



Bulletin

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ROYAL COMMISSION REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

One hundred and sixty-seven recommendations in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, which was tabled in the House of Commons on December 7, are designed to bring about major changes in the lives of Canadian women.

LONGER PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

In the section entitled "The Economy" the Commission has made 67 recommendations, including a pension plan for housewives, 18 weeks of maternity leave with pay for women in the labour force, revised methods of setting pay in professions usually regarded as "women's jobs", elimination of the description of job by sex, removal of discrimination on sex and marital grounds, and special measures to advance women's employment interests.

Under the heading of "Education", the Commission has made 33 recommendations, covering elementary school textbooks, publications of governments, counselling procedures, family-life education,

physical education and sports activities, financial aid for students (under which is included a recommendation that women be admitted to military colleges), continuing education, training for household employment, educational television programming and the establishment of citizens' information centres.

MINIMUM MARRIAGE AGE

Under "Women and the Family", 28 recommendations have been made in four areas. Thirteen are made under "Legal Aspects of Marriage and Divorce", to provide wives with greater recognition of their role as individuals and of their contribution as equal partners in marriage. Recommendations have been made including a minimum age of 18 for marriage, recognition of equal partnership in marriage, amendments to the Divorce Act (asking that the three-year separation period be reduced to one as grounds for divorce), the Indian Act, the Criminal Code, revision of domicile legislation and passport policies as they relate to married women, or changes in laws governing maintenance obligations and orders. Under "The Children", six recommendations have been made to ensure the establishment of a network of day-care centres and a well-planned child-care program. Under "Responsible Parenthood", seven recommendations were made relating to dissemination of birth-control information and changes in laws affecting sterilization and abortion. The recommendations on abortion are that it be performed by a qualified medical practitioner at the sole request of any woman who has been pregnant for 12 weeks or less; and further that it be performed after 12 weeks, if the doctor is convinced that continuation of the pregnancy would endanger the physical or mental health of a woman, or if there is substantial risk that the child born would be greatly handicapped mentally or physically. Under the heading "One-Parent Families", two recommendations concern the unmarried mother.

CONTENTS

Royal Commission Report on the Status of Women	1
Far East Tour by PM	2
Increase in Veterans Pensions	3
Newfoundland's Hydro Power	3
Pledge to UNRWA	4
ETV Acquires a Rival	4
New Motor Vehicle Sales	4
INCO Cuts Copper Costs	4
Bird-Proofing Aircraft	5
Price-Restraint Review	6
Monthly Index	7