



West Coast LEAF NEWS ALERT November 12, 2008

If you haven't already done so, please take our [one-question survey](#) to let us know what area of our work you are interested in.

West Coast LEAF contributors honoured nationally by Governor General's Person Day awards

The Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case were presented last week. These awards honour outstanding individuals who have contributed to the advancement of women's equality in Canada.

West Coast LEAF celebrates [Persons Day](#) each year, and congratulates the six 2008 winners:

- **Shelagh Day**, of Vancouver, British Columbia, international authority on women's human rights
- **Frances Ennis**, of St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, social activist, educator, author and artist
- **Beverley Jacobs**, of Ohsweken, Ontario, devoted advocate for human rights for Aboriginal women and girls
- **Maureen A. McTeer**, of Ottawa, Ontario, lawyer, author and expert on issues of women's rights and health
- **Mair Verthuy**, of Montréal, Quebec, 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, women's health advocate and author of the Canadian bestseller *Fashioning Reality*

West Coast LEAF is especially pleased to extend congratulations to Shelagh Day, who has a long-standing connection to LEAF and West Coast LEAF. Both groups have benefitted from Shelagh's expertise and her tireless efforts to advance women's equality.

Shelagh served as the founding President of [LEAF National](#), from 1985 to 1986. She was also 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 and responsible government.

Shelagh recently travelled to Geneva to present a report to the United Nations Committee on the

Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The report is called [Inaction and Non-compliance: British Columbia's Approach to Women's Inequality](#) and was compiled by the BC CEDAW Group, a coalition of 11 women's equality-seeking organizations, including West Coast LEAF.

[Beverley Jacobs](#) is the president of the [Native Women's Association of Canada](#) and recently spoke at West Coast LEAF's Persons Day Breakfast in Victoria. We congratulate her on her committed stance for Aboriginal women, warmth and perseverance.

[Maureen McTeer](#) was the distinguished speaker at the 1991 West Coast LEAF Equality Breakfast, which drew a record number of attendees.

The awards were presented on November 7, 2008.

For more on West Coast LEAF's response, please go [here](#).

The Government of Canada established the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case in 1979, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Persons Case decision and to salute contributions to the advancement of women.

About [West Coast LEAF](#)

West Coast LEAF works to realize this vision of women's full equality through public legal education, strategic litigation, and law reform.