

B.C. Human Rights decision Women win equal pay

VICTORIA (CPA-CUP)—Twenty-two British Columbia women have received a total settlement of \$50,000 after claiming discrimination in pay on the basis of sex. Another woman also received a settlement after filing a sex discrimination complaint against Van Deuler Construction Ltd. because she was refused a job on the basis of sex.

The first case involved wo-

men who were classified as cleaning assistants. But men who did the same kind of work were employed as cleaners and got higher pay.

Six women laid the complaint with the BC Human Rights Branch and following an investigation, a settlement was reached without referral to a board of inquiry. Terms of the settlement included an undertaking by the company



to adhere to the provisions of the Human Rights Code.

All of the 19 women in the cleaning assistant position were given equal pay with the male employees, and they received a total of \$48,000 in back pay. In addition, three female employees who had left their jobs were sought out and were given \$2000 in back pay to which they were entitled. It was not possible to track down a fourth woman.

In the second case, Marilyn Toms was referred by Canada Manpower to a summer job as a landscaper with Van Deuler but when she telephoned the company, she was told, "I do not hire girls."

Two other women were referred to the company by Canada Manpower, but in each case they were told they would not be hired because they were females. The case was referred to a board of inquiry, but a settlement was reached before the date of hearing, and that settlement became the consent order of the board.

The company agreed to pay Toms \$150 and agreed to offer employment to all in a manner consistent with the letter and spirit of the Human Rights Code; that is, to select employees on the basis of ability to do the work.

Student unemployment getting worse

OTTAWA (CUP)—Despite numerous federal and provincial summer job creation projects, student unemployment was up this summer, according to figures released by Statistics Canada.

The average rate of student unemployment for May, June, July and August was 13.75 per cent, compared with last summer's average of 13.15 per cent.

However, the real unemployment rate is closer to 23 per cent, if the 136,000

students who wanted full-time work but could only find part-time work are included as well, according to National Union of Students (NUS) researcher Morna Ballantine. In many cases, being underemployed poses the same financial limitations for students as being unemployed, she said.

In August, the unemployment rate was 23.4 per cent, using the NUS formula for calculating jobless levels, down from July's rate of 29.1

per cent. According to Ballantine, the drop is a result of students taking any job, no matter how temporary or low paying, in an attempt to make some money for the fall.

The federal government, according to NUS president John Tuzyk, "must bear full responsibility for student joblessness this summer".

"In face of predictions made last summer, this government refused to take adequate job creation measures," he said.

Government figures show that 25,656 students, or 3 per cent of the student work force, were employed through Young Canada Works (YCW), the largest job creation program.

Out of 14,291 YCW applications, only 5,029 were accepted, according to figures released by the government.

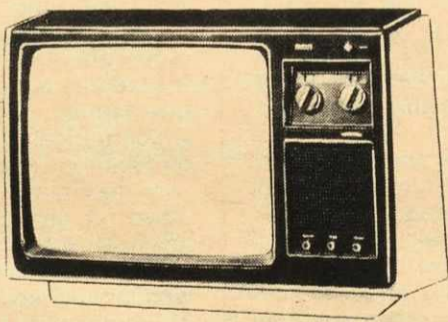
NUS estimates the recently announced summer job program for 1979 will create 14,000 jobs, which one NUS executive member called "a drop in the bucket" compared

with a projected increase in unemployment next year. The Conference Board of Canada recently predicted that the overall jobless rate would be one or two per cent higher next year.

"Students are in a dreadful situation. Those who were out of work this summer will be out of school this fall," said Tuzyk.

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