



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA
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The Standing Committee on Secretary of State has the honour to present its

FIRST REPORT

In accordance with its mandate under Standing Order 96(2), your Committee has examined the objectives and funding criteria of the Secretary of State Department's Women's Program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your Committee would like to express its appreciation for the co-operation of the Honourable David Crombie, Secretary of State and the Honourable Barbara McDougall, Minister responsible for the status of women, who met with your Committee, and whose officials provided valuable information and assistance. Your Committee also wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the witnesses who appeared before it. Their testimony concerning the situation of women in Canada was always thoughtful and at times profoundly moving, and was of invaluable assistance to the Committee in formulating its recommendations.

Our acknowledgements also to Helen McKenzie and Wolfgang Koerner from the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament for their expertise.

In addition, the Committee wishes to express its appreciation for the logistic and administrative support provided by Mary Lee Bragg, Clerk of the Committee.

Finally, the Committee would like to recognize the valuable co-operation of the staff from the Committees and Private Legislation Directorate, the Translation Bureau of the Secretary of State and the other services of the House of Commons.

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

This report is about ensuring fair and equitable funding for Canadian women. At stake is \$12.4 million under the Women's Program of the Department of Secretary of State.

The Standing Committee on Secretary of State decided late last year that the 15-year-old Women's Program needed a thorough evaluation and review. Nation-wide publicity concerning the government's current criteria for funding women's groups pointed to an undeniable fact: times have changed and the social contract has changed; and so the criteria must change, but remain flexible.