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WOMEN IN CANADA

Since the Second World War, great changes have taken place in Canada. The population has been growing rapidly because of a high birth rate (the seventh highest in the world and the second highest among developed countries) and because of large-scale immigration. Each year, Canada has become more industrialized, and this has resulted in a steady movement of people into the cities. Though fewer Canadians are today engaged in agriculture, the production of food, especially wheat, Canada's main agricultural export, has increased because of improved mechanized methods of farming.

High employment and high wages, combined with a good supply of consumer goods, have produced a society in which the majority of the people has achieved a middle-class status. Compulsory and free elementary education for boys and girls and such social security measures as Family Allowances, old-age pensions and unemployment insurance have also had a levelling effect on Canadian society.

Canadian women have been particularly affected by this rapid revolution from a pioneer agricultural society into an urban middle-class society. The pattern of their lives has also been changed by new factory techniques and by labour-saving devices for the home.

On the Farm

Country life is not as lonely or as arduous for Canadian farm wives as it was a generation ago. Rural electrification has brought light, running water and an automatic washing machine into most farm homes. The telephone, radio and television have brought women into touch with the outside world as never before. The improvement in roads and the greater use of snow plows in winter have enabled them to visit neighbours, go to church, attend meetings of the Women's Institutes and other social gatherings, as well as to do their shopping in what were once distant villages or towns. Nevertheless, many farm wives still buy the family clothing and household furnishings out of the illustrated catalogues issued by the mail-order divisions of several large department stores.

The diversity of Canada's geography makes it impossible to generalize about the way farm women live. Though the country has a small population (20,334,000 on April 1, 1967), its territory is the second largest in the world.

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It stretches 4,000 miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and in the North borders on the Arctic Ocean. This vast area includes mountains, rocky wooded areas populated only by mining communities and trappers, large tracts of timber, small farms of the type familiar to Europeans, wide prairies where the growing of wheat and other cereal crops is big business, and rolling foothill country given over to the raising of cattle. In the East (Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces and Ontario), "mixed farming" on small holdings is usual and the farm wife still performs the traditional chores of growing the vegetables, feeding the chickens and collecting the eggs. "Egg money" is one of her time-honoured sources of private income.

On the other hand, on the prairies of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, farms ranging from 300 to several thousand acres are often entirely mechanized, so that the farmer's wife need do little more out-of-door work than she would if she lived in the suburbs of an urban community. The same is true of the wife of the man operating a big cattle ranch in the foothill country of Alberta. When times are good, many Western farmers and their wives travel during the winter months or move into town until it is time for spring seeding.

Of course, the many women living in the far North or in sparsely-populated parts of the country lead a restricted social life, especially in the winter; but, because of the radio and the aeroplane, they are no longer cut off as in the past.

City Housewives

An ever-increasing number of Canadian women now live in towns and cities. Many young married couples occupy a small apartment in "centre town" during their first years of marriage until they have saved enough money for the down-payment on a house, usually in the suburbs. Home ownership is important to family security as well as to social prestige. Often, when the family has grown up, older couples move back from the suburbs to a city apartment.

The average Canadian house has four or five rooms and is either detached or semi-detached. In a climate where heating is needed for eight out of the 12 months, the cost of fuel is an important item in the budget, so that most Canadian homes have small rooms and are only two storeys high. In recent years, "ranch-style bungalows" and "split-level" one-and-a-half storey houses have become popular, even though they cost more to heat.

According to the most recent figures, 98.7 Canadian housewives out of 100 had electricity; 82.6 per cent had either gas or an electric cooking stove; 90.9 per cent had a furnace that burnt gas, coal or oil; 94.2 per cent had an electric refrigerator; 86.8 had an electric washing machine; 92.4 had running water; 96.3 per cent had a radio and 89.8 per cent television; and 87.3 per cent had a telephone.

Most Canadian women do their own housework and look after their own children. The cook-general and nursemaid have practically vanished from the scene, and those few who do remain demand such high wages that few housewives can afford to employ them. As a result, even business girls living alone in

apartments do their own domestic chores, perhaps with the help of a weekly cleaning woman, as do the mothers of large families in every walk of life. Visitors from other countries are often surprised to find that the wives of many cabinet ministers, top civil servants and highly-paid executives do their own housework. In some cases, women wishing to entertain rely on persons paid by the hour to cook and serve a meal or cater for a reception.

The "baby sitter" has taken the place of the nursemaid of the past. High-school and college students of both sexes, older women or housewives, who want to earn a few dollars a week without being tied down, will visit a house to stay with the children when their parents go out. Many "baby sitters" are only willing to sit in the livingroom reading, doing lessons or watching television. Others, for an extra wage, will wash dishes, mend and sometimes cook and take over for a week-end. In most cities, a home-maker's service is available in case of illness, and visiting nurses will also come to the house when necessary.

The housewife's job has also been made easier by the "shopping centre". Even quite new suburban communities are now being served by specially built centres that usually include a self-service food store, a bank, a hairdressing salon, a dry-cleaning business, a drugstore, and often a branch of a big department store. Such centres usually have large parking lots, which means that many housewives need rarely go into the heart of the city.

The shopping centre has become a social meeting place, rather like the village well in Asia or the back fence in small towns, at which busy women talk together for a few minutes. This is particularly true of the cash-and-carry chain store, where the shoppers themselves select the merchandise they want to buy. A large variety of food is carefully packaged and displayed on convenient shelves in these "super-markets". Wire express wagons, often with a seat for a baby, are supplied at the door. Women wheel them round as they help themselves to cereals, canned goods, frozen fish and vegetables, milk, cheese, and a great variety of cake and biscuit mixes. Large meat-counters hold all cuts of meat already weighed and wrapped in cellophane, but butchers are also in attendance to supply special demands. Improved storage and transportation methods make it possible for Canadian housewives to have a supply of fresh vegetables and fruits throughout the year.

Voluntary Organizations

Canadian women are making a great contribution to the life of the country through membership in voluntary organizations. Many farm women belong to the Women's Institutes, which are affiliated with the Associated Country Women of the World. The Women's Institutes were started in Canada by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, of Stoney Creek, Ontario, who felt that farm women could help themselves to be more efficient wives and mothers by getting together to study nutrition, hygiene and home economics. For many months, she travelled about the country lecturing to small groups of women. The idea caught on and spread not only to every part of Canada but to 40 other countries. In 1967, there were 3,200 Women's Institutes in Canada with a membership of 62,000 women.

City housewives often belong to such organizations as church associations, parent-teacher groups, reading clubs or service clubs which require members to do voluntary work for the community every week. Many women who do not belong to a service club register with a volunteer bureau run by the Council of Social Agencies; in due course, they are placed where their particular skills can do most good. Canadian volunteers are busy taking case histories in hospitals, driving crippled children to clinics, doing group work in the YWCA, assisting in Red Cross blood-donors' clinics, and helping with group work activities and a score of other projects. Women also earn money for worthwhile projects by running bazaars, secondhand clothing stores and organizing charity balls and theatrical entertainment. Every year, an army of volunteers canvass for social and service agencies dependent on public subscriptions for support.

The National Council of Women, the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the University Women's Clubs and the Canadian Association of Consumers are highly efficient pressure groups that can be credited with persuading the federal, provincial and municipal governments to bring in many needed reforms.

Education

Every year, in increasing numbers, Canadian women are achieving a higher education. In 1964-65, the percentage increase in the enrolment of women was 18.4 per cent, while the increase in the enrolment of men was only 10.2 per cent. In spite of this continuing trend, male undergraduates and graduate students in Canadian universities greatly outnumber their female counterparts. (In the academic year 1964-65, undergraduate enrolment was 50,695 women and 113,746 men. Graduate students numbered 11,477 men and 2,320 women.)

At Work

Most Canadian women expect to work when they finish their formal education. In this century, there has indeed been a dramatic increase in the number of Canadian women who hold paid jobs. In 1911, only 13 per cent of the people in the labour force were women; today, 30 per cent are women, the increase being chiefly because there are more job opportunities for women. The increasing complexity of production processes has meant that craftsmen have been replaced by machine operators, many of them women. Changed factory techniques have also enabled women to do work which was once too heavy for them. The growth of record-keeping and other office jobs has also provided more openings. Perhaps most important of all, women have so proved their worth during two world wars that prejudice against hiring them is beginning to disappear.

Today, Canadian women are doing practically every job on the list of the National Employment Service. For example, women are now aviators, veterinarians, morticians, lumber "jills", trappers and welders. Furthermore, their main occupations have changed greatly over the years.

Fifty years ago, the majority of women workers were employed as seamstresses, milliners or domestic servants. Today, women at work are concentrated in the following occupations: typists and stenographers, 97 per cent; nurses, 96 per cent; teachers, 70.7 per cent; service occupation, 58 per cent; household workers, 96 per cent. (1)

Married Women at Work

The "average" Canadian woman marries when she is 22.6 a man who is three years her senior. She will have an average of 3.8 children. Very often, particularly in towns and cities, the young wife continues to work "until the baby comes". Unless there is grave financial necessity, most Canadian women prefer not to take paid jobs outside the home while their children are of pre-school age. Every year, however, more and more "mechanized" households have helped make it possible for women to work both inside and outside the home. By 1967, over half the women in the labour force were married. The greatest number of working wives are between the ages of 35 and 49; they are women whose children are at school or have grown up and left home.

Working Conditions

In general, both men and women are protected by the same laws on minimum wages, maximum hours, unemployment insurance, holidays, vacations, workmen's compensation and fair-employment practices that forbid discrimination on grounds of race, colour, religion or national origin. There are, however, some health and safety welfare provisions that apply particularly to women workers. For example, women working in factories are required to wear a suitable head-covering to prevent their hair from catching in moving machinery. In all provinces, except British Columbia, women are prohibited from working underground in mines.

There is considerable diversity in labour laws as, under the British North America Act, the written part of the Canadian Constitution, most labour legislation comes under provincial jurisdiction.

By and large, though the working woman is now recognized as making a great economic contribution to Canadian society, women are, in general, still paid less than men, even when they perform work of comparable value. This is partly the result of the tradition that women are found in the less well-paid occupations, partly owing to the fact that they are less active in unions than men, and partly because the majority of them are unorganized white-collar workers. This situation has been improving slowly in recent years. More unions demand equal-pay clauses in their contracts. Eight provinces and the Federal Government have passed equal-pay laws. Women receive equal pay for equal work in the Public Service and in the Armed Services.

(1) For further details see Occupational Trends in Canada, Report II, 1963, Department of Labour.

It is still true that women find it difficult to achieve executive positions and are often passed over when promotions take place. It is possible that this may be accounted for by their own attitude toward their work: many women fail to obtain the training they need or perhaps do not work as hard at making a career for themselves as a man does because they expect to marry and look on a job as a temporary stop-gap.

In 1954, the Federal Government set up a Women's Bureau under the Department of Labour. The Bureau is now engaged in research on the needs of women workers and the social implications involved in the increased number of married women working outside the home.

Citizenship

Canadian women have full citizenship rights. When a Canadian woman marries an alien, she retains her Canadian citizenship. An alien woman marrying a Canadian citizen and legally admitted to Canada is eligible for citizenship after one year's residence.

Legal Rights

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

In nine of the ten provinces, the civil law is based on the Common Law of England. There are minor legal variations in each province, but in all of them a married woman has full legal rights. She may enter into contract, administer her own property and keep her own earnings. She and her husband have equal rights and obligations for the care, custody and discipline of their children.

Until 1964, the status of married women in Quebec was different from that obtaining in the other nine provinces. There is a historical reason for this. The Treaty of Paris, signed in Britain in 1774, guaranteed the French-speaking people living in what is now the Province of Quebec the right to keep the civil law under which they had been governed for over 200 years when they were members of a colony of France. In 1866, these laws were codified into the Civil Code of the Province of Quebec. In the following year, the British North America Act gave exclusive jurisdiction of property and civil rights to the provinces.

Under the Quebec Code, a married woman suffered under legal incapacities which made it necessary for her to get her husband's signature in order to appear in judicial proceedings, give, accept, sell or dispose of property during her lifetime (though she could dispose of it by making a will which becomes valid after her death without authorization or consent), and enter into contracts or obligations.

In 1964, these and other antiquated incapacities were removed, thanks to a bill passed by the Quebec Legislature. This bill was introduced by a woman, a Minister-without-Portfolio, Madame Claire Kirkland-Casgrain, a young lawyer

with three small children, who in 1961 became the first woman ever to be elected to the Quebec Legislature. In her maiden speech, she promised to fight until married women in the French province received the same rights as those enjoyed for so long by women in the other nine provinces. When she was elevated to Cabinet rank, she spent many months getting public support for her bill before successfully steering it through the all-male Legislature. Other laws which discriminate against women are still being studied and are expected to be changed.

Politics

Canadian women have had the universal franchise and the right to hold public office since 1919. Quebec did not give women the provincial franchise until 1940, though the Federal Government and the other nine provinces had done so 21 years before.

In 1967, there were five women in the Senate, Senator Muriel Ferguson from New Brunswick, Senator Elsie Inman from Prince Edward Island, Senator Mary Kinnear from Ontario, Senator Olive Irvine from Manitoba and Senator Josie Quart from Quebec. Four women were elected to the 265-member House of Commons in 1965. Two of them belong to the Liberal Party: Miss Judy LaMarsh, a lawyer and Mrs. Margaret Rideout, the widow of a Member of Parliament. One is a member of the Progressive-Conservative Party - Mrs. Jean Watts, the daughter of a former Cabinet Minister and the widow of a Member of Parliament whose former constituency she represents. The fourth, Mrs. Grace MacInnis, is a member of the New Democratic Party, a daughter of J.S. Woodsworth, founder of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. She is also the widow of a Member of Parliament.

Miss LaMarsh is at present a Cabinet Minister - Secretary of State, a large portfolio that is often called the "Cultural Ministry" because she is responsible for the National Film Board, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Gallery, the Canada Council, the National Library and Archives, the National Museum, the Queen's Printer, citizenship, higher education from the federal point of view. She is Chief Electoral Officer. Mrs. Rideout is Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In 1967, a Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada was set up by the Federal Government as the result of requests by women's organizations with a representation totalling about two million members.

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Politics
The women's movement in Quebec has been a success story. It has led to the election of the first woman to the Quebec legislature and the first woman to the Canadian House of Commons.

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Four women were elected to the 305-member House of Commons in 1962. Two of them belong to the Liberal Party: Miss Judy Lamarche, a lawyer and Mrs. Margaret Rideout, the widow of a Member of Parliament. One is a member of the Progressive-Conservative Party - Mrs. Jean Waters, the daughter of a former Cabinet Minister and the widow of a Member of Parliament whose former constituency she represents. The fourth, Mrs. Grace MacLanin, is a member of the New Democratic Party, a daughter of J.S. Woodsworth, founder of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. She is also the widow of a Member of Parliament.

Miss Lamarche is at present a Cabinet Minister - Secretary of State for a large portfolio that is often called the "Cultural Ministry" because she is responsible for the National Film Board, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the National Gallery, the Canada Council, the National Library and Archives, the National Museum, the Queen's Printer, citizenship, higher education from the federal point of view. She is Chief Electoral Officer. Mrs. Rideout is Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

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The Commission is expected to report to the Prime Minister in 1970. It will be the first time that a woman has been appointed to a position of such high rank in the Federal Government.

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APPENDIX E

- (11) The WMO was established as a Specialized Agency in 1950 as successor to the International Meteorological Organization, formed in 1878.
- (12) Assessment for membership in the ITU for 1945-46 and 1946-47 was estimated at \$2,800 annually on the basis of 1947-48 assessment.
- (13) The IAEA was established in 1957.
- (14) Gift of furnishings for the new headquarters building for WHO in Geneva

	Percent Assessment of	Contribution
United Nations Regular Budget	1.05	4,592,000
Special Accounts:		
UNPICYF	Y	1,200,000
UNRPA - Cash	Y	500,000
- Fund	Y	700,000
WFP - Cash	Y	4,000,000
- Commodities	Y	12,500,000
UNEP	Y	400,000
UNDP	Y	15,200,000
UNICEF	Y	1,200,000
UNITAR	Y	10,000
Congo Civilian Fund	Y	250,000
UNETSPA	Y	10,000
UNRPA	Y	1,400,000
Specialized Agencies and IAEA:		
ILO	1.20	1,000,000
FAO	1.00	1,200,000
WHO	1.75	2,500,000
UNESCO	1.00	1,170,000
ICAO	1.00	500,000
IMCO	1.00	10,000
ITU	1.00	200,000
WMO	1.00	80,000
UPU	1.00 (estimated)	50,000
IDA	Y	34,074,000
IAEA - Regular Budget	Y	350,000
- Operational Budget	Y	50,000
Related Organizations:		
International Committee for the Red Cross	Y	20,000
United Nations Association in Canada	Y	27,000
	TOTAL	64,795,000

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- (12) Assessment for membership in the ITU for 1942-45 and 1946-47 was estimated at \$2,800 annually on the basis of 1947-48 assessment.
- (13) The IAEA was established in 1957.
- (14) Gift of furnishings for the new headquarters building for WHO in Geneva.

APPENDIX B

Canadian Contributions to the United Nations System 1970-71
(paid by March 31, 1971)

	Percent Assessment or Voluntary Contributions (V)	Canadian Dollars
United Nations Regular Budget	3.08	4,891,000
Special Accounts:		
UNFICYP	V	1,800,000
UNRWA - Cash	V	650,000
- Food	V	700,000
WFP - Cash	V	4,031,000
- Commodities	V	12,500,000
UNHCR	V	400,000
UNDP	V	15,267,000
UNICEF	V	1,200,000
UNITAR	V	60,000
Congo Civilian Fund	V	250,000
UNETSPA	V	50,000
UNFPA	V	1,015,000
Specialized Agencies and IAEA:		
ILO	3.36	1,072,000
FAO	3.80	1,226,000
WHO	2.72	2,813,000
UNESCO	2.91	1,174,000
ICAO	3.65	259,000
IMCO	1.36	18,000
ITU	3.79	245,000
WMO	2.62	87,000
UPU	2.64 (estimated)	57,000
IDA	V	34,574,000
IAEA - Regular Budget	2.73	351,000
- Operational Budget	V	57,000
Related Organizations:		
International Committee for the Red Cross	V	20,000
United Nations Association in Canada	V	27,000
	TOTAL	<u>84,795,000</u>

APPENDIX B

Canadian Contributions to the United Nations System 1970-71
(paid by March 31, 1971)

Canadian Dollars	Percent Assessment or Voluntary Contributions (V)	
4,801,000	2.68	United Nations Regular Budget
		Special Accounts:
1,800,000	V	UNEP
850,000	V	UNRWA - Cash
700,000	V	- Food
4,021,000	V	WFP - Cash
12,500,000	V	- Commodities
400,000	V	UNHCR
17,287,000	V	UNDP
1,300,000	V	UNICEF
60,000	V	UNITAR
250,000	V	World Civilian Fund
50,000	V	UNEP
1,012,000	V	UNRWA
		Specialized Agencies and IAEA:
1,072,000	2.26	ILO
1,200,000	2.80	FAO
2,812,000	2.72	WHO
1,174,000	2.91	UNESCO
252,000	2.62	ICAO
12,000	1.20	IMCO
242,000	2.20	ITC
87,000	2.62	WMO
57,000	2.62 (estimated)	IPU
24,274,000	V	IDA
321,000	2.72	IAEA - Regular Budget
27,000	V	- Operational Budget
		Related Organizations:
20,000	V	International Committee for the Red Cross
27,000	V	United Nations Association in Canada
<u>24,782,000</u>	TOTAL	

APPENDIX C

Total Contributions of Ten Major Contributors to Four Voluntary Special Programs of the United Nations

(in millions of U.S. dollars)

PROGRAM	Total Contributions	U.S.A.	BRITAIN	CANADA	SWEDEN	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	FRANCE	NETHERLANDS	U.S.S.R.	INDIA	ITALY
UN Development Aid ⁽¹⁾	2289.5	838.3	162.3	130.4	179.0	115.8	61.4	95.9	46.0	43.6	31.8
1953-70	58.4	14.7	5.62	4.46	4.72	4.33	4.48	3.15	---	.02	.26
UNHCR ⁽²⁾	6.0	1.0	.36	.39	.96	.4	.39	.18	---	.01	.04
UNICEF ⁽³⁾	542.7	284.8	17.2	21.64	15.7	19.15	20.1	3.1	10.5	8.7	4.5
UNRWA ⁽⁴⁾	738.1	477.9	114.0	25.9	13.2	11.9	16.1	1.6	---	.4	2.1

Notes to Appendix C

The Expanded Program of Technical Assistance (EPTA) commenced in 1949, and was supplemented in 1959 by the United Nations Special Fund. In 1965 it was decided to merge these two programs into the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), effective January 1, 1966.

SOURCES

- (1) Financial reports and accounts of UNDP submitted to the United Nations General Assembly.
- (2) Annual reports to the General Assembly of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
- (3) Financial reports and accounts for UNICEF submitted to the General Assembly.
- (4) Annual reports to the General Assembly by the Commissioner General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

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UNDP
UNHCR
UNRWA
UNRWA
UNRWA

BP/C

UNDP
UNHCR
UNRWA
UNRWA
UNRWA