

In addition, they may receive family allowances, payable for every child under 16 years of age, and youth allowances payable for children of 16 and 17 who are receiving full-time educational training or are prevented from doing so by physical or mental incapacity. Allowances are paid monthly, usually to the mother.

The only exception is the Canada Pension Plan, in which only persons between the ages of 18 and 65 earning more than a specified annual amount as an employee or a self-employed worker may participate. This means that women who are not part of the labour force are excluded from the Plan. However, the wife of a contributor is entitled on his death to a widow's pension, which varies according to her age and whether or not she has dependent children.

Women who receive widow's 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.

Since 1971, the federal program of unemployment insurance, which covers all Canadian employees, men and women, has provided for the payment of maternity benefits for a period of 15 weeks, subject to a two-week waiting period.

In addition, in six provinces and in establishments under federal jurisdiction, the employer is required by law to grant any woman employee who has completed 12 months of continuous employment with him maternity leave for a period that varies by province but averages 15 weeks.

#### 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 five 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 Canadian without distinction on grounds of sex.

#### Legal rights

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