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The Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women concluded its two-day Toronto meeting today.

Among items considered by the 30 member Council, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Katie Cooke, was the announcement by Hon. John Munro, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, that the government intends to give priority at the next session of parliament to the establishment of a Commission for the Protection of Egalitarian Rights. Mr. Munro, who spoke informally to the Council yesterday, told members that the proposed legislation would incorporate those principles originally developed for Bill C-206, to Amend the Canada Labor Code to include sex, age and marital status as prohibited grounds for discrimination.

Members of Council showed great interest in early establishment of the proposed Commission, and several voiced concern about delays already experienced in eliminating inequities under the Labor Code, Citizenship Act, and Canada Pensions Act, and that should the scope of the Commission be too broad, it may be rendered impotent to deal effectively with discrimination.

Council feels that "the introduction of Human Rights Legislation should be accompanied at the same time by specific amendments to existing legislation where inequalities and discrimination exist - i. e. Canada Labor Code, Canada Pension Plan, Citizenship Act, Immigration Act, equal employment and benefits opportunities, etc., etc." (A copy of the Federal Advisory Council's Statement on the Human Rights Commission is attached)

Members of council also expressed concern that despite the fact that two new judges had recently been appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada, no woman had been named.

A 60-page Assessment on implementation to date of the Recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women will be published shortly in French or English. It will be made available to women's organizations and to interested individuals.

Council discussed and decided to circulate a discussion paper on the Canada Pension Plan and Women, prepared by Vice Chairman S. June Menzies, Winnipeg Economist. Copies will be made available to the media.

Several members of Council executive met in December with Hon. Marc Lalonde, Minister of National Health and Welfare to discuss inequities in the Canada Pension Plan. Mr. Lalonde indicated at that time, that a discussion of inequities of the Plan would be scheduled for the upcoming meeting of the Federal and Provincial Welfare Ministers. In addition, a meeting has been arranged late in February, with DNIW officials studying the feasibility of including housewives in the Canada Pension Plan.

Additional background material will be provided to the media on request, and individual interviews with members of Council may be arranged, as time permits.

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Congratulations to Mel Thompson, from Perry Siding, who has been hired as Co-Administrator of the Slocan Valley Community Forest Management Project. We hope to do an interview with her for next month.

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Women's Centre in Nelson will be having a rap group on Tuesday afternoons, starting February 12, 1974, at 1 P.M.

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Our cover last month was done by Susan Charlton, and the Human Rights Mandala by Carol of the New Family. This month's cover was done by Erin Harris, also of the New Family, and the drawing of the woman with the world behind her was done by Valria from Calgary. Please, do all drawings in black ink or felt pen, as the offset press we use does not print from any other color, and my lines are not always the same as yours.

What has happened to the Trail Status of Women? We welcome articles on what you are doing, thinking and feeling, book reviews, drawings, and letters to the editor, from groups and/or individuals. It feels good that more women have been sending us original work, keep it coming.

I got an interesting response verbally about the letter to a friend concerning marriage, and would appreciate your thoughts and feelings on it in writing to share with all of us.

Marcia

P.S. What do you think of IMAGES for a name for this great publication?