



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Determining the Future of Equality in Canada

*Dr. Ursula Franklin to Address Canada's Youth*

**WHAT:** On April 15, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) is launching a national Youth Commission to celebrate 25 years of the equality section of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

**WHO:** **Dr. Ursula Franklin** will speak at the launch. Dr. Franklin is University Professor Emerita in the University of Toronto's Department of Materials Science Engineering and a member of the Order of Ontario. She has campaigned for social justice, peace and women's rights and is the figurehead of the group that ushered in Section 15. The United Nations Association of Canada awarded Dr. Franklin with the Pearson Peace Medal in recognition of her humanitarian work.

Speakers include **Saron Gebresellassie**, a Youth Commissioner and York University doctoral candidate. Saron received the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award and was named in Chatelaine Magazine's "Top 80 Women to Watch" feature.

During the event, students from Ursula Franklin Academy will debate what social justice means to their generation and how they envision equality in Canada's future.

**WHY:** Today's youth are the first generation to grow up under Section 15 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The Youth Commission is taking the pulse of Canada's youth to discover how social justice and equality issues impact their lives.

LEAF will publish a video of youth responses, use the feedback to improve their youth programming and develop a report to support further research on equality issues in Canada.

**WHEN:** **Thursday, April 15, 2010, 10:05 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**

**WHERE:** **Ursula Franklin Academy, [146 Glendonwynne Road, Toronto, ON.](#)**

**HOW:** **To arrange pre- or post-event interviews, contact Niki Popper, Education Program Coordinator at 416-595-7170 ext. 229 or [n.popper@leaf.ca](mailto:n.popper@leaf.ca).**

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