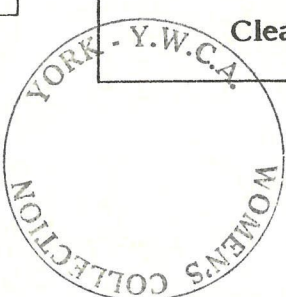


Conseil
consultatif canadien
de la situation de la femme

Canadian
Advisory Council
on the Status of Women

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Newsletter

An update on Women and Pensions activities

February 1984

In March 1983, a Special Committee was named to act as a Parliamentary Task Force on Pension Reform. Its assignment was to report upon proposals outlined in the government's green paper "Better Pensions for Canadians." During the remaining months of 1983 the Task Force conducted public hearings and received representations from groups and individuals across Canada. Its report was released in December 1983. Although dozens of recommendations were made by the Task Force, this newsletter will highlight only those that will have the most impact on women. A copy of that report may be obtained by writing to the Special Committee on Pension Reform, Committees and Private Legislation Branch, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6.

In the chapter on Women and Pensions the Task Force recognizes that the problem of pensions is largely a women's problem. Since the earnings-related nature of the C/QPP ignores the work that women do outside of the paid labour force, it is gratifying to see that the Committee has recommended a homemaker pension. The Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women (CACSW) has been advocating such a reform since 1973.

Other recommendations that are in accordance with the CACSW's are:

- continuation of survivor benefits after remarriage;
- pension plans to vest benefits after 2 years of employment;
- improved portability options;
- removal of sex discrimination in pension benefits.

The CACSW recommends that the Guaranteed Income Supplement be increased to ensure an adequate income to all senior citizens whereas the Task Force proposes that the increase apply to single elderly individuals only.

The CACSW recommends an expansion of the C/QPP; unfortunately, the Task Force does not. Without this expansion, pensioners will still be forced to survive on inadequate retirement incomes. Until the Task Force's recommendations are approved by the government and become law, it is not too late to voice our concern on this serious omission.