

¹This analysis was largely based on my preparation for a press conference in Ottawa called by the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW) on September 6, 1995—the Worldwide Day of Action for Women's Equality in conjunction with the Beijing conference. In writing the press presentation, as the president of CRIAOW at the time, I was indebted to Linda Clippingdale and Sandi Kirby for their preparatory work. In this article I also draw on the press presentations by Pat Webb (President-Elect of the Canadian Congress for Learning Opportunities for Women—CCLOW), and Jocelyns Tougas (Executive Director of the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada).

²In this report, Canada is listed as No. 9 under the heading, "Gender-Related Development Index (GDI)." Women in Canada have a 29.3 per cent share of earned income, compared to 70.7 per cent for men. (Notes prepared by Linda Clippingdale, Executive Director of CRIAOW.)

³Press presentation by Roxana Ng, September 6, 1995.

⁴Press presentation by Pat Webb, September 6, 1995.

⁵Since then, feminist researchers and feminist groups across the country have been emphasizing the need for independent gender-based policy research and analysis. In spite of the pressures exerted, no mechanism has been put in place to allocate the budget, which was retained in the overall federal budget last year, earmarked for the defunct CACSW. As this article goes to press, it appears that some of the monies returned to SWC from CACSW (totally around \$1 million) will be allocated through an RFP (request for proposal) process. In my opinion, if this is the only mechanism for women's groups to obtain research funds, then the research agenda will be largely controlled by SWC.

⁶By serious I mean that although women's and other groups were asked to respond to government initiatives, such as the social security review, the time line provided for the response was totally inadequate, giving groups no real opportunity to review the voluminous materials and think through policy and other implications for their constituencies.

⁷I am using the term, "the state" here to refer to the multiplicity of departments and functions responsible for ruling in Canada. Thus I do not restrict my comments to SWC. More importantly we need to see how different levels of the government work in concert to affect the process of individualization and reorganization I mention in this article. For further discussion on "the state," see Ng; Ng, Walker, and Muller.

⁸The Federal Minister of Human Resources assured the electorate in his announcement in June that services to individuals with disability will not be undermined with funding cuts to advocacy groups.

⁹Space does not permit an elaborate discussion, but I should point out that the pseudo-consultations instigated by SWC on the whole question of feminist policy research and analysis resulting from CACSW's demise is a case in point.

References

- Ng, Roxana. *The Politics of Community Services*. Halifax: Fernwood Books, 1996.
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ELISAVIETTA RITCHIE

Prophecies

Women of the future will
design future sinks
with space behind faucets
so men can scrub the crud
without getting cramps
in their hands or
using their toothbrush.

Women of the future will
design ovens so that to bake
and clean the stove
men don't have to squat,
kneel as to gods,
stick our heads in.

We will design vacuum cleaners
with long suction tubes
so men don't crunch
their spinal discs.

And superlight superquick
tire-changing kits
that work even on lonely roads
at night in the rain.

At least now that men
are washing more dishes
they've invented detergent
for sensitive skin.

My ex- learned to clean and cook
for his busy new lawyer-wife,
even to bake her bread.
That's progress.

Elisavietta Ritchie's recent books include The Arc of the Storm (Signal Books, 1996), Elegy For the Other Woman (Signal Poems, 1996), and Flying Time: Stories and Half Stories (Signal Books, 1996).