

# LOOKING AT THE FUTURE:

## THE CAW

## AND

## YOUR

## PENSION

### WOMEN AND PENSIONS

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"I'll tell you what it's like being an old woman alone who's only got the government pension to live on... It's wearing out your second-hand shoes going from one store to another trying to find the cheapest cuts of meats... It's picking the marked-down fruit and vegetables from the half-rotting stuff in the back of the stores that used to be given by farmers to feed their animals."

*Mary s., 67 year-old woman quoted in  
National Council of Welfare Report, 1979*

"Society is just beginning to recognize the implications of the observation that women's work and the patterns of their working lives are not the same as those of men."

*Parliamentary Task Force on  
Pension Reform, 1983*

"Corporations have argued against pension indexing on the grounds that it imposes risks and uncertainties on them. We agree that there are risks and uncertainties, but the logic of their position is that pensioners can and should bear this cost. Needless to say, we consider this view morally unacceptable."

*CAW Canada, Statement to the  
Friedland Task Force, 1987*

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### Pensions and Labour History 1906

The Trades and Labour Congress (now the Canadian Labour congress) argues for the right of Canadian workers to a decent standard of living after retirement.

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The labour movement has long fought for the right of retired workers to a decent standard of living. Although pensions can be a complex issue, the goals for a pension plan have been very clear:

- Provide an income above the poverty line;