

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT, NOT OPT OUT!

The first half of International Women's Year has passed. Canadians are being made aware of the world-wide thrust that has been put forward to focus on the role of women in society. Equal opportunity, equal rights and equal pay have been themes familiar to women in CAHPER and women in physical education, for many years. The international call is not solely for society or a profession to do something for women but, more importantly for women to take the opportunity to do something for girls and women themselves, and thus improve society in general.

In the past there has been a feeling that girls and women, particularly in physical activities, required the same activities, the same number of hours in a facility, the same number of dollars spent on programs. But – is sameness the same as equality? We should consider this question carefully. Certainly it is true more facilities, more dollars, more opportunities should be made available. Girls and women need to make their needs known. Opportunities and programs must be developed to assure these needs. Where would women be in gymnastics for example if we had the “same” events as the men? Women's gymnastics has flourished in recent years both for participants as well as for spectators. This example should serve to show what can be done in developing programs and motivating women in unique innovative ways to increase participation without using existing male activities as the measuring scale.

Since CAHPER's beginnings, women members have had a strong influence on the profession and our professional association. From time to time, particular committees have been struck to deal with needs peculiar to girls' and women's programs.

These committees have served their purpose, then have been disbanded. At this date, women are represented on the membership and committee roles in exactly the same way as male members. The Women's Athletic Committee (WAC) disbanded at the Calgary Convention in order to take their place on the Sports Committee and other action committees of CAHPER. CORB, a subcommittee of WAC was established to look after the officiating needs of women's Basketball and Volleyball. It has since disbanded so members could join with international officiating associations, the women feeling they had progressed to the point where they could hold their own with rated officials, men and women, at the international level. This says a great deal for the high standards set by the Women's Athletic Committee.

Before the present CAHPER Constitution was adopted at the Calgary Convention, there was a position on the Board of Directors for Vice-President Physical Education (Women). With the new constitution, to be represented on the Board, a woman must win the election for provincial representative. This means the Board could be left with no women elected, but it also means there could many women to begin or run programs that will increase participation.

In May 1974, the Fitness and Amateur Sport Branch of the Federal Government funded a National Conference on Women and Sport. One hundred delegates from across Canada were brought together to discuss the unique situation of women within the Canadian and physical recreation culture. The conference resulted in a number of recommendations that a) outlined specific projects and responsibilities which could be implemented at both the governmental and non-

governmental levels; b) expressed a definite need to expand the role of women within existing administrative structures; and c) suggested follow-up projects which would increase the emphasis currently placed on sport and recreational development for Canadian females.

CAHPER wishes to submit to the Fitness and Amateur Sport Branch, worthwhile proposals directly related to the development of a girls' and women's emphasis within physical education and sport. Proposals should be submitted to the **National Office** as soon as possible for

consideration by the Federal Government. This should be done soon in order that some initiatives can be taken during this "Year of the Woman".

A few women in CAHPER have done an outstanding job of formulating and operating programs for girls and women to the present time. There is need now for more women to become more active and supportive of women's programs. There is a need for more women to allow their names to stand for elected office, to take their place as coach, official, organizer or administrator. **NOW** is the time to act, not opt out!