

# A WOMAN'S PLACE

Canada ranked 17th on a list of the best and worst places to be a woman in the world. In the report released Tuesday, researchers from Save the Children looked at the health, education and economic status of women in 165 countries to develop the ranking, with Norway claiming the top spot and Somalia at the bottom. A senior adviser at Save the Children said Canada fell behind other developed countries partly due to the healthcare conditions for women in First Nations and Inuit communities.

Advisor Cicely McWilliam said other changes were also needed to see Canada get into the top ten -- including higher averages in length and compensation for maternity leave and average length of education.

The women's index was combined with a children's index to calculate an overall ranking on the conditions for mothers throughout the world, where Norway also placed at the top. The indicators for the women's index were selected "with the wellbeing of mothers in mind," said lead researcher Nikki Gillette. Such indicators included the average length of a

woman's education, female representation in government and life expectancy and prevalence of contraceptives.

Canada dropped three spots from the previous women's index, despite rises in life expectancy and female representation in government following last year's federal election.

"It's likely that this fall is due to greater improvements made by the other countries," Ms. Gillette said.

The ranking was split into three tiers, denoting whether countries were more developed, less developed or least developed. Israel was placed in the Less Developed category where it took first place. Within each tier, indicators were relative to the development. Rwanda was ranked first in Least Developed. Each tier had a slightly different set of indicators and countries' scores were relative to other countries in their development group.

Ms. Gillette said researchers based the tiered system off development regions laid out in a 2008 version of United Nations Population Division's World Population Prospects. The UN document's most recent version no longer classifies by development regions.

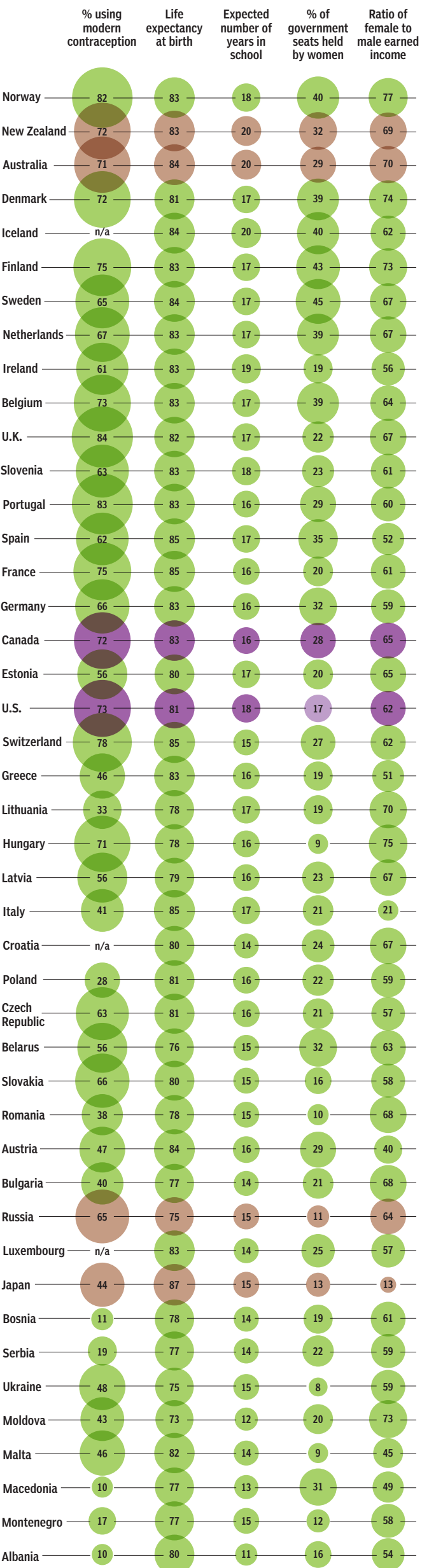
"It's a little bit contentious, I know, but we wanted to go with one source and not shuffle countries around based on our personal opinions," Ms. Gillette said, adding that people have also voiced concerns about South Korea's placement in the Less Developed tier.

"We're not trying to infer that Israel or any other country is necessarily more or less developed, that's the regional grouping they have been assigned to."

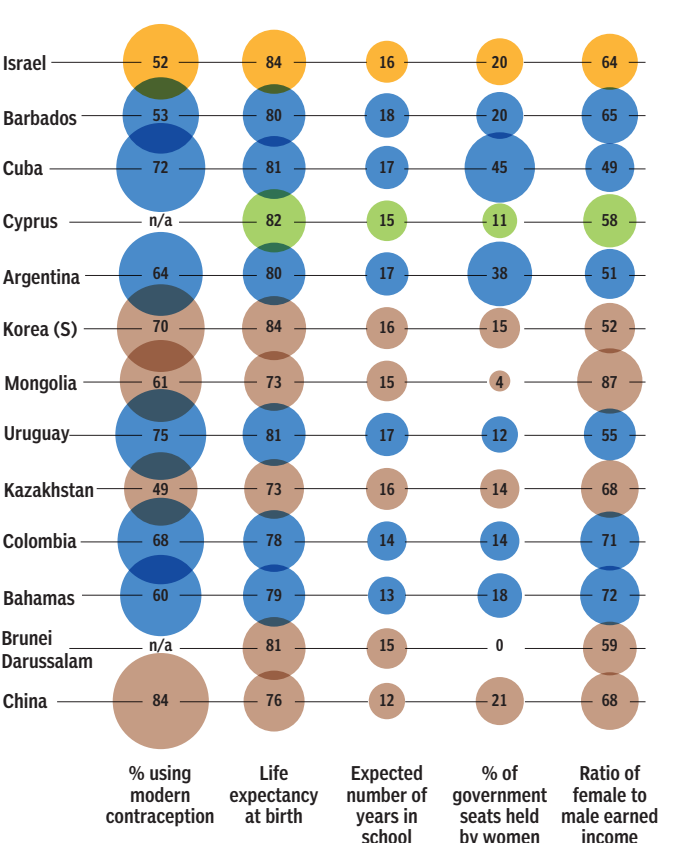
The National Post looks at Save the Children's women's index, noting each country's scores in the most intriguing categories that went into generating the ranking.

**JAKE EDMISTON, NATIONAL POST**

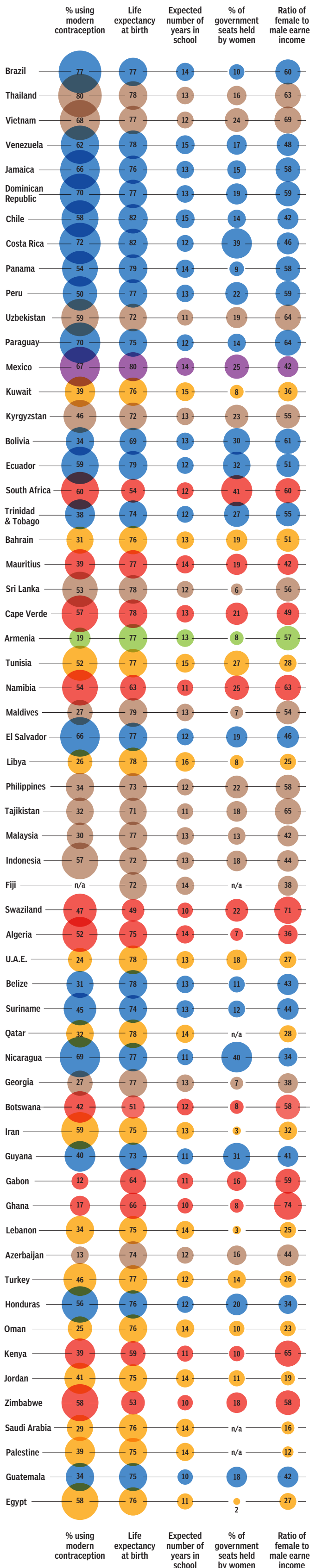
## MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



## LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



## REGIONAL GROUPINGS



## LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

