

## **Departmental Response to the Evaluation of the Agenda for Gender Equality**

In order to fulfill the commitment to report on the progress of the Agenda for Gender Equality after five years, Status of Women Canada selected CS/RESORS Consulting to conduct a formative evaluation\* of three components of the Agenda for Gender Equality (i.e., accelerating the implementation of gender-based analysis, engaging Canadians in the policy process, and meeting international commitments) and Prairie Research Associates to evaluate another component (enhancing voluntary sector capacity) as part of a larger summative evaluation of the Women's Program (December 2004 - September 2005). The evaluation, completed in March, 2005, consists of a document review of information relating to the Agenda, interviews with 30 "key informants" representing non-governmental organizations, federal government departments and staff of Status of Women Canada, 2 case studies of women's groups funded by the Women's Program and an administrative file review.

The Evaluation and Audit Committee from Status of Women Canada approved the evaluation conducted by CS/RESORS and Prairie Research Associates on the Agenda for Gender Equality. The Committee agrees with the findings and that accountability, clarity and more effective consultations with stakeholders are important elements for future strategies. The recommendations in this report have been noted by the Committee and the management response will take these recommendations into consideration in the creation of a new gender equality strategy. Therefore, it will not be required to create a separate action plan.

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\*\* A formative evaluation focuses on process and judges the worth of a program while the program activities are forming or happening. Summative evaluations focus on outcomes, and judge the worth of a program at the end of the program activities.