



*Susan Tanner*

*“ Walking is the process of losing one's balance and then regaining it again before taking the next step. ”*

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*S*usan's lifelong commitment to equality rights and social justice is reflected in her career as lawyer/mediator; educator/community organizer and public servant. From her early days as an activist for women's rights; through pioneering the legal aid clinic in Halton Hills; to her current role as Executive Director with the Canadian Environmental Network, she has challenged the status quo to correct injustice and build a better society.

While holding senior positions in both Federal and Ontario governments she has maintained an active role in the non-profit community. In the 1980's Susan participated in the Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution, and the organizing committee of the Symposium on Equality Rights. Subsequently she became the founding chairperson of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF), designed to promote the rights of women under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Susan represented WEED (Women and Environment Education and Development) at UNCED in Rio and continues to be actively involved in international human rights and environment issues with organizations such as the Canadian Environmental Law Association; Women, Peace and Security Coalition; Canadian Committee for UNIFEM Canadian Association for the Club of Rome and Learning for a Sustainable Future. In 1995, Friends of the Earth Canada accepted a UN Environmental Prize for work on ozone depletion under her leadership

Government positions include that of Senior Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Justice on Gender Equality and Diversity; Forum Lead, WUF Habitat Jam; Member of the Ontario Environmental Assessment Board; Vice Chair, Social Assessment Review Board; and mediator for the Ontario Grievance Settlement Board.

She graduated with an L.L.B. and a Masters of Environmental Studies from York University simultaneously in 1976. More recently, she completed her Masters of Law and has taught Women and the Law as a sessional professor. In the private sector, she has consulted on social policy and "Improving your Laff Life". Married with 2 sons, 2 step-daughters and 6 step-grandchildren, her hobbies include singing, painting, yoga and natural health.

In 2009, Susan was honored as a United Nations Association of Canada "Championne" for her work on human rights and the environment. Susan's family has established a scholarship in her name at the University of Ottawa to promote advocacy in equality rights and environmental protection.