

NOVA SCOTIA TASK FORCE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

In 1967, the Federal Government created a Royal Commission to study the status of women in Canada. In 1970, the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada was released, containing 167 recommendations dealing with the position of women in Canada. The Royal Commission held public hearings from one end of the country to the other, and tried to get representations from all segments of Canadian society.

Some of the recommendations of the Royal Commission have been implemented; many have not.

There are many recommendations which fall under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. In March of this year, the Province of Nova Scotia created a Task Force on the Status of Women, to study these recommendations and find out the special problems and concerns of the women of Nova Scotia. The members of the Task Force are:

Dr. Mairi St. John Macdonald	-	Chairperson
Dr. Carrie Best		Joan MacLellan
Dr. Lorette Toews		Mary C. Wall
Edna deSanctis		Judy Giffin

Some of the recommendations that have not been implemented deal with:

EMPLOYMENT - (a) that the Human Rights Act be amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of marital status;
(b) that workmen's compensation legislation be equally applicable to the spouse of the male & female worker;
(c) that household workers be covered by labour legislation;
(d) that protection be given to household workers in the form of a Household Workers Bureau which would apply standards, keep records, find jobs, etc.

EDUCATION - (a) that sex stereotyped literature and texts be removed from the school curriculum;
(b) that boys and girls not be channelled into typically "masculine" and "feminine" courses, sports, and later, careers;
(c) that family life education, including sex education, be started in primary school, and given to girls and boys in the same classroom at the same time;
(d) that programmes be established to deal with the continuing education of women with families, and rural women.

FAMILY LIFE - (a) that legislation be enacted to recognize the concept of equal partnership in marriage and matrimonial property;
(b) that unmarried mothers not be required to press for an affiliation order under the Children of Unmarried Parents Act, before being granted social assistance.

These are just some of the issues the Task Force hopes to deal with. Other important areas are child care services, equality in pension rights, pensions for housewives and domestics, women in the education system, credit rights, sexism in advertising and the media, women on welfare.....

The Task Force hopes to release its report around the end of this year. In order to make meaningful recommendations, it must be aware of the wants and needs of the women of Nova Scotia. Please tell us what you want.