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## Threat to health, as more women enter the labor force

OTTAWA (CPA -CUP) — Women's health will decline as women continue to enter industrial occupations which have poor health records, according to a report on occupational health hazards to women.

Prepared for the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, the study points out that women are increasing their exposure to occupational health hazards as they enter the work force in greater numbers and do a wider variety of jobs.

The report discusses the health hazards in a number of occupations dominated by women. It notes that:

- Dentists, dental nurses, assistants and technicians exposed to anesthetic gases, mercury and radiation, risk increased incidence of liver disease, central nervous system changes, danger to fetuses from radiation and mercury crossing the placenta, and an increased rate of spontaneous abortion;

- Hospital employees such as nurses, doctors, lab technicians, cleaning and laundry staff, cooks and dieticians exposed to anaesthetic gases and radiation may face higher incidences of spontaneous abortion, congenital abnormalities in children, and cancer;

- Airline flight attendants experiencing fatigue, caused by changes in time and climate, jet lag, work stress and loss of sleep may suffer changes in heart-rate, body temperature, blood pressure, liver and kidney function and menstrual cycle; and

- Textile industry workers exposed to a variety of chemicals, lint and dust, fatigue and asbestos risk higher rates of skin and internal cancer, lung diseases, and asbestosis.

When pregnant women remain in the work force, there are hundreds of substances or conditions which may jeopardize the health of the mother or fetus, the study says. A few of the suspected hazards are anesthetic gases, beryllium, carbon monoxide, synthetic hormones, heat, infection, lead and pesticides.

Discussing occupation health hazards peculiar to women, the report notes that factory workers exposed to a combination of hydrocarbons like benzene, toluene and xylene, and viscose factory workers exposed to carbon disulfide risk changes in menstrual patterns, especially more intense and prolonged bleeding.

It also challenges the long-held assumption that fatigue suffered by many working women is the result of women's bodies not being able to withstand the same work as men.

"Some theorists now believe that fatigue is not due to sex differences as such, but is attributable to the fact that women often have two full-time jobs. As well as employment in the workforce, the mother is often manager of the home and family. The latter job is time-consuming, and may be physically, emotionally, and psychologically demanding," it says.

Though the report deals with the 45 per cent of women in the paid workforce, it points out that the remaining percentage of women work and face health hazards, and also face indirect risks through their husbands and families.

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## ELECTION BULLETIN

Referendum on October 25, 1978

Choose one of the following alternatives:

(a) The C.Y.S.F. constitution is to remain unchanged with three representatives to be elected from each member constituency, and the President, or chairman or delegate of the governing body of each of the constituent members (herein called "delegate members") as defined in the Letters Patent shall be an ex officio member of the Council without vote at any meeting of the Council save and except on resolutions adopting or amending the budget of Council and save and except on resolutions to amend the Letters Patent, any Supplementary Letters Patent or by-laws in which case said delegate members shall have one vote each.

(b) The C.Y.S.F. constitution is to be changed to read:

- That there be two representatives elected at large from each constituency.
- That the President or Chairman or delegate of the governing body of each of the constituent members as defined in the Letters Patent be an official member of the Council with all privileges at any meeting of the Council and subject to all privileges and rights of a duly elected Council member.

(c) The C.Y.S.F. constitution is to be changed to read:

That there be a representative for each of

(a) residence student

(b) commuter student


to be elected at large in an annual election.

In the case of constituencies without exclusive residences, elected two members at large.

That the President or Chairman or delegate of the governing body of each of the constituent members are defined in the Letters Patent be an official member of the Council with all privileges at any meeting of the Council and subject to all privileges and rights of a duly elected Council member.

Faralee Chanin  
CYSF  
Chief Returning Officer

## York not alone; Carleton staff may hit picket lines

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OTTAWA (CUP) — Only one day after the third strike at a Canadian post-secondary institution this term was settled, a support staff union at another university threatened to strike.

The support staff union at Carleton University said it was considering a strike after talks with the university broke down October 4.

The 650 support staff voted last week to give their executive the power to call a strike. The union executive was slated to meet October 5 to discuss its next moves after the talks ended with the two sides still far apart on the main issue of wages.

The university has offered a 5 per cent pay increase for the technical, administrative and clerical workers while the union's last wage proposal was for an 11.8 per cent boost.

Union negotiator Keith Alnwick said that, despite the 72.3 per cent vote in favour of a strike mandate, the union's executive would "evaluate all the options" before resorting to a strike.

"We're still open to an approach from the university," he said. Vice-president Administration, Ab Larose, said the administration was also willing to resume negotiations. Larose said a strike by support staff would not close the university.

Carleton could be the fourth university in Canada to face a support staff strike this year.

Support staff at Cariboo College in B.C. settled a month-long strike in September, while staff at the University of Windsor ended a 15-day walkout in mid-September.