

LEAF



LINES

Recognition Edition

## Message from the Chairs

In 1999, LEAF and the LEAF Foundation helped women win landmark legal victories in the fight to ensure constitutional equality rights work in the best interests of girls and women in Canada. "BCGSEU v. PSERC" (Tawney Meiorin) established the principle of fair workplace testing. "J.G. v. The Minister of Health and Community Services" gave poor women the right to legal aid in state child custody cases. "M. v. H." gave same-sex couples the right to apply for support from former partners. "R. v. Ewanchuk" confirmed that in cases of sexual assault, "No" means "No." And "L.C. v. Mills" protects women's personal records from the accused in sexual assault cases. These Supreme Court decisions show the results of an expert and effective voice in the courts.

We couldn't have done it without your support and your donations. Thank you for your commitment to women's search for justice.

At LEAF and the LEAF Foundation, we have also strengthened our organizations and improved the way we work. In

1999, incoming LEAF Executive Director Nancy Radclyffe visited LEAF branches across Canada. She met LEAF volunteers, learned about local issues, and helped branches understand LEAF's new structure. The branches also welcomed LEAF National's new media and event

planning guide, which helps branches plan successful events and raise more funds for LEAF.

By streamlining its direct-mail campaigns, the LEAF Foundation has greatly increased the return on money spent. The Foundation also secured a \$50,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to build LEAF and publicize its work. We will continue to make the best possible use of every dollar we receive to advance the equality of girls and women in Canada.



Marilou McPhedran  
Chair, LEAF



Beth Atcheson  
Chair, LEAF Foundation

## Legal Update

We are awaiting decisions in "Blencoe v. B C Human Rights Commission and Andrea Willis", "Darrach v. The Queen", and "Irshad et al. v. Ontario". "Blencoe" is an important case, which will have a serious impact upon women's right to bring forward human rights complaints after suffering sexual harassment. LEAF is intervening in this case because of its importance for women, who make up 95% of sexual harassment victims. LEAF argued that access to the human rights process for sexual assault complainants is essential to women's right to equal treatment in employment and to be free from sexual harassment. LEAF also argued that in considering the issue of delay, the Court must take into account the equality and security rights of complainants, and not focus solely on respondents.

"Darrach" is a sexual assault case

which involves a constitutional challenge to several provisions of the Criminal Code enacted in 1992, known at the time as Bill C-49. In 1997, LEAF intervened, in a coalition of other equality-seeking groups, before the Ontario Court of Appeal and was successful in persuading the Court to uphold all of Bill C-49 as constitutional. In his appeal to the Supreme Court, Andrew Darrach has narrowed the scope of the case which now deals only with past sexual history. LEAF believes that the use of a woman's sexual past as evidence in a sexual assault trial is an attack upon her dignity that is unique to sexual assault cases. The use of this kind of evidence is fundamentally an attack upon women's equality. LEAF argues to ensure that the current Criminal Code provisions bring rules in sexual assault cases in line with general

laws of evidence, are fair to accused persons, and respect the right of all women to equal protection of the law.

"Irshad" involves a constitutional challenge to Ontario legislation, which excludes most new immigrants from OHIP coverage for a period of three months or longer. If the new immigrants have disabilities, the lack of coverage may be for an indefinite period because, on the basis of their disabilities, they are not recognized as "permanent residents" of Ontario. Because OHIP coverage is not available, many immigrants cannot obtain necessary medical treatment, such as prenatal care for pregnant women, pediatric visits for children, or treatment of ongoing disabilities such as cerebral palsy.

# Sweeps Winner Plans Tuscan Trip

Two airline tickets to Rome...a week at a renovated Tuscan farmhouse called La Casina...\$400 spending money...it sounded wonderful to Carolyn Dodds when she received her LEAF Sweeps entry form in March 1999.

"I'd been reading 'Under the Tuscan Sun' [the bestseller by Frances Mayes] and was thinking vaguely about planning a trip," says Carolyn. "When I got the LEAF Sweeps letter I mailed my donation and entry form the next day. I was thrilled when Lynne Hallinan called me a month or so later to say I had won!"

Carolyn, who writes communications materials for government and cor-

porate clients, has supported LEAF since 1993. "It's essential to have an organization like LEAF working through the courts on behalf of women," she says. "I'm very impressed by what LEAF has accomplished."

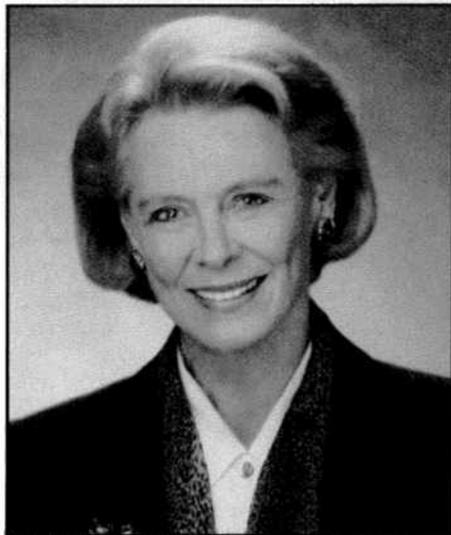
Because she and her husband, a teacher, can only travel during school vacations, they had to plan their trip for this coming summer. "Fortunately, LEAF and Shelagh M'Gonigle\* were flexible about the timing," says Carolyn. Shelagh, the owner of La Casina, who rents out the farmhouse to vacationers and generously donated the week for the Sweeps, has supplied photos and lots of advice about visiting Italy. "We're going

to tour Italy for a week, and then spend the week at the farmhouse seeing the local sights -- including Florence-- eating, drinking, and basking in that Tuscan sun. Thank-you, LEAF!"

\*A special thank-you to Shelagh M'Gonigle for her continued support for LEAF, and her generous donation of La Casina.

**The LEAF Sweeps is one way we thank you, the donors, for your support. In fact, your generosity has made this event one of our best fundraisers. Sweeps 2000 promises to be as exciting as last year's trip to Tuscany, so watch the mail for your entry form!**

## Winnipeg Donor Values LEAF's "Vital Community"



Tannis Richardson still remembers the first Persons' Day Breakfast she attended. "LEAF Winnipeg was just beginning," she says. "I arose at the crack of dawn to be there. From then on I wanted to be involved, because of the issues LEAF was addressing."

Tannis and her husband, George, have been long-time supporters of LEAF both personally, and through the family company, James Richardson & Sons, Limited. "George and I both come from families who are committed to trying to better the lives of others," says Tannis. "My mother was always interested in women's issues. She was involved in the university and in Girl Guides, and supported family planning."

Tannis and George continue to be active in a variety of cultural, community and health organizations. "Women's issues are vitally important," says Tannis. "We must improve equality for all women, and make sure they are not limited in their opportunities because they are women. LEAF is a sound organization that does thorough research and focuses on cases that have a broad influence on women's equality."

At LEAF, Tannis sees herself as but a cog in a large wheel. "There are so many dedicated people working toward LEAF's goals, and each person contributes in their own way. My association with LEAF is exceedingly rewarding. I meet so many wonderful people, and I feel I'm involved in a vital community."

The LEAF Foundation would like to thank and acknowledge Catherine Cragg for her significant and generous donation in the struggle for equality of women and girls in Canada.

### Double your Impact!

Does your employer have a charitable matching program? Many corporations will match, dollar for dollar, employee

donations to any charity. In fact, there are over 200 major corporations that take part in this type of charitable giving.

Check it out! Maybe you can double your gift to LEAF without opening your pocketbook!

LEAF / LEAF Foundation embraces the principles of the Ethical Fundraising Accountability Code.

# LEAF Foundation Awarded \$50,000 by Trillium Foundation



The Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded the LEAF Foundation a one-year grant of \$50,000 in January. The grant will help LEAF to develop a volunteer program to reach out to the community and to support efforts by LEAF and the LEAF Foundation to increase their public profiles.

"One of the Trillium Foundation's program directions is to increase the effectiveness of organizations," says Trillium's Julia Howell. "LEAF and the

Foundation had looked closely at their organizations; this was clearly the right move at the right time. It was a good, solid proposal - well-presented, supported by LEAF's board and consistent with LEAF's strategic plan."

Since 1998 the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an arm's-length agency of the Ontario government, has distributed \$100 million a year in revenue from Ontario's casinos to support arts, culture, heritage, recreation, social services

and sports. Trillium focuses on building healthy, sustainable and caring communities.

The Trillium grant will help fund a LEAF/LEAF Foundation pilot project in Ontario that aims to recruit, train and support volunteers and branches, and to build the public image of LEAF. We hope to extend this initiative through the support of other provincially based agencies across the country.

# Shoppers Drug Mart Donation Pays Dividends to LEAF



A substantial donation ten years ago from Shoppers Drug Mart has become a source of ongoing funding for LEAF.

In 1990, Shoppers Drug Mart's "Blow the Whistle" campaign to fight violence against women raised \$138,000 from the sale of Fox 40 safety whistles in the company's stores. Shoppers donated the proceeds of the sales to LEAF.

"At the time, LEAF was one of the few organizations taking direct action on the issue of violence against women," says Terry Creighton, Senior

Vice President of Public Affairs at Shoppers Drug Mart. "The campaign was an opportunity for us to provide funding to an organization that was doing good work, it raised awareness of the issue, and it gave women a way to fight violence."

Shoppers Drug Mart (Pharmaprix in Québec) has more than 800 stores across Canada. It gives millions of dollars each year to health-related causes, a large number of which are focused on women. "Women are the largest constituency of our customer base," says Creighton.

With careful investment by the LEAF Foundation, the original donation has grown and now can provide annual support to LEAF. "Shoppers' generous gift will pay yearly dividends that we can use to fund LEAF's work," says Liz Wolfe, Chair of the LEAF Foundation Finance Committee.

"We're very impressed with the way the LEAF Foundation has managed these funds," says Creighton. "We're delighted the organization now has additional money to do legal work in the area of violence against women."

**LEAF / LEAF Foundation would like to thank the following corporations and foundations for their financial support in 1999. This support enables LEAF to continue to work towards equality for women and girls in Canada.**

The S. M. Blair Family Foundation

C.A Delaney Capital Management 

The Chawkers Foundation

The Cloverleaf Charitable Foundation

Court Challenges Program 

Elementary Teachers' Association of Ontario 

Joan and Clifford Hatch Foundation

The Law Foundation of Ontario 

Nancy's Very Own Foundation

Rio Algom 

Royal Bank 

Status of Women Canada 

# Record Attendance at Persons' Day Breakfasts

LEAF branches and affiliated groups celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Persons Case with 13 successful Persons' Day Breakfasts across Canada in October and November - several with record attendance. Three events were also put on by other groups, with LEAF's help.

Our deepest gratitude and thanks goes to all the branches and affiliates for their commitment and hard work. The events contributed almost \$50,000 to LEAF's coffers, and featured a broad range of keynote speakers from the legal, human rights and entertainment fields.

In Winnipeg, more than 760 people came out to hear lawyer **April Burey**, who appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada in the first case before the court to deal with racial equality under Section 15 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In Sudbury, more than 700 people heard **Margarita Papandreou**, the former first lady of Greece, recount her efforts to bring about women's rights and peace around the world. Close to 1,000 people in Toronto enjoyed a comic monologue by writer, producer and performer **Sandra Shamas**, a long-time LEAF supporter. The audience was also led by opera singer **Mary Lou Fallis** in singing the 1911 tune *The March of the Women*.

Other speakers: In Victoria, **Shari Ulrich**, songwriter, musician and performer; in Vancouver, **Daphne Dumont**, founding mother of LEAF and president-elect of the Canadian Bar Association; in Edmonton, **Jan Fox**, warden of the Edmonton Institution for Women; in Saskatoon and Regina, **The Honourable Madam Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé** of the Supreme Court of Canada; in Owen Sound, journalist and author **Ann Finlayson**; in Hamilton, LEAF Executive Director **Nancy Radclyffe**; and in Kingston, LEAF Director of Litigation **Carissima Mathen**.

LEAF Ottawa held an Equality Day Breakfast in April to celebrate the day the equality rights provisions of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms came into effect.

Other groups that held breakfasts included the Canadian Auto Workers Toronto West Women's Network in Brampton, where LEAF Staff Lawyer **Kim Buchanan** spoke; and the Canadian Federation of University Women and other local women's groups in Richibucto, New Brunswick, where Co-Chair of the LEAF National Legal Committee **Michèle Carron** spoke.

Personhood was the focus of a 2-day bilateral conference hosted by the Canadian High Commission in London, England at which LEAF Chair **Marilou McPhedran** and **Carissima Mathen**, Director of Litigation, spoke.



Joy Leach and Denise Chang, author of *Concubine's Children* and *The Girl in the Picture: The Kim Phuc Story* at the Nanaimo BC Breakfast



Avril Benoit, Mary Lou Fallis and Sandra Shamas at the Toronto Breakfast



Margarita Papandreou (centre) and LEAF Sudbury supporters.



Janice Carter and Anne Marie Driscoll at the Richibucto Breakfast

# Supreme Court Justice Speaks on Meaning of Equality

The Honourable Madam Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé of the Supreme Court of Canada spoke at the Persons' Day Breakfasts organized by LEAF in Saskatoon and Regina. She discussed the legacy of the Persons Case in the area of legal language and reasoning. "In the past fifteen years or so, the Supreme Court has primarily been engaged in...developing a more complete and sophisticated meaning of the term 'equality,'" she said. "At the heart of section 15 [of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms] is the promotion of a society in which all are secure in the knowledge that they are recognized at law as equal human beings, equally

capable, and equally deserving."

The Supreme Court Justice stated that in examining every issue which comes before the courts, as well as our own methods of reasoning, we must be alert to the ways the law's assumptions and application may or may not respect the principles of equality. "Thinking about equality requires an understanding of the historical disadvantages experienced by members of some groups, an awareness of groups' differences and unique experiences, and a sensitivity to the fact that much of the law has been designed from the perspective of, and in the interest of, those with power and

privilege," she said.

Madam Justice L'Heureux-Dubé believes that Parliament and the provincial legislatures, in adopting the Charter and human rights codes, have told courts that they must give effect to the substantive values which underpin our "free and democratic society." But she also emphasized that each of us is responsible for promoting equality, "not only for those who are similar to us, but also for those who may be the object of different forms of discrimination." She commended LEAF for its work in this area, both in the courts, and in LEAF's own membership and organizational structure.

## Breakfast Chairs and Sponsors

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Edmonton	Joann Quinn	Parlee McLaws, Emery Jamieson, McCuaig Desrochers, Laurie Blakeman
British Columbia (all)	Beverly Burns	n/a

April Burey, LEAF Manitoba's Breakfast speaker, has recently passed away. Her commitment to equality issues and legal education was inspiring to many. She will be deeply missed by many lawyers and law students who were touched by her grace, intelligence and compassion.

# 1999 Donor List

In 1999, we received many gifts from like-minded individuals, whose support enables us to continue our work for girls and women in Canada. LEAF / LEAF Foundation thank all of our donors for their support. Donor listing included gifts \$100 and over received between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If there are any errors or omissions please contact the LEAF Foundation at (416) 595-6171.

## \$10,000+

The Cloverleaf Charitable Foundation  
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LEAF Founders Beth Atcheson, Beth Symes, Denise Arsenaault, Nancy Ruth and Mary Eberts celebrate the dedication of a plaque commemorating all the women's work that emanated from the Toronto home of Nancy Ruth on Roxborough Drive.

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**Much of the success both LEAF and the LEAF Foundation has had in garnering support from individuals, corporations and foundations can be directly attributed to the financial and volunteer contributions of its dedicated board members. We would like to take this time to acknowledge their tremendous support:**

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The LEAF National office is seeking volunteers with a variety of talents and availability. Volunteer jobs such as archivist, volunteer coordinator, receptionist, filing clerk, writer, editor as well as general organization support are greatly needed. People with computer troubleshooting skills or knowledge of Publisher, IT skills in updating and maintaining a website, list serve development and maintenance, e- subscription etc. would also be helpful. If interested call Nancy at (416) 595-7170, ext. 230 or at e-mail leafexdr@interlog.com.

**This document is available in French upon request.**

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