



Women's Legal
Education and
Action Fund | Fonds d'action et
d'éducation juridiques
pour les femmes

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First LEAF President receives Governor General's Persons Case Award

TORONTO, ON – The Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) congratulates Shelagh Day and all the other recipients of the 2008 Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case.

Shelagh Day has a long standing connection to LEAF, having served as its first President between 1985 and 1986. Shelagh was a founder of the Court Challenges Program, an important funding agency that enabled individuals and organizations like LEAF to challenge discriminatory legislation. She has been a tireless advocate on behalf of women on issues of access to justice, socio-economic rights, funding for social programs, responsible government, and more. LEAF and our British Columbia affiliate, West Coast LEAF, have been the beneficiaries of Shelagh's considerable expertise and her efforts to advance women's equality for many years.

LEAF also extends congratulations to the following award recipients:

Maureen A. McTeer, of Ottawa, Ontario, a lawyer, author and expert on issues of women's rights and health and those of law, science and public policy.

Frances Ennis, of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, a social activist, educator, author and rug-hooking artist who has devoted her life to advancing equality for women.

Beverley Jacobs, of Ohsweken, Ontario, an inspired leader and devoted advocate for equal opportunity and human rights for Aboriginal women and girls.

Mair Verthuy, of Montréal, Quebec, a researcher, activist and distinguished academic who co-founded Concordia University's Simone de Beauvoir Institute, home of Canada's first women's studies program.

Youth Award recipient **Ben Barry**, of Ottawa, Ontario, an international modeling consultant, women's health advocate, and author of the Canadian bestseller *Fashioning Reality*.

The 1929 Persons Case established in law the personhood of women. The case inspires the work of LEAF to ensure women and other marginalized groups achieve the equality guarantees enshrined in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Each year LEAF branches and its affiliate host Persons Day Breakfasts across the country in celebration of the Persons Case.

For more information about LEAF visit www.leaf.ca

For information about West Coast LEAF visit www.westcoastleaf.org

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