

Founder



Beth Atcheson

“ It is submitted that this purpose of promoting the equality of the powerless, excluded and disadvantaged should animate interpretation of the guarantees of substantive equality in section 15. ”

LEAF's Factum to the Supreme Court of Canada in Andrews

*B*eth was a mentor, way before the word became a trend. At LEAF she is revered as one of the women that has mentored the organization over the last 25 years. A Founder of LEAF, she was one of four women that authored the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women's Report recommending the creation of a legal advocacy organization for women. She was LEAF's first Vice-Chair, served as a director and then Chair of the LEAF Foundation, and finally served as the Chair of LEAF from 2003 to 2006.

In the early days of LEAF, was a partner at Cassels Brock & Blackwell specializing in the regulation of financial institutions and pensions. She left Cassels in 1987 to become the Vice Chair of the Ontario Automobile Insurance Board and then moved to be Director of Policy to the Ontario Financial Services Commission. In the mid-1990s, Beth became the Director of Financial Services Policy at the Ministry of Finance.

Constance Backhouse, a close friend of Beth's would tell you that Beth has advocated for women throughout her career. In private practice she developed a reputation for advocating for women lawyers and other staff in the firm, and was instrumental in creating a community of feminists on Bay Street who supported each other.

Beth has served as a member of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, a senior researcher with the Federal Task Force on the Future of Financial Institutions in Canada, a Director of Imagine Canada. She has been awarded the Toronto YWCA Woman of Distinction Award and received the President's Award from the Women's Law Association of Ontario of Ontario.

A woman who has made a difference for women and girls in Canada

Women's Legal Education and Action Fund

Founded – April 17, 1985