

83.6 Women and Video Display Terminals

Whereas, The use of microprocessors is increasing at a rapid rate in all service organizations and administrative units, including medium and some small businesses; and,
Whereas, There is a danger that adoption of high tech mechanisms could result in a ghettoization of women into low level, boring, low paid jobs; and,
Whereas, There are unresolved health and safety questions associated with the use of VDT's; and,
Whereas, Many of the above problems could be reduced or almost eliminated through the control of lighting, equipment, training and job content; be it,

RESOLVED, That The National Council of Women of Canada request the Government of Canada:

1. To take immediate steps to protect the health of persons working with video display terminals (VDT's):

a) That the recommendations of the Labour Canada Task Force on Microelectronics and Employment

with regard to health and safety be adopted (research, standards, interim measures),

b) That the Canada Labour Code be revised to include provisions for interim measures of protection until standards are established (eye examinations, limiting time on VDT's),

c) That the power of the Safety Inspection units of Labour Canada be broadened to include the examination of administrative offices with VDT's and to enforce standards when established;

2. To provide, through the Public Service of Canada and those agencies and institutions under federal

jurisdiction, as word processors and other technological changes are adopted:

1. Special opportunities for the integration and upgrading of women in their employment.

2. Training and retraining operators of VDT's in computer skills,

3. A framework for consultation of office organization in all branches with VDT units or direct access to them, to include VDT operators, secretaries, administrative and other clerical staff,

4. Job specifications for VDT operators that would include interim measures for protection until standards are established.