



Produced by  
The National Film Board of Canada  
for the program

## challenge for change société nouvelle



one of a group of films about

### **WORKING MOTHERS**

designed to promote discussion about the issues faced by women concerning their work and their children in this society



in cooperation with departments and agencies of the Government of Canada

Distributed by  
The National Film Board of Canada

## Mothers Are People

16mm Color  
Time: 7 minutes 18 seconds

Joy is a research biologist, a consultant to a large company. She is also a widow with two school-age children. She is a warm, articulate person who grew up in Jamaica and now lives in a large Canadian city. In expressing her own dilemmas she speaks for many other women:

"I had to lie: Say I'd never let my children come between me and the job."

"The powers-that-be know that women do work – but they turn a deaf ear."

"You have to be well-off to have children in Canada."

Apart from "discrimination against women", Joy sees the absence of universal day care as a loss for children, too. Day care centers can help children relate to each other, while schools "teach you how to compete with each other".

### *Questions to ask ourselves:*

In what ways might Canada be perceived as "a developing country"?

To whom should day care be available? Whose responsibility are children? Whose responsibility is the development of day care?

Who are "the powers-that-be"? Why do they "never want to reckon with the voice of women"?

In what ways might women publicize "the undesirable ways they have had to look after their children"?

Do we "punish" women for having children? How many women have experienced age 20 to age 40 as "twenty years gone from your life"?

**Production, Direction and Editing:**  
Kathleen Shannon  
**Photography:** Bob Nichol  
**Assistant Camera:** Susan Gabori

**Assistant Editors:**  
Gloria Demers and Elizabeth Joutel  
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**Re-recording:** Jean-Pierre Joutel  
**Executive Producer:** Len Chatwin