucial that the processing of applications for landing by women in situations of abuse be changed so that women will not have to choose between being battered and being deported.

10. Proposal re: Access to Subsidized Language Training Programmes

Because most sponsored immigrants are women, and because women whose sponsorship has broken down because of abuse are less likely to be able to meet current criteria for landing, the current policy discriminates against women, in particular, against survivors of male violence. We would note that Canada Immigration's own restrictions on access to training programmes for immigrant women has contributed to the difficulty women have meeting immigration criteria. These restrictions must be eliminated in order to help immigrant women to integrate socially and economically into Canadian society in order to be able to meet the criteria for landing in situations involving sponsorship breakdown.

11. Proposal re: Three-year Minister's Permits

The current sponsorship breakdown policy of Canada Immigration should be replaced by one which will give women an opportunity to show their potential to become self-supporting over time. To this end, women whose sponsorship has been withdrawn by their husbands should be given a three-year Minister's Permit to allow them to remain in Canada, with permission to work, study, and to be eligible for social assistance, as well as subsidized housing and daycare. This would