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PRESS RELEASE



President of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Katherine Peterson, expressed disappointment upon hearing remarks of the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women concerning implementation of the Five Year Plan of Action. In an interview on CBC Radio aired February 23, 1988 Jeannie Marie-Jewell was responding to questions concerning the startling lack of progress respecting the Action Plan.

The Minister has stated that the lack of progress is due to other priorities which have occupied the Government. Additionally she commented that in her view the Advisory Council on the Status of Women had not been sufficiently aggressive in this issue. "Such a comment appears to suggest that implementation of Government policy lies not with the Government but with the lobby groups and advisory bodies. Surely this is not acceptable. The Five Year Action Plan, as a statement of Government policy and intent is, in itself, a document which initially inspired pride. It detailed Government action which would meaningfully address the issue of women's equality in the North. However, the lack of Government commitment to the Plan ought to, in my view, cause considerable embarrassment to the Government. To deflect responsibility to the Advisory Council or indeed, to women in general, is counterproductive and serves only to further damage the credibility of the Government on this issue."

The Advisory Council has continued to press for disclosure of progress respecting the Action Plan and tabling of a report. Although the Action Plan was initiated in 1985, a report concerning progress was not tabled in the Legislative Assembly until February, 1988.

For further information concerning the above Katherine Peterson may be contacted at 873-4456.