



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
OTTAWA, CANADA

39th Parliament, 1st Session

39^e Législature, 1^{re} Session

The Standing Committee on the Status of Women has the honour to present its

Le Comité permanent de la condition féminine a l'honneur de présenter son

FOURTEENTH REPORT

QUATORZIÈME RAPPORT

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2), the Committee has studied the elimination of discrimination against women in the Employment Insurance Program, and has agreed to report the following:

Conformément au paragraphe 108(2) du Règlement, le comité a étudié l'élimination de la discrimination à l'égard des femmes dans le régime d'assurance-emploi, et a convenu de rapporter ce qui suit :

Whereas women account for the majority in jobs that: are seasonal; are part-time; are paid minimum wage; offer little security;

Considérant que les femmes sont très majoritairement représentées dans les emplois : saisonniers; à temps partiel; à salaire minimum; et à statut précaire;

Whereas women are usually the ones who have to take leave or quit their job to care for a sick child or parent;

Considérant que les femmes sont habituellement celles qui doivent prendre un congé ou quitter leur emploi pour prendre soin d'un parent ou d'un enfant malade;

Whereas the changes that successive federal governments have made to the Employment Insurance Program since the mid-1990s have reduced coverage for women from 74% to 33%;

Considérant que les modifications apportées par les gouvernements canadiens depuis le milieu des années 1990 au régime d'assurance-emploi ont fait passer le nombre de femmes couvertes de 74 % à 33 %;

That the Standing Committee on the Status of Women recommend that the government make the necessary changes to the Employment Insurance Program to eliminate its discrimination against women.

Que le Comité permanent de la condition féminine recommande au gouvernement d'apporter les modifications nécessaires au régime d'assurance-emploi pour éliminer la discrimination dont sont victimes les femmes face à ce régime.

A copy of the relevant *Minutes of Proceedings* ([Meetings Nos 42 and 43](#)) is tabled.

Un exemplaire des *Procès-verbaux* pertinents ([séances n^{os} 42 et 43](#)) est déposé.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectueusement soumis,

La présidente,

YASMIN RATANSI
Chair

DISSENTING OPINION

Joy Smith, M.P.

**Conservative Party of Canada
Vice-Chair, Status of Women**

Dissenting opinion, submitted to the Standing Committee on Status of Women, Friday, March 2, 2007.

This dissenting opinion is made in response to the motion as presented by the Bloc Member for Laurentides-Labelle, Que. and passed by this committee on the 27th of February, 2007. The statement of motion was passed as a result of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women adopting the following statement as a report to the House which reads as follows:

Pursuant to the Standing Order 108(2) that the Standing Committee on the Status of Women recommend that the government make the necessary changes to the Employment Insurance Program to eliminate its discrimination against women and that the Chair present the adoption of this motion to the House of Commons as soon as possible.

THE OPERATION OF STANDING ORDERS

We do not believe that this motion was brought in accordance with the letter or the spirit of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

Clearly, Standing Order 108 reveals that it is the obligation of the Standing Committee to study the topic and then present the report to the House.

No study has transpired on the Employment Insurance Program to eliminate its discrimination against women or has been studied since the Standing Committee on the Status of Women convened in 2006-2007.

This motion falls short of its basic requirements.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The issue of discrimination against women as related to the Employment Insurance Program is an issue that should be studied and examined to determine to what degree this does occur or if indeed it does occur at some later time. However, this was not outlined in the initial work plan for 2006-2007 for the Standing Committee of the Status of Women.

However, since this issue has not been studied to this point, the Members of the Conservative Party of Canada cannot support this motion.