

The women's program also promotes social justice. Social justice covers many issues relating to women's fair and equal treatment in all segments of our society. On a practical level, social justice for women includes the development of a safe society, free from violence and discrimination. Such a society would open more possibilities for women to realize their full potential.

The women's program has partners with many groups working in the area of social justice. In Nova Scotia one group is working with medical practitioners to ensure that the needs of battered women are better met. A native women's group receives financial assistance to raise the issue of family violence in their communities.

Across our country community groups funded by the women's program are working to break down the obstacles that hinder women from full participation in Canadian society at all levels. These include, for example, a Nova Scotia group helping unemployed women access training and education options; in Quebec a voluntary group of Haitian and Italian immigrant women learning about their rights and what can be done about discrimination.

The women's program works with the many different partners in our society. The goal of these activities is to ensure that women can fully contribute to all dimensions of life with the assistance of the program. Many voluntary groups are bringing us closer to making that goal a reality. What these groups accomplish leads to measurable improvements in the lives of women, whether their activities result in single mothers obtaining adequate housing or elderly women on pensions improving their economic and social situation, or whether the discriminatory attitudes that discourage women from entering scientific and technological fields are addressed. The Government of Canada is committed to bringing about social justice and economic equality for Canadian women. In doing so, the government recognizes that many choices, decisions, and challenges face Canadian women today.

To attain equality for women, the government has set out a national strategy in dimensions of equality: a federal government work plan for women, 1986. The women's program of the Department of the Secretary of State is an important part of this over-all national objective to advance the equality of women.

### *Supply*

In 1988 the government renewed the mandate of the women's program. In implementing this mandate the women's program assists women's and other voluntary groups working on a wide range of equality concerns.

There is support for the voluntary sector. Members of the more than 800 volunteer groups funded annually by the women's program give their own time and resources to make our society more just and caring. These groups are dedicated to improving the economic, social, and legal situation of women; in the home, the workplace, and the community. Some groups for example are working to improve public understanding of how family violence affects women.

Others are helping immigrant women increase their access to language training, while still others are striving to remove barriers women face in the work force. In fact, together these groups' activities touch on every area of our society where women face obstacles.

The women's program has many objectives: to increase the public understanding of women's equality in order to encourage action toward resolving these issues; to promote the organizational development of women's groups so that they can work more effectively toward equality for women; and to encourage institutions to integrate women's equality issues into their decision-making structures, policies, and programs.

In meeting these objectives the women's program provides assistance to women's and other voluntary groups working to advance the equality of women in the areas of economic equality, social justice, and access and participation.

Within these funding areas the program also responds to new needs and issues such as the concerns of immigrant women, women with disabilities, and those who live in rural and isolated areas. More and more the women's program is working with volunteer groups representing the concerns of women who experience unfair treatment based on their sex, race, disability, or other factors.

I had a few other things to say about some of the other programs, including some of the native programs that we have, such as the Native Citizens' Directorate, the Aboriginal Representative Organization's Program, and some of these other programs. I understand and know that I am quickly running out of time so I may have to speed over that a bit.