

“Women could achieve economic equality in one generation if they stopped having children and replicated the work patterns of men. But the equality would last only one generation and then it’s over!” (Sheila Regahar: *Economic Gender Equality Indicators*, 1998)

FACT: UNPAID WORK IS WORTH A LOT TO THE CANADIAN ECONOMY.

- Depending upon how it was measured, the value of household work performed annually in Canada ranged from \$210.8 billion to \$318.8 billion in 1992. (*Value of Household Work in Canada*, Statistics Canada, 1994)
- Those figures mean that the value of housework fell anywhere between 30.6% and 46.6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the main instrument used to measure the strength of the economy and which completely ignores household work. (*Value of Household Work in Canada*, Statistics Canada, 1994)
- The total amount of unpaid work done in Canada is equivalent to 12.8 million full-time, full-year jobs. (Statistics Canada, 1995)

FACT: CANADIAN WOMEN DO MOST OF THE UNPAID WORK.

- Women do two-thirds of the 2.5 billion hours of unpaid work performed in Canada annually. (Statistics Canada, *Canadian Social Trends*, 1996)
- In terms of time, women carry out 65.6% of all household work. On average, women spend 4.5 hours per day on unpaid household work, compared to 2.6 for men. (*Status of Women Canada - Toward a Framework for Evaluating the Policy Implications of Unpaid Work*, 1995)
- Women’s share of unpaid work has declined very little since 1961 despite the near doubling of their participation rate in the paid labour force. (*It’s About Time - Unpaid Work and the 1996 Census* - Carol Lees, 1995)
- Women, on average, spent 78% more time in 1992 on unpaid work than men did (91,482 hours/year, compared with 831 hours). (Statistics Canada, *Canadian Social Trends*, 1996)
- Women spend about twice as much time caring for elderly relatives as men do. In one study, women giving care to older family members missed an average of 35 hours of work per year - nearly one full week. (*Women’s Work - A Report by the Canadian Labour Congress*, 1997)
- Among households in Canada, 92% of women reported spending time doing unpaid housework or home maintenance in the week preceding the Census, compared to 85% of men. (*Census of Canada*, Statistics Canada, 1996)

- In addition to engaging in unpaid work in somewhat higher proportions, women typically devoted longer hours to these various activities. For example, 25% of women reported that they spent 30 hours or more doing housework or home maintenance while 8% of men reported that they spent 30 hours or more. (*Census of Canada, Statistics Canada, 1996*)

FACT: EVEN IN THE PAID WORKFORCE, WOMEN'S WORK IS NOT BEING VALUED EQUALLY.

- Using a conventional analysis, it was found that Canadian women who worked full-time in 1995 earned, on average, 73 cents for every dollar earned by men. (*Economic Gender Equality Indicators, 1998*)
- Using another approach - including all women and men in prime earning years of 18 - 64 the difference in earnings is 52 cents on the dollar. (*Economic Gender Equality Indicators, 1998*)
- In 1996, Canada had the second highest level of low-paid employment for women among industrialized nations, next to Japan. (*Economic Gender Equality Indicators, 1998*)

FACT: WOMEN USUALLY HAVE TO BALANCE DEMANDS BETWEEN THEIR PAID AND UNPAID WORK.

- In 1995, women working full-time lost 7 days on average to attend to personal or family responsibilities, compared to about one day for men. (*Women's Work - A Report by the Canadian Labour Congress, 1997*)
- Using Statistics Canada's 30-hour definition for full-time work, most Canadian women work part-time in the paid labour force and full-time in the unpaid. (Statistics Canada, 1992)

FACT: IN ORDER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS AND DEPENDANTS, WOMEN MUST OFTEN MAKE DECISIONS THAT REDUCE THEIR ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL EARNINGS, INCOME, AND SECURITY.

- 60% of part-time workers are women. (*Economic Gender Equality Indicators, 1998*)
- Three out of five female single parents live in poverty. (*Economic Gender Equality Indicators, 1998*)
- 56% of unattached women over the age of 65 live in poverty. (*Economic Gender Equality Indicators, 1998*)