

The Under Secretary of State, Mr. Jean T. Fournier, reported to the Committee on 3 February 1987 the following outline of spending under the Program during 1985-86:

About 650 groups across Canada received \$10.8 million in financial assistance ... About 60% of the grants supported specific projects and activities within communities, while 40% supported the operational maintenance of over 100 provincial, territorial and national associations. Some 37% of the funds were allocated to the activities of national groups, while 63% went to local, regional or provincial groups.

Women, collectively and individually, make a tremendous contribution to the voluntary sector. Their commitment, in time and effort, to improving the status of women is both recognized and promoted under the Women's Program.

PART II

STATUS OF WOMEN

"Certainly with respect to the objectives of the program dealing with status of women issues and equality of opportunity, there is clearly still much work to be done."

The Hon. David Crombie
Secretary of State
January 27, 1987

(A) ECONOMIC EQUALITY

The number of women in the labour force has dramatically increased and yet they are still a long way from achieving financial equality.

Recent statistics indicate that the wage gap between female and male workers is not decreasing and that female workers have more difficulty finding full-time, year-round employment. Among the elderly, it is women who disproportionately suffer the burdens of poverty.⁽³⁾

While most socio-demographic groups had reductions in the low-income rate, this was not the case for single mothers. Since 1979, they have become poorer. Among family types, families headed by single mothers had the highest rate of low income in 1985 (60.4%).

A number of factors contribute to the wage differentials between men and women. These include discrimination, the concentration of women in low wage occupations, greater gains from work experience for men, the over-representation of women in part-time jobs, the greater impact of non-unionization on women and differences in the occupational distributions of men and women.⁽⁴⁾