

FACTS & FIGURES ON WOMEN AND WORK

1. Women are 39.1% of the labour force (projected 1976 estimate).
2. 72.1% of all women work in retail trade; the public service or clerical and finances.
3. 36.3% of all low wage earners work in either clerical or retail.
4. 72% of the total clerical work force is women; yet men's earnings exceeded women's in this field by 56.7%.
5. 39.8% of all workers in the sales occupations are women yet men's earnings exceed women by 167% (over 2-1/2 times as much).
6. 35.1% of all mothers in 1973 were working mothers
7. Only 1/10 (11.1%) of all bank tellers are male yet they earn 50.1% more than female bank tellers.

* * * * *

94.5% of all Typists and Clerk Typists are women
97% of all Secretaries and Stenographers are women
88.2% of all Tellers and Cashiers are women

* * * * *

"Women in Canada constitute a cheap labour force more than twice as large as that of past 1945 immigrants. According to 1974 figures, women in Ontario alone lost three billion dollars annually in potential wage and salary income due to male/female inequalities. The figure for the whole country was close to seven billion dollars, representing a major gain for the corporations." (P. Lawer, "Canada's Unions")

* * * * *

Women in Canada earn approximately 60% of what men make.

* * * * *

34.6% of women workers in B.C. are in unions. 51% of male workers are unionized.

In the U.S. the proportion of working women who are union members has been steadily declining. In 1950 17% of working women were in unions, in 1966, 13.8% and by 1976 the proportion had fallen to 12.5%.

Even in places where women work under contract the gap between men's and women's wages has widened in many areas because of percentage increases.

* * * * *

Canada - Union Membership & Executives _ Female - 1972

38.1% of all male paid workers were union members
22.3% of all female, paid workers were union members
24.2% of all union members in Canada in 1972 were women
3.8% of the Executive Board members of International Unions were women
11.1% of the Executive Board members in National Unions were women.
5.8% of the Executive Board members in Government Unions were women.
Total: 9.4% of the Executive Board members in all unions in Canada were women.

* * * * *

The average weekly salary in B.C. is \$1185.12/mo. (B.C. Dept. of Labour /77)
Usual starting salary in banks is approx. \$625 - \$660/mo.