

Women who receive widows' pensions may have contributed to the Canada Pension Plan themselves and consequently may be entitled to retirement or disability pensions in their own right. However, the widower whose deceased wife contributed to the Plan could receive a pension only if he was wholly or substantially dependent on her for financial support at the time of her death. But under an amendment to the Plan, passed in November 1974, the widower of a contributor has the same rights as the widow of a contributor.

Employers under federal and all but one provincial jurisdiction are required to grant maternity leave of varying duration but averaging 17 weeks. The qualifying periods vary also. One province requires previous employment with the same employer for 20 weeks. In six provinces and federally, 12 months is required, and in two provinces, qualifying periods have been abolished. The Federal Government and four provinces have passed legislation prohibiting dismissals or lay-offs for reasons of pregnancy.

Since 1971, the federal program of unemployment insurance, which covers all Canadian employees, men and women, has provided for the payment of benefits for a woman on maternity leave for a period of 15

weeks, subject to a two-week waiting period.

Citizenship

The Canadian Citizenship Act imposes no disabilities on the married woman, which means that she neither acquires nor loses Canadian citizenship by marriage. A female alien who marries a Canadian citizen and has been legally admitted to Canada may obtain Canadian citizenship after living in Canada for only one year, instead of the three years normally required. On the other hand, a married Canadian woman cannot pass on her citizenship to a child born to her abroad. However, an amendment recently introduced in the House of Commons provides for equal rights, conditions and privileges for all Canadians without distinction on grounds of sex.

Legal Rights

Single women have the same legal rights as men in every part of Canada.

Under British common law 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 her husband's. Since 1968, however, when the new Divorce Act was passed, a married woman has, in order to permit her to file a petition for