

CANADIAN HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE D'ECONOMIE FAMILIALE

BRIEF TO THE
SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE
ON
THE CONSTITUTION

Submitted November, 1980

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May Maskow
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FOREWORD

The Canadian Home Economics Association includes among its members seventeen hundred professional Home Economists who work in education, business, research, and government, and who are concerned with the well-being of individuals and families in Canada. C.H.E.A. is affiliated with twenty-five local and provincial Home Economics Associations and thereby speaks for a large network of individual Home Economists across Canada. In addition, C.H.E.A. is linked internationally with the International Federation for Home Economics.

The Canadian Home Economics Association exists to

- promote the attainment of high professional standards through continuing education and professional development among Home Economists.
- encourage research and the dissemination and use of research findings.
- facilitate communication and cooperation among local, provincial, national and international home economics groups.
- initiate communication and cooperation among groups who share the overall aim of the Association.
- promote in-depth studies of social issues by drawing upon available expertise and subsequently to develop positions on those issues relating to the well-being of families and make recommendations to appropriate agencies and levels of government.
- encourage awareness of pending legislation on issues which may affect the well-being of individuals and families and to take action in appropriate cases.

Through letter, resolution (see attached as Appendix "A") and action, Home Economists have supported the ideal of equality of all people in all aspects of the political, social and economic life of Canada, and in particular the right of women to equal opportunity.

THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1980
CHARTER OR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

The Canadian Home Economics Association wishes to ensure that the Proposed Resolution respecting the Constitution of Canada guarantees the equality of rights of all people, and that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms clearly states this right.

The Association is concerned that the present clause might be interpreted to mean only that laws once passed will be equally applied to all individuals, but that the law itself can still treat women unequally.

Therefore, the Canadian Home Economics Association recommends that the Constitution Act, 1980, Part 1, "Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms", Clause 15(1) be amended to read that "everyone have equality of rights under the lawwithout discrimination because ofsex."

Further, the Association recommends that women be included among those groups for whom "affirmative action programs" may be allowed and that this objective be clearly stated in the changes proposed in the Constitution

The debate regarding the Constitution and the changes being proposed will have a profound effect on Canadian life in the future, and it is hoped that every effort will be made to ensure a fair and equitable standard of rights for all individuals.

November, 1980

C.H.E.A. SUPPORTS EQUAL WORK OPPORTUNITIES
FOR WOMEN AND MEN

The following resolution was passed at the C.H.E.A. Annual Meeting, July 11, 1979:

WHEREAS, the percent of working women in Canada has been increasing and has still not reached the level found in many other industrialized countries (5, 7, 8),

WHEREAS, women in Canada are often the sole earner in a household; and in households with two incomes, are increasingly significant contributors to family income (2, 3),

WHEREAS, women and men in Canada should have equal right to earn a living (1, 7) and not be involuntary wards of the state,

WHEREAS, the quality of life for men in Canada would be enriched by greater opportunity for sharing in family care,

WHEREAS, social expenditures of government are only moderate in light of other western industrialized nations (4, 6),

BE IT RESOLVED that Canadian Home Economics Association:

1. Will adopt the following positions on public policy:
 - (a) commitment to INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN in the workforce and to training programs which will allow women to meet their potential in the workplace.
 - (b) commitment to THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES necessary to allow women to participate in the workforce (for example, day care for children, elderly or handicapped dependents).
 - (c) commitment to PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVES IN EMPLOYMENT for men and women (e.g., facilitating part-time work, job sharing possibilities and administration of benefits).
2. Will communicate its position to appropriate federal government departments, Members of Parliament and national organizations.
3. Will both advocate and respond to federal government policies reflecting these positions.
4. Will develop programs to increase understanding of these issues among members and others (for example, a conference or workshop on family and work; issue of the C.H.E. Journal devoted to the topic).
5. Will encourage provincial and local Home Economics Associations in Canada to adopt these positions and a corresponding program of action.

FOOTNOTES:

1. "Instead of research women need job aid, Broadbent declares". Globe and Mail, March 9, 1979.
2. Mudry, J. et al "Children in Single Parent Families: Can the Home Economist Help?" Canadian Home Economics Journal, 29 (2) 61-64, 1979.
3. One in a World of Two's - A report by the National Council of Welfare on one-parent families in Canada, April 1976.
4. Perspective Canada II - A compendium of Social Statistics 1977, Statistics Canada.
5. Policy Review and Outlook, 1979: Anticipating the Unexpected, C. D. Howe Research Institute, Montreal (pp. 140-163)
6. "Social Mythology and Social Policy". Notes for an address by the Honorable Monique Begin, at the annual meeting of the National Council of the YMCA's of Canada, Geneva Park, Ontario, May 27, 1978.
7. Towards Equality for Women. Status of Women Canada, 1979.
8. "Working women - force of the future". Globe & Mail, February 28, 1979.