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## WOMEN IN CANADA

(Prepared by the Women's Bureau, Department of Labour, Ottawa.)

Major changes have taken place in Canada since the Second World War. Advances in medicine and technology, the development of mass communications, growing urbanization and wider educational opportunities have had an effect on the lives of both men and women.

Women represent about 50 per cent of the population of Canada, which in 1972 was 21,830,000. This percentage increases in the over-50 age-group, of which women make up about 56 per cent.

### Women in rural and urban areas

The second-largest country in the world, Canada covers an area of over 3.8 million square miles, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west and in the north as far as the Arctic Ocean. This vast area includes mountains and wooded areas, wide prairies where cereals are the main crops grown, areas that are highly industrialized and others that are almost uninhabited.

Most of Canada's population lives in a corridor 100 to 200 miles wide along its southern border. Three hundred miles to the north are isolated centres where the majority of the inhabitants are engaged in mining, lumbering or energy development.

On the whole, the social and material condition of women in rural areas is similar to that of women living in cities. Nearly all Canadian families have radio, running water, telephone, television, an electric or gas stove and a refrigerator. Approximately three-quarters have a car and nearly two-thirds own their own homes.

In addition, now that new highways and improved means of transportation have made travel easier, contact between the country and the city is more frequent than in the past and, thanks to radio and television, except in very remote regions, women in rural areas are much less isolated than before.

### Education

For several decades it has been compulsory for boys and girls to attend primary and secondary school until the age of 15 or 16, depending on the provinces in which they live. However, a considerable increase in the number of women entering university has

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