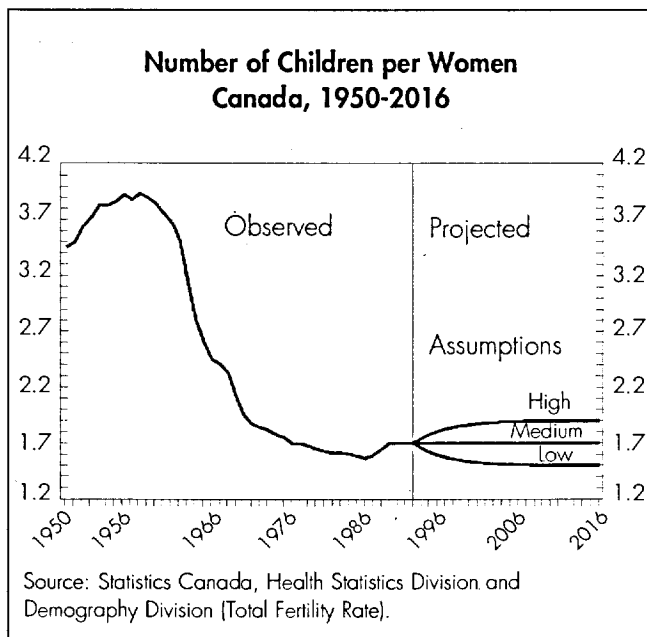




## FAMILY PLANNING AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Fundamental to Canada's approach to the field of family planning is the recognition of the right of free individual choice concerning the number and spacing of children. Family planning is situated within the larger context of sexual and reproductive health. It has evolved from a concentration on the number and spacing of children to encompass the protection of sexual health, the promotion of healthy sexuality, the prevention of reproductive tract diseases, and care in the form of appropriate treatment and services. Canada does not currently have either quantitative fertility nor family-planning targets. The provision of sexual and reproductive health services falls primarily within the jurisdiction of provincial governments, and delivery varies regionally.



In Canada, there have been no legal restrictions on the use of contraceptives since 1969. The quality of contraceptive drugs and medical devices is regulated under the Food and Drugs Act. The restrictions on abortion previously existing in the Criminal Code were removed in 1988, and there are currently no restrictions on abortion other than those imposed by standards of medical practice. Every province and territory in Canada currently provides for insured coverage of medically necessary abortions, although access varies both within and between individual provinces.

In keeping with Canada's approach to family planning and sexual and reproductive health, governments generally provide information about the purpose and methods of family planning, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and the promotion of healthy sexuality. These programs also promote research concerning sexual and reproductive health, and the prevalence and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and their negative sequelae. The federal government is also providing financial assistance to selected national offices and toward activities of national voluntary associations active in the field of sexual and reproductive health.

A Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies was established in 1989 to "...inquire into and report on current and potential medical and scientific developments related to new reproductive technologies, considering in particular their social, ethical, health, research, legal and economic implications and the