

Please note that the questionnaire below is available only for archival purposes. It was used in the Gender Equality Consultation which ended November 10, 2005.

Gender Equality Consultation

Part 1 - A New Gender Equality Strategy

The Royal Commission on the Status of Women in 1970 provided recommendations on **how** government should work for equality, as well as **what** it should work on. The questions in Part 1 set out some proposals that have been made on how government could improve the way it works for the future. In Part 2 we ask about your views on what issues are important to you.

Introduction to Question 1

What Status of Women Canada has heard from Canadian non-governmental organizations, the Standing Committee on the Status of Women and international bodies indicates that a new gender equality strategy is needed and that higher priority should be given to gender equality in Canada.

Question 1: Do you agree that gender equality should be a higher priority for Canada?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/> I would prefer to skip this question				

Introduction to Question 2

A main theme that emerged from national and international sources was a need for more government accountability to Canadians for gender equality results. A number of suggestions have been made for ways this could be done.

Question 2: A number of suggestions made for improving accountability are listed below. Please check as many as you support:

- Produce plans of action with measurable indicators and reports showing results
- Take better account of gender differences in designing policies and programs (called gender-based analysis)
- Make gender equality a specific legal requirement

- Improve support for knowledge-building on gender equality issues
- Consult Canadians on a more regular basis
- Improve support for women's and other organizations working on gender equality issues
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

Introduction to Question 3

Sometimes a person's view of the situation of women and men depends on what statistics or studies they hear about. While there is no single statistic or indicator that can measure gender equality, there is much that almost everyone strives for - good health, an opportunity to develop potential, an adequate standard of living, economic security and physical safety, for example. It has been suggested that we develop a set of gender equality indicators to track change over time in the areas that matter most in comparing the situation of women and men, girls and boys.

Question 3: In order to help us design a set of gender equality indicators, please indicate as many as you think should be included:

- Health
- Education and training
- Paid work
- Unpaid work
- Earnings and income
- Low-income
- Violence
- Political representation
- Tracking change for women and men in general
- Tracking change according to family or relationship status and the presence of children in the home
- Tracking change according to other factors such as age, disability, geographical location, Aboriginal origin, visible minority and immigration status
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

Introduction to Questions 4 and 5

Another important issue concerns support for non-governmental organizations working for equality. One of the barriers to equality that women face is that they are less likely than men to be in positions of power and decision-making - in the household, in the private sector and in government. Women's heavy workload (paid and unpaid) and their lower incomes also affect their ability to participate in public life.

Federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments play a role in ensuring that Canadians have their voices heard and their concerns addressed. As an important part of our democracy, funding and/or other supports are available to enable many types of voluntary organizations, including women's organizations, to participate in the public policy process.

There are women's organizations working on equality issues across Canada at national, regional and local levels and the federal government has provided support to them for over 30 years. These organizations have said it is increasingly difficult to obtain funding from various sources to sustain their work and that they have faced cut backs and discontinued programs. At the same time, these organizations feel their need for resources has grown, as society and the issues have become more diverse and complex.

Question 4: Do you think that the government should increase funding support for women's organizations working for equality and bringing women's equality concerns to the attention of policy makers?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/> I would prefer to skip this question				

Question 5: Please check as many as apply:

- I am familiar with the work of women's organizations in my community
- I am familiar with the work of women's organizations in my region of the country
- I am familiar with the work of national women's organizations
- I am familiar with the work of women's organizations at the international level
- I am not familiar with the work of women's organizations
- I would prefer to skip this question

Introduction to Questions 6 and 7

The final questions in Part 1 are about consulting with Canadians on gender equality issues. It has been suggested that Status of Women Canada have regular consultations on gender equality, to help set priorities, for example, or to discuss a policy being reviewed. A number of other countries meet with major women's organizations on an annual basis. They also might conduct other smaller or larger consultations, in different ways, as the need arises and resources permit. Because of Canada's size and federal structure, regional considerations might also be important.

Question 6: Do you believe it is important for the government to consult regularly with organizations across the country that work on gender equality issues?

<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/> I would prefer to skip this question				

Question 7: Do you support other ways to ensure that Canadians, especially women and girls, can have a say on policies that affect them?

- On-line consultation such as this one
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

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Part 2 - Policy and Program Priorities

In this part of the questionnaire Status of Women Canada seeks **your perspectives** on potential priorities for action that could make a real difference in moving forward on gender equality. Among the policies and programs that most affect women's lives, some are federal responsibilities, some are provincial and territorial and some are shared. The main interest of this questionnaire is in what you think should be priorities for the federal government. We are also interested in what matters to you most, regardless of who might be involved in making matters better.

Introduction to Questions 8 and 9

As with Part 1, the questions are based on what we have heard and learned from several sources. One of the main messages we heard was that no one solution or "one size fits all" approach will work. Rather, we heard that it is important to continue to build on what works in order to improve results for women and girls in a wide range of areas of public policy.

In addition, two areas emerged as large and persistent gender equality gaps - high rates of **poverty among women** and the disadvantaged situation of **Aboriginal women**. In closing these gaps, action was urged both to reduce hardship and prevent problems by better addressing root causes and the risks women face.

Question 8: What approach to policy and program priorities would you recommend for Canada for the next few years?

- Work towards equality in all areas, no specific priority
- Work towards equality in all areas, as well as focus especially on reducing and preventing poverty among women and improving the situation of Aboriginal women
- Work towards equality in all areas, with a focus on different priorities, other than poverty and the situation of Aboriginal women (please specify)
- Focus on poverty and Aboriginal women only
- Focus on other priorities only (please specify)
- I would prefer to skip this question

Question 9: Please select the 3 areas where you think action could make the most difference in improving the overall situation of women and girls in Canada:

- Health care
- Work/family balance
- Child care
- Elder care
- Employment opportunities
- Wage gap
- Income support for those in need
- Recognition of unpaid caregiving for children, persons with disabilities and the elderly
- Access to social security benefits
- Education
- Violence against women
- Housing
- Transportation
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

Introduction to Question 10

People who live in poverty and hardship face circumstances that most Canadians do not. Canada does not have an official poverty line. There are a number of measures that are used, but the gender patterns are usually the same.

Female lone parents, in particular, have a very high rate of poverty. As a result of gender and other factors, women with disabilities, Aboriginal women, immigrant women and women who are members of a visible minority also have higher than average rates of poverty.

Question 10: In order to improve the situation of women (and their families) living in poverty in Canada, please select the 3 most important areas where you think further action is needed:

- Employment opportunities
- Access to education and training in order to get better employment
- Income support
- Access to child care
- Access to other services and benefits
- Better recognition of unpaid work time
- Better recognition of skills, experience and credentials
- Other
- I don't know enough about living in poverty to comment
- I would prefer to skip this question

Introduction to Question 11

Aboriginal peoples face unique circumstances that make their lives and concerns different from Canadians in general. For example, the *Indian Act* applies to many but not all Aboriginal people and it has had very different impacts on Aboriginal women and men over many decades. This act does not apply at all to non-Aboriginal Canadians.

Question 11: In order to improve the situation of Aboriginal women and girls in Canada, please select the 3 areas where you think further action is most needed:

- Employment and economic opportunities
- Health and well-being
- Family and caregiving responsibilities
- Legal status, membership and entitlements
- Participation in decision-making processes
- Access to housing and services on reserve
- Access to education
- Addressing violence against women and children
- Other
- I don't know enough about the situation of Aboriginal women to comment
- I would prefer to skip this question

Introduction to Question 12

The federal government provides a wide range of benefits to Canadians, from income replacement when someone loses a job to student loans, child-related benefits, old age security and more.

Question 12: How would you rate your knowledge of federal programs, benefits and services (e.g., how they work, how to apply, what are the eligibility criteria)?

<input type="checkbox"/> Very poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good
<input type="checkbox"/> I would prefer to skip this question or it is not applicable				

Introduction to Questions 13, 14, 15 and 16

The previous questions have asked what you think would advance gender equality for all women and girls. In the next few questions we would like to know more about **what matters to you most as an individual** in your own experience and personal situation.

Question 13: Based on your own personal situation, what are the three issues that matter most to you right now?

- Access to health care
- Access to other services
- Balancing work and family
- Finding and/or keeping quality child care
- Finding and/or keeping quality elder care
- Finding and/or keeping a good job that meets your particular needs
- Being paid fairly
- Income to make ends meet
- Time to manage everything that needs to be done
- Finding personal time
- Access to employment-related benefits like pensions, medical coverage, income if you lose your job
- Access to family-related benefits for maternity, child-rearing or other care giving

- Education/training and being able to afford it
- Safety from fear and violence
- Discrimination and social exclusion
- Affordable housing
- Transportation to access job opportunities and services
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

Question 14: What are the three greatest economic risks that you are concerned about personally when thinking about your future?

- Losing a job
- Not finding a job that meets my specific needs
- Not making enough money
- Being seriously ill, injured or disabled
- Getting pregnant/raising a child
- Aging
- Being unable to balance employment and family responsibilities
- Not having enough education, qualifications or skills for the job market
- Not finding quality, affordable child care
- Not finding quality, affordable elder care
- Having a family or personal relationship break down
- Discrimination or harassment
- Violence at home or in the public sphere
- Not being able to qualify for government programs and services
- Not having enough assets such as savings or owning property to get by in unexpected difficult financial circumstances
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

Question 15: What are your three main sources of information on gender equality issues and the situation of women and men in Canada?

- Newspapers
- Radio
- TV
- Internet
- Magazines aimed at women
- Other magazines
- Books
- Friends
- Family
- Women's organizations
- Coworkers
- Educational institution
- Government sources
- Religious institution
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

Question 16: What have been the three most important influences on your personal views about gender and women's equality issues?

- Spouse or partner
- Mother
- Father
- Children
- Other relatives
- Workplace
- TV and other media
- Women's organizations
- Education
- Religion

- Friends and peers
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

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Part 3 - Please tell us a bit about you

I am

- Under 15
- 15-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75 and over
- I would prefer to skip this question

I am

- Female
- Male
- I would prefer to skip this question

Identity - would you identify yourself as belonging to any of the following:

- Racial or ethnic minority
- Immigrant or refugee
- Person with a disability
- Aboriginal
- I do not belong to any of the above
- I would prefer to skip this question

My situation is best described as (check as many as currently apply):

- I am living alone
- I am married
- I am in a common-law relationship
- I am separated or divorced
- I am remarried
- I am widowed
- I have children under 6 living with me
- I have children 6-18 living with me
- I have adult children living in my home
- I have adult children who do not live with me
- I am living in the home of adult children
- I am living in a household with other related or non-related adult(s)
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

I live

- In a city of over 500,000 people
- In an urban area of less than 500,000 people
- In a rural area
- On-reserve
- I would prefer to skip this question

In

- Yukon
- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut
- British Columbia
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan

- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Quebec
- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- Prince Edward Island
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- I would prefer to skip this question

My individual income is

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,001-\$30,000
- \$30,001-\$40,000
- \$40,001-\$50,000
- \$50,001-\$60,000
- Over \$60,000
- I would prefer to skip this question

The total income of my household is

- Under \$20,000
- \$20,001-\$40,000
- \$40,001-\$60,000
- \$60,001-\$80,000
- Over \$80,000
- I would prefer to skip this question

The category that best describes my perspective is:

- I am a Canadian concerned about this issue
- I am a member of a women's organization working for gender equality
- I am a member of a non-governmental organization that includes gender equality objectives
- I am a professional working in the field of gender equality and/or delivering services to women and girls
- Other
- I would prefer to skip this question

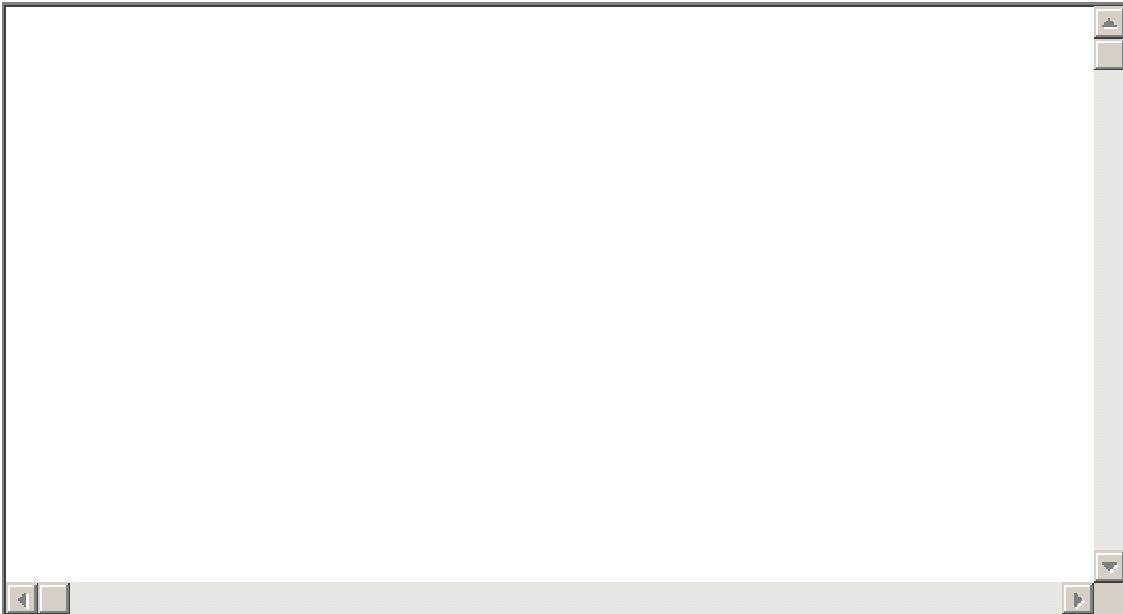
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Part 4 - Optional - Share your Ideas

Would you like to share any other ideas on what could be done to move forward to improve gender equality and the situation of women and girls in Canada? Please use the space provided below.

We will take these ideas into account as part of the consultation results. Please note, however, that you must not use inappropriate content or language (vulgar, obscene, hateful or demeaning), names or other identifying information about other individuals, or material that is copyrighted or that promotes a commercial product.

(Maximum 250 Words)

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