

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): (a) Canada Manpower Centres provide a career information service through manpower counsellors who are qualified to give information on occupations, training requirements and labour market conditions to all clients, male and female. Where other forms of assistance are indicated to enhance an individual's capability to seek and retain employment, liaison is established with appropriate agencies for the provision of such services. (b) Regarding the provision of a career information service to female students, CMC staff over the years have been visiting schools to provide labour market and other occupational information to students and school guidance teachers. In their visits, the counsellors encourage female students to think in terms of a broad range of occupations. In the school year 1971-72, over 1400 secondary schools were visited by manpower counsellors for the purpose of occupational counselling, participation in "Career Days", distribution of literature or the provision of other forms of assistance. Discussions with provinces are planned early in 1973 to improve career counselling of Canadian youth, male and female.

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION—RESEARCH INTO SPORTS PROGRAMS

Question No. 345—Mr. Howard:

What action has been taken with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that, pursuant to section 3(d) of the federal Fitness and Amateur Sport Act, a research project be undertaken to (a) determine why fewer girls than boys participate in sports programs at the school level and (b) recommend remedial action?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Since July 1972, the Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare has had on staff a women's consultant whose duties include, among other things, defining the problems facing women in sport, and establishing programs to alleviate these problems. Since that time the women's program has developed to the point of proposing various needed programs dealing with women in sport in the following areas: (1) Educational programs to ascertain the reasons behind the lack of female participation and programs to alleviate the problem areas; (2) Coaching programs for increasing the quality and quantity of women coaches; (3) Promotional programs such as symposias, films and printed materials on women in sport; (4) Establishment of an information retrieval center collecting and distributing needed materials on women in sport; (5) Development of women officials for the 1976 Olympics and beyond. With reference to this particular recommendation of the Royal Commission, the above Educational Program will contract the services of physical education experts to: (a) research the present situation and ascertain the reasons why girls do not actively participate in sports; (b) make necessary recommendations to educational boards, physical education departments, and Sport Canada; (c) work through the appropriate channels in the school system to implement recommended programs; (d) establish effective evaluation procedures for the new programs. Implementation of this program is expected to begin in the new fiscal year.

Order Paper Questions

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION—INFORMATION ON OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING FOR ADULTS PROGRAM

Question No. 346—Mr. Howard:

What action has been taken with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that the federal government in co-operation with the provinces and territories ensure that information on the federal Occupational Training for Adults Programme reaches women outside the labour force as well as those employed or actively seeking employment?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): The Department of Manpower and Immigration continually reviews its information program, and attention is being paid to whether the information being presented, and the media used are such as to reach women both within and outside the labour force. More specifically, the following action has been taken: Manpower training courses are being advertised nation-wide on the CBC network; arrangements have been made with a market research agency to carry out an attitude and awareness survey of manpower services and programs among women, one of the objectives being the determination of the most appropriate media to be utilized for reaching women.

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION—PART-TIME TRAINING PROGRAMS

Question No. 347—Mr. Howard:

What action has been taken with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that the federal government in co-operation with the provinces and territories expand and widely advertise the part-time training programmes offered by the Department of Manpower and Immigration?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): The Department of Manpower and Immigration recognizes the importance of part-time training as a means of enabling many women to enter or re-enter the labour force. Part-time training courses are advertised in the local press. The assessment of priority to be given to part-time training under the Canada Manpower Training Program is based on the recommendations of the federal-provincial Manpower Needs Committees in each province and territory.

STATUS OF WOMEN COMMISSION—ADULT OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING ACT

Question No. 348—Mr. Howard:

What action has been taken with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women that section 3(b) of the federal Adult Occupational Training Act be amended so that full-time household responsibility be equivalent to participation in the labour force in so far as eligibility for training allowances is concerned?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Amendments to the AOT Act have been passed and the new eligibility criterion for training allowances has been implemented effective July 1, 1972. Under the new rules individuals become eligible for training allowances when they become eligible for training. In the July-December 1972 period the number of females entering training courses (under the new eligibility rules) increased by 35 per cent compared to the same period of 1971.