

national origin. There are, however, some health and safety welfare provisions which apply particularly to women workers. For example, women working in factories are required to wear a suitable head covering to prevent their hair from catching in moving machinery. In all provinces, women are prohibited from working underground in mines. In the Province of Quebec, women are prohibited from working in abattoirs and in factories where there are poisonous fumes or where explosives are handled. In British Columbia and Manitoba, restrictions have been placed on the weights women may lift.

There is considerable diversity in labour laws as, under the British North America Act, the written part of the Canadian Constitution, most labour legislation comes under provincial jurisdiction.

By and large, though the working woman is now recognized as making a great economic contribution to Canadian society, women are still paid less than men, often enough when they perform work of comparable value. This is partly the result of the tradition that women are found in the less well-paid occupations, partly owing to the fact that they are less active in unions than men, and partly because the majority of them are unorganized white-collar workers. This situation has been improving slowly in recent years. More unions demand equal-pay clauses in their contracts. Eight provinces and the Federal Government have passed equal-pay laws. Women have received equal pay for equal work in the Civil Service and in the Armed Services.

It is still true that women find it difficult to achieve executive positions and are often passed over when promotions take place. This can usually be accounted for by their own attitude toward their work: many women fail to obtain the training they need or perhaps do not work as hard at making a career for themselves as a man does because they expect to marry and look on a job as a temporary stop-gap.

In 1954, the Federal Government set up a Women's Bureau under the Department of Labour. The Bureau is now engaged in research on the needs of women workers and the social implications involved in the increased number of married women working outside the home.

Citizenship

Canadian women have full citizenship rights. When a Canadian woman marries an alien, she retains her Canadian citizenship. An alien woman marrying a Canadian citizen and legally admitted to Canada is eligible for citizenship after one year's residence.

Legal Rights

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

In nine of the ten provinces, the civil law is based on the Common Law of England. There are minor legal variations in each province, but in all of them a married woman has full legal rights. She may enter into contract, administer her own property and keep her own earnings. She and her husband have equal rights and obligations for the care, custody and discipline of their children.

Until 1964, the status of married women in Quebec was different from that obtaining in the other nine provinces. There is a historical reason for this. The Treaty of Paris, signed in Britain in 1774, guaranteed the French-speaking people living in what is now the Province of Quebec the right to keep the civil law under which they had been governed for over 200 years when they were members of a