

## WHAT DO WOMEN WANT?

**Children are not just a temporary interruption or side event to their career advancement. Rather, children are an all-consuming concern that constantly occupies their thoughts and hearts.**

What do women want? This age old question has been repeatedly answered by women over the years. Yet, many do not understand the message that women have been sending.

No matter what her circumstances, rich or poor, educated or not, skilled or unskilled, women have been giving the same message for generations—today, yesterday, tomorrow—and they will continue to do so long into the future.

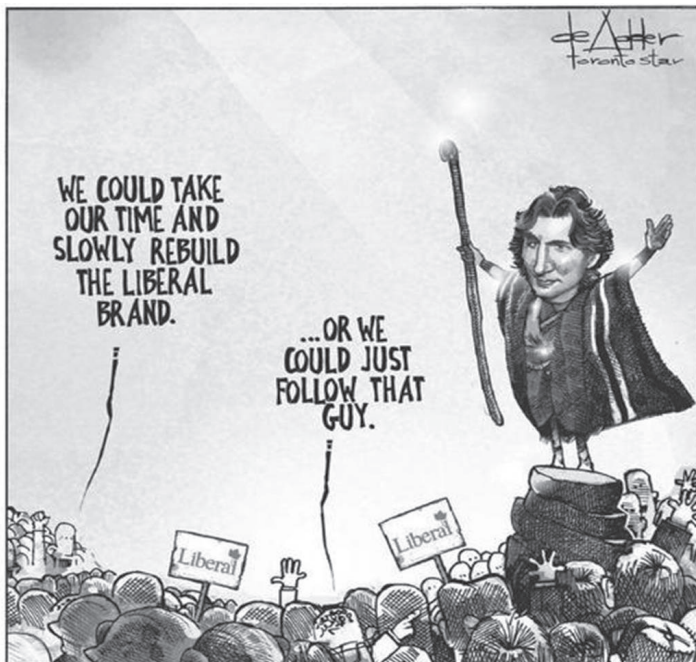
Even though women now dominate at universities in overwhelming numbers, receiving degrees and entering graduate school in droves, with all occupations open to them, resulting in many women receiving salaries equivalent to or even higher than their husbands, women’s message remains the same. With the whole world seemingly at their fingertips, why have women’s views and aspirations remained unchanged?

The answer is that, to most women, their children and

home are central to, or the very core of their being. Children are not just a temporary interruption or side event to their career advancement. Rather, children are an all-consuming concern that constantly occupies their thoughts and hearts. In contrast, it seems easier for men to detach themselves from their children, especially during working hours. This is the case even if these men are hands-on fathers at home.

This is the reason women with children usually have a different work ethic than childless women or men. That is, women with children welcome a shorter work week (most part-time employees are women), take full maternity leave, take jobs that offer flexible hours and prefer a work location close to home. These, however, are not career advancing moves, and they can seriously handicap a woman’s career.

This is why, across the globe, men still dominate corporate boardrooms and academia. The Catalyst, an international group advocating for more women in corporations, released a publication in 2011, Catalyst Census: Financial Post 500 Women Board Directors, which reveals that women’s representation on FP500 boards increased by only half a percentage point between 2009 and 2011 and now stands at 14.5%. Almost 40% of FP500 companies have no women on their boards, and over 46% of FP500 public companies have no women directors.



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› Some Liberals want Justin Trudeau to be the leader of their party to be decided April 2013. This cartoon appeared in The Toronto Star on November 17, 2012.

## FEMINIST RESPONSE

Feminist response to this phenomenon, of women changing their attitude about their careers, is to huffily explain that it is little wonder that women's interest in career advancement lessens, since they are still the victims of systemic discrimination and male oppression. Feminists propose that the remedy for this discrimination is to legislate parity for women on corporate boards, academia and in Parliament.

## LIBERAL SENATOR CELINE HERVIEUX-PAYETTE

Senator Celine Hervieux-Payette has become obsessed with this alleged problem of discrimination against women on corporate boards. Over the past four years, she has tabled several bills, the latest being Bill S-203, which requires all Canadian boards of directors to include at least 40% women and 40% men. This Bill is now before the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce. REAL Women of Canada has applied to give evidence before the Committee. In our brief, we argue that although women are every bit as competent as men, they should not be singled out for special advancement simply because of their gender. They should be appointed on merit, otherwise they discredit the work of those who are promoted and are successful because of merit. That is, appointments should be based on qualifications, background, experience and education, rather than tipping the scales based on a person's chromosomal make-up. If a woman is qualified and wants the appointment, it is her choice whether to accept it.

Feminists believe, however, that women are the same as men and that, if only given "equality" with men by way of legislation, they will work diligently and with the same vigour and ambition as men - their children being only a momentary interruption or distraction from their major goal in life, i.e. career success. In most cases, this is not so.

This is not to say that all women think this way. There are notable exceptions. These include Hillary Clinton, a former presidential candidate, and recently retired US Secretary of State. Christine Lagarde, former French Minister of Finance, and now head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had a busy legal career, incessantly travelling the globe. Her two failed marriages produced two sons. Ms. Lagarde's parenting of these sons consisted of telephoning them twice a day, at breakfast, and when they went to bed at night. However, this style of parenting doesn't appeal to many women. Another example is Marissa Mayer, the recently appointed head of Yahoo, who gave birth to a son in October and returned to work two weeks later. Ms. Mayer could have spent time bonding with her new baby, but instead chose to run the company. It was her choice.

Most women have some choice as to the pathway they choose when balancing their families and careers. However, many women do not have extensive choices and cannot balance family and work as they would choose. If a woman does have a choice, she cannot, with any integrity, demand legislated preferential treatment to advance her career or claim that her choice, which may disadvantage her career, is due to discrimination. †

## DIVORCE IN CANADA



Divorce is almost never a positive experience. It is the end of the hopes and dreams and/or a way of life.

No one really gains from a divorce, as there is always a sense of loss, regardless of the cause and circumstance of the divorce. The greatest losers in divorce, of course, are the children, who never really recover from their parents' separation. A growing body of evidence indicates that the children of divorced parents, regardless of their age at the time of the separation or divorce, suffer lasting psychological effects even years after the divorce. This frequently takes the form of post-adolescent fears of commitment and/or betrayal.

Since the no-fault divorce legislation was passed in 1986, verbal gymnastics have been developed to lessen the guilt of divorcing parents by claiming that if the couple maintains a "good divorce" the effects of this divorce on their children will be minimal. This has proven to be a myth. Professor Paul Amato of the Pennsylvania State University released a study, published in 2012, which indicates that the children of a so-called "good divorce" do not differ significantly from

children whose parents had a "bad divorce". They were not like their peers whose parents did not divorce.

In clinical studies, children of divorce show more depression symptoms, more delinquency and more anti-social behavior. Most children have trouble accepting divorce and hope, often for many years and despite remarriage, that their parents will come together again. That is why many children reject a parent's remarriage and even sabotage it after it has taken place.

For the custodial parent, divorce can lead to considerable problems in the teenage years. Separation from the non-custodial parent may also lead to the breakdown of the child's relationship with that parent (usually the father). Children need a close relationship with both parents while growing up, even if the parents are separated or divorced.

This is not to say that even with all its difficulties, divorce should never occur. Domestic violence, continuous infidelity, substance abuse, etc. can erode the central trust, which is essential in maintaining a marriage. Without this fundamental core ingredient, a marriage is difficult to maintain, despite the best of intentions.

## DIVORCE LAWS IN CANADA

Prior to 1968, the only ground for divorce in Canada was adultery. However, in 1968, the Divorce Act was amended to permit divorce for other reasons. These included physical and mental cruelty and separation for at least 3 years. In 1986, the Divorce Act was again amended to permit divorce after a one year separation, with no requirement to prove “fault” by either spouse. The less stringent divorce laws led to an astronomical increase in the rate of divorce in Canada. For example, in 1921 the divorce rate in Canada was 6.4 per 100,000 marriages: in 2003 the divorce rate was 223.7 per 100,000 marriages.

The no-fault divorce law was the inspiration of feminists, who argued that no-fault divorce would lead to a decrease in animosity, trauma and expense in divorce actions. How wrong they were! The only ones who have benefited from no-fault divorce are lawyers and accountants. Custody and finances are still the key source of trouble in ending a marriage and the no-fault concept has done nothing to resolve these issues.

The no-fault choice also has made it all too easy for spouses to walk away from a marriage, instead of trying to work through its inevitable stresses. That is, no-fault divorce provides a culture, whereby personal happiness in marriage is emphasized as a priority over one’s responsibilities to one’s spouse and children. The legal system used to require couples to work through the differences, but now, under the no-fault divorce regime, couples no longer have the social pressure to improve themselves and their relationships.

## NUMBER OF DIVORCES DECREASING

Following amendments made to the Divorce Law over the years, it is not surprising that the number of divorces immediately increased in Canada. However, this has recently changed.

The number of divorce cases filed in Canada has declined in six provinces and some of the territories for the past five years. In British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario, the Yukon, Nunavut and the North West Territories, divorces steadily decreased, by about 2% each year, between 2006-07 and 2010-11.

There were 54,000 divorce cases in 2010-2011 for the areas considered – which represents 66% of Canada’s population. The provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan were not included in the study, due to the unavailability of data.

## WHY IS THERE A DECREASE IN THE DIVORCE RATE?

There are a number of possible explanations for the recent decrease in the divorce rate in Canada.

One explanation is that the uncertain economy has

made it difficult for couples to establish and maintain two separate households. The lack of job security and uncertainty for the future inclines some couples to remain together and to try to work things out.

Another factor in the declining number of divorces can be attributed to people marrying later, when they usually have more life experience, stronger communication skills and greater maturity.

Also, there are fewer marriages taking place in Canada, as more couples are choosing to live together without marriage. In the last census (2011), 19% of couples were recorded as living in cohabiting relationships. This is a huge increase in common-law relationships, as there were only 7% of couples living common-law two decades ago. Cohabiting relationships break up much more frequently than legal marriages. For example, 10.2% of common-law couples separated, as opposed to only 1.7% of legally married couples between 2000 and 2008.

However, according to Professor Anthony Paik, a Sociologist at the University of Iowa, in an article published in the *Journal of Marriage and Family* (April 2011, pages 472–485), premarital sexual experiences impact on marital success. Professor Paik found that, “losing one’s virginity before marriage is indirectly linked to marital disruption, as it dramatically increases the likelihood of having multiple lovers before marriage, getting pregnant before marriage, and bearing a child out of wedlock. These behaviours statistically correlate with the risk of divorce.”

If this is the case, with the increase in pre-marital promiscuity and co-habitation, we can expect that the number of divorces will inevitably increase once again.

## UNCONTESTED DIVORCES

Most divorces in Canada were uncontested (80%) in the reporting provinces and territories in 2010-2011. These uncontested divorces were granted within 6 months of the filing for divorce.

As a result, a marriage is terminated more easily and at less financial cost than many business contracts are terminated. However, the price paid for divorce is high in emotional and psychological pain, to which no dollar amount can be attributed.

## TIME TO REVISE OUR DIVORCE LAWS

If society wishes the stability and permanence of marriage, changes must be made in the divorce legislation. No-fault divorce has proven to be problematic because its laxness promotes a failure to commit to one’s spouse. Easy divorce trivializes the importance of marriage and creates unfortunate consequences, not just for the spouses, but for the children and society, as well.

It is time, now, to redirect our efforts to building better marriages and cease putting the desires of parents over the needs of their children. †

# WOMEN WARRIORS HAVE PROBLEMS

**Despite the military's best efforts to maintain a politically correct neutrality in regard to women in the Canadian Forces, they are apparently covering up the problems rather than dealing with them.**

In 1989, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal declared, despite Canadian Forces studies to the contrary, that the only reason Canadian Forces did not have women serving in combat was because of the stereotyping of women. It ordered the Canadian Forces to accept and train women for combat duty as well as all other military occupations except for submarine duty. In 2001, women were permitted to serve on submarines as well.

Since the Tribunal decision, the Canadian Forces have strived mightily, spending millions and millions of dollars, to fulfill the Tribunal's mandate, but with not much success. Canadian Forces are, in fact, falling far short of their targets.

Female recruitment in the Canadian Forces, from 2011 to 2012 was 13.6%, for full-time troops, and 13.5% for reservists, despite its recruitment goal of 25% female participation.

Part of the problem is that, surprise, surprise, women are different from men, with smaller lung capacity and hearts, etc. which means that women have to work harder to keep up with men. The physical requirements for combat duty, especially, are extremely difficult for most women to meet. Those few women, who can keep up with men, don't stay around for long. They either leave the military or transfer to another occupation within the service, such as the medical and support trades, where women are over represented. On the other hand, they are underrepresented in positions like fighter pilots and infantry officers, which remain largely male.

However, in the past decade, between 2000 and 2011, some Canadian women have fought with men in Afghanistan as combat soldiers.

How have Canadian women fared under these rough combat conditions? Nobody knows. The Canadian Military has taken the politically correct position to remain "gender neutral" and maintained that there is no need to monitor the effects of gender integration in the military. This isn't very realistic as it may well put lives at risk. "Women may well experience gender specific medical issues and endurance problems from combat experience" as declared by US Marine Corps Captain, Katie

Petronia, in the summer 2012 issue of Marine Corps Gazette. She served both in Iraq and Afghanistan, and even though she was a high scorer in the Marine testing, she states that she had failed in the theatre of war. She experienced stress and muscular deterioration noticeably faster than male Marines in prolonged combat conditions.

According to Captain Petronia, by the fifth month into the deployment, "I had muscle atrophy in my thighs that was causing me to constantly trip and my legs to buckle with the slightest grade change. My agility during firefights and mobility on and off vehicles and perimeter walls was seriously hindering my response time and overall capability".

As a result, Captain Petronia, now questions whether women can, in fact, both physically and psychologically, sustain combat operations. Why isn't the Canadian military dealing with this?

Women in the military also face problems with sexual harassment—mainly instances of inappropriate remarks and teasing. It is amazing, though, that these women are sensitive to remarks that offend them, but at the same time are supposed to ruthlessly kill an enemy, in hand-to-hand combat.

National Defence claims there were only 513 harassment complaints between 2002 and 2012. However, according to Alain Gauthier, director of investigations in the Canadian Forces and National Defence Ombudsman's Office, in his testimony on November 27, 2012, before the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women, these statistics downplay the problem. This low number, according to Mr. Gauthier, is inaccurate as it is a reflection of the fact that the victims are too nervous to speak up. Mr. Gauthier pointed to a 1998 study, which indicated about 1,400 women complained they had been sexually harassed. Mr. Gauthier also referred to the male culture in the military as being a problem (would he prefer a female culture?), together with a fear of reprisal for making a complaint of harassment. The delay in having cases resolved is another reason victims of harassment in the military do not always come forward. Also, he stated that there is a perceived lack of consequences for those who perpetrate the harassment, which also discourages complaints.

Despite the military's best efforts to maintain a politically correct neutrality in regard to women in the Canadian Forces, they are apparently covering up the problems rather than dealing with them. †

## MEDICAL ASSOCIATION REJECTS MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL USE



The ever-trendy Ontario courts have put Canada in a mess in regard to the use of marijuana for medical reasons. With its liberal ideological eyeglasses firmly in place, the

Ontario Court of Appeal, in Regina vs. Parker, in 2000, declared, without a scintilla of evidence to support its conclusion, that marijuana for medical purposes was a constitutional right. This was absurd since there is no definitive medical evidence that marijuana is medically

useful. Then, in 2011, the Superior Court of Ontario declared in Mernagh vs. Attorney General, that Canada's system of supplying marijuana to those requiring it for supposedly medical reasons, was ineffective and, therefore, unconstitutional.

This obligated the Conservative government to come up with a new plan of action to make marijuana available for medical purposes.

The Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq, announced in December 2012, that Health Canada would no longer approve or reject applications for possession of marijuana for medical purposes. Instead, doctors alone would approve such requests.

This has alarmed the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) because, according to its President, Dr. Anna Reid, there is no evidence as to the safety of marijuana. On the contrary, she stated that recurring psychosis in large numbers of people, i.e. hallucinations and lost touch with reality, may be due to marijuana use. Further, Dr. Reid stated, physicians have no idea what constitutes a "safe" dose, if any. Physicians are also worried that a request for a prescription for marijuana might be abuse, in that the request may be based on a desire to get "high", rather than for any medical purpose. There is some validity to this latter concern, evidenced by the fact that in the year 2000, when marijuana was initially legalized by the Ontario court for medical purposes, there were 477 enrolled in the government program. There are now

26,000 people enrolled in the Marijuana Medical Access Program. It seems that Canadians have suddenly become much sicker in the past 12 years or, more likely, many are using the program as a way to get around the laws prohibiting possession and use of marijuana by declaring they are smoking it for medical reasons.

Dr. Reid further stated that these unanswered questions about marijuana, including dosage, efficacy, side effects and interaction with other medications or pre-existing conditions, prevent physicians from making evidence-based clinical decisions based on marijuana use.

Dr. Reid concluded that it is neither prudent nor responsible to propose that physicians provide prescriptions for marijuana use.

An association, however, that is happy with the change in policy with regard to the distribution of marijuana for medical purposes is the Nurse Practitioners Association of Ontario. In areas where the only medical care comes from nursing stations, the proposed rules will allow nurse practitioners to prescribe marijuana to patients who can't travel to see a doctor. The nurse practitioners are enthusiastically endorsing the changes even without medical evidence indicating a medical need for marijuana.

Given these concerns and confusion, why does the federal government intend to implement this new system by March 31, 2014? †

## A SHIFT BY THE MEDIA IN ITS PERCEPTION OF THE ABORTION ISSUE

**The media have started to place pro-life in a more favourable light and, for once, have exposed that all is not well within the pro-abortion movement.**

Since the Supreme Courts of both the U.S. and Canada pronounced that abortion is a good and valuable advantage for women, the procedure and the pro-abortion movement itself have enjoyed unwavering support from the mainstream media.

In contrast, those who object to abortion have repeatedly been vilified in the media as anti-women, ignorant, uncaring and mean-spirited, to name a few of the uncharitable descriptions applied to pro-life supporters.

The latter were supposed to remain silent, and not question the politically correct approach of unrestricted abortion—paid for by taxes under provincial medical insurance plans.

In short, according to the mainstream media, there was nothing positive to be said about those who were pro-life and the pro-life movement itself.

Recently, however, there seems to be a different perception emerging. The media have started to place pro-life in a more favourable light and, for once, have exposed that all is not well within the pro-abortion movement.

We will never know whether this change is due to the media finally accepting the fact that we are not going to go away and remain quiet, or perhaps that modern technological advances have forced the media to acknowledge that there may be some truth to the pro-life position about the humanity of the unborn child. Perhaps the media may finally have realized that they are losing their influence with the public on the issue and have decided for the sake of their credibility, to provide more balanced reporting of this contentious issue.

Examples of the change in the media include:

- **The New York Times** published a sympathetic article on January 4, 2013 about the work of pregnancy counselling centres. There are 2500 such centres in the U.S., compared with 1800 abortion providers.

This article made the point that pregnancy centres have largely volunteer staff, supported by donations, usually from

Christian sources, and offering free tests and ultrasounds. On the other hand, the US Planned Parenthood, which received \$542 million in federal funding and has \$87.4 million in excess income, charges for its services.

- **Time** magazine, in its January 14, 2013 issue, included an article indicating that there is a growing generational conflict within the pro-abortion movement. Apparently, the older feminists prioritize the needs of white, middle class, straight women, and work within the Democratic Party and the political system to achieve their goals by voter mobilization, fund raising and lobbying. Young pro-abortion activists, on the other hand, believe new strategies are required, not just for political change, but also for cultural change and social justice. As a result, a level of mistrust has developed between the older generation of feminists who, according to this article, are not prepared to share their power or influence with their younger workers. The **Time** article also reveals that access to abortion, despite the US Supreme Court ruling in 1973, has not been totally effective. It states that in parts of the US, abortion is harder than ever to obtain because 24 states have adopted more than 90 new restrictions since 2010, and at least 30 states do not cover the cost of abortion under Medicaid.

It is hard to believe, however, with more than a million abortions in the US each year, that access to abortion is restricted there.

- The magazine, **Toronto Life**, in December 2012, included a five-page article featuring a 16-year-old pro-life activist, Lia Mills. Lia had skyrocketed to international fame four years ago after a speech she gave against abortion for a school competition. A talk by Lia was uploaded on YouTube and has already been reviewed 1.3 million times. The **Toronto Life** article described Lia, in its print and on-line editions, as a “leader of a new generation of anti-abortion

activists”. The article also exposed the fact that some pro-abortionists have threatened Lia with rape, stated they wished she had been aborted and even threatened to kill her. Just who is uncaring and anti-women, etc.? The article also includes the interesting observation that people like Lia make it evident that abortion is not a “settled issue in Canada” and only appears to be because “politicians prefer not to talk about it”. The article concludes by stating that “a growing number of people see abortion as the ‘biggest social justice issue of our time’ “ and that young people like Lia Mills are “leading the charge and inspiring others.”

- In its January 12, 2013, issue, **Maclean’s** magazine included an article entitled, “Anti-Abortion Movement Rebrands Itself”. The article claims that the year 2012 may have been a pivotal moment in the emergence of a new stage in the Canadian abortion debate in that it has been rebranded as “pro-woman, with a modern stance”. The article went on to state that “the argument that abortion hurts women in various ways is becoming predominant”.

According to the article, “The public face of the new anti-abortion movement, for example, is increasingly diverse. It is no longer led primarily by older men. Many of the most creative and influential voices of the movement are highly articulate, telegenic, thoroughly modern-seeming young women. Moreover, while religion sometimes continues to be a theme in the movement’s communications (and it may well continue to be a primary motivator), much of the new public anti-abortion discourse carefully and consciously avoids appealing to religion”.

What is going on with the media? The old adage that “one swallow does not make a spring” is true in regard to the media’s recent perception of the pro-life movement. However, the media may have found there are cracks in their former account of the abortion issue. †

## MESSAGE BOARD

**Sun News Network needs our help.** Sun News is asking the CRTC for mandatory carriage, the same as the other news channels have.

1. Go to [CanadianTVFirst.ca](http://CanadianTVFirst.ca) to sign their petition.
2. Write a letter to the CRTC to ask for mandatory carriage for Sun News. You **must** include the application reference number: 2012-0687-1. You **must** include one of the following statements:
  - 1) I request to appear at the public hearing.
  - 2) I do not want to appear at the public hearing.

**Mail to:** Secretary General of The Commission CRTC.  
Ottawa ON K1A 0N2

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