

## Message from the Chairs



Marilou McPhedran  
Chair, LEAF

I was pregnant when we were founding LEAF as a result of the intense efforts by thousands of Canadian women to secure our equivalent of an “ERA”- Equal Rights Amendment - when our then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was determined to introduce the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to our constitution. I guess that’s why LEAF often seems like a part of my own family. Now, as my own sons move through their teenage years, I find myself leading an organization that has come into its own adolescence of sorts. What can we be proud of as LEAF supporters? In sixteen

years, LEAF has achieved more “wins” in the legal arena than any other Canadian non-profit organization. And, as LEAF receives more and more requests from women abroad, it is clear that Canadians have built a unique model for evidence-based advocacy that is valued for its effectiveness in securing equality rights for women.

Each day we get to make many choices as to how we invest our personal resources. LEAF supporters are found in every segment of Canadian society yet we all have one thing in common; we believe in strengthening democracy both at home and globally and we have matched our resources with our values. Without the foresight and dedication of LEAF supporters from coast to coast, LEAF could not have made demonstrable differences in the daily lives of women and girls. Only by continuing to work together will we be able to secure the next set of decisions needed to ensure equality of opportunities and benefits that younger Canadians deserve.

Marilou McPhedran  
Chair, LEAF



M. Elizabeth Atcheson  
Chair, LEAF Foundation

In times of turmoil, deep roots matter. And at LEAF our deep roots lie in the thousands of women and men across the country who value and sustain our essential equality work by donating time, money, expertise and energy. On behalf of the directors of the LEAF Foundation, I send a heartfelt thanks to all of you for your contributions over the last year.

The LEAF Foundation is committed to fostering and growing our resources so that the voices of women and girls can continue to be heard in the

courts. Last year, with the support of the Trillium Foundation of Ontario, we were able to hold a workshop for the wonderful women who organize the cross-Canada Persons Day Breakfasts. As a result, the Breakfasts are growing in number and in recognition among their communities. We were also pleased to welcome new corporate sponsors to the Breakfasts including the corporate sponsor profiled in this newsletter, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts.

Increased support for LEAF means a greater court presence in cases that can benefit large numbers of women and girls. It’s a challenge but one that I know we can face together.

M. Elizabeth Atcheson  
Chair, LEAF Foundation

Thanks to all of the volunteers who have given both time and energy to LEAF. Last year alone, LEAF/LEAF Foundation volunteers performed more than 6,000 hours of service. Members of branch and national boards and committees gave approximately 3,400 hours.

Lawyers contributed over 2,900 hours! These and other areas including fundraising, education, events and editing are just some of the many ways that volunteers have truly made a difference at LEAF.

# LEAF Welcomes New Corporate Sponsor Fairmont Hotels & Resorts

Those in attendance at the Toronto Person's Day Breakfast may have noticed the presence of Fairmont Hotels & Resorts as a table sponsor and though they may be a new LEAF supporter, they are hardly a new name. Boasting a world-wide reputation, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts is the largest operator of luxury hotels and resorts in North America, with a unique collection of world-class resorts and city center hotels that enjoy unrivalled prominence.

The company has a long tradition of investing into the communities in which they are located and are strong supporters of organizations doing proactive work for women.

"It's incredibly important work providing legal advocacy for women and we have nothing but admiration for the people involved," says Ann Layton, Vice President, Public Affairs and Communications, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts. "By ensuring equality rights for women and girls in Canada, LEAF plays a vital role in our community and in our country."

"With half of Fairmont staff and visitors being women we feel we have an ethical obligation to support initiatives championed by organizations such as LEAF," continues Ms. Layton.

In addition to their participation at the Toronto Persons' Day Breakfast and ongoing support, Fairmont has also generously offered to supply LEAF with the prize trip for the popular sweeps mailing contest.

"All of us at LEAF are excited to welcome Fairmont as a new sponsor and look forward to a long association with them. The generosity of companies such as Fairmont allow us to keep doing the essential work we do for women in Canada," says Joanne McLean, LEAF Foundation Board member.

From a legal perspective the last six months have been very busy for LEAF. In October, 2000, LEAF enjoyed two Supreme Court victories. The first was *Blencoe v. British Columbia*, where LEAF intervened to ensure that two sexual harassment complaints against a former British Columbia cabinet minister proceeded. The Supreme Court unanimously agreed that the complaints had to continue and subsequent to the Court's decision, Blencoe was found guilty and ordered to pay damages.

In *Darrach v. The Queen*, the Supreme Court upheld important provisions in the criminal law which protect the dignity and equality of women who press charges of sexual assault. The Court held that accused persons do not have an automatic right to question a woman about her sexual past. LEAF had strongly supported this legislation so was thrilled with the resulting decision.

In January 2001, LEAF intervened at the Supreme Court again in a family law case: *Boston v. Boston*. The Boston case deals with when and how pension benefits can be included in spousal support. The Bostons were married for 35 years, during which time the husband worked and the wife stayed at home with the family. After their divorce, and following his retirement, the husband sought to limit the amount of support paid to his former wife. This case will have a significant impact on elderly women in Canada who continue to be one of our poorest populations.

In addition to its Supreme Court work, LEAF is also active in the provincial courts. In December, LEAF intervened at the Ontario Court of Appeal in *Falkiner v. Ontario*. At issue was whether Ontario's social assistance laws may treat, as spouses, two people, of the opposite sex, who are living in

the same residence. The applicants in *Falkiner* are single mothers who lost their benefits because of this rule. Supported by LEAF, they argued that the rule is discriminatory and is based on outdated assumptions about women and their economic dependence on men.

Finally, LEAF is currently working on an intervention in the Supreme Court in the case of *Shearing v. The Queen*. At issue is the ability of an accused person to cross-examine a complainant about what she has or has not written in her diary. The case also deals with the use of "similar fact" evidence, in this case with respect to a number of sexual offences committed by the accused. This is yet another case dealing with the continuing problem of violence against women, and LEAF continues to be there to fight for women's interests.

LEAF Manitoba/Winnipeg received the "Mayor's Volunteer Service Award" at a luncheon attended by 1,450 people and hosted at the convention centre on April 26th, 2001. The award recognized the women of LEAF Winnipeg in the category of Mobilization of Volunteers. The LEAF Branch in Winnipeg is well known to us as a very active dedicated group who do some wonderful work in Winnipeg and for LEAF.

Each April the Premier of Manitoba proclaims Volunteer week. The Winnipeg Board decided to nominate their program volunteers this year because it is also the International Year of the Volunteer. LEAF Winnipeg treated 20 of their volunteers to this luncheon and plan to hold a broader recognition event later in the year.

Betty Hopkins wrote the submission using the theme "the strength of one – the power of many – the synergy of shared equality seeking!" She explained, "I do approach volunteer involvement as citizenship in action—community building—community development and I believe in the synergy of working together with shared support, openness and transparency." Daria Kiperchuk and Cyndi Forcand received the Award on behalf of LEAF Winnipeg.

# Sweeps Winner Enjoys Cuban Holiday Full of Surprises

When Jennifer Adrain decided to mail in her LEAF sweeps entry it was only because the short walk to the mailbox gave her a chance to work in a new pair of shoes. The last thing on her mind was actually winning the all-inclusive trip for two to Beaches Resort in Varadero, Cuba. But just a short week later Lynne Hallinan called to say she could pack her bags for a tropical holiday.

"I had never been on a beach vacation before so I was thrilled to learn that I was going to Cuba," said Jennifer. "But the great thing about the destination is that it's got a lot more to offer - there's also the historical aspect."

A lawyer and President of the Board at the Edmonton Women's Shelter

currently on leave, Jennifer went on the trip with her boyfriend Krzysztof and both had nothing but wonderful things to say about the experience.



"It was great and the people were fantastic," Jennifer said. "The beach was picture perfect with clear, blue water and white sand. We also got a chance

to learn something of the history of the place by taking a day trip into Havana."

The vacation will be unforgettable in more ways than one. After a six-month whirlwind courtship, Jennifer's boyfriend decided that Cuba provided the perfect romantic setting to pop the question.

"I had no idea. I insisted that we go shopping that day instead of going to the beach so he proposed in the hotel room and of course I accepted!" says Jennifer.

A LEAF member and supporter since 1993, Jennifer believes very strongly in LEAF's work.

"The Charter's primary worth is in its judicial interpretation and without LEAF's various submissions I believe it would be a much weaker document."

Jennifer and Krzysztof have set July 9th as their wedding date.

Congratulations from all your friends at LEAF!

## Vancouver Donor/Volunteer Sees LEAF's Role Expanding



Colleen Cattell recalls being "hooked" after attending a LEAF breakfast with a friend in the late 80s. A recent University of Victoria law school graduate at the time, Colleen was articling in Vancouver when she first learned of the organization.

"I thought the mandate was so important and that LEAF represented an effective vehicle for change," says Colleen.

Her commitment to LEAF began there and continues today doing double duty as a long-time volunteer and donor. She started out in the small West Coast LEAF office licking stamps for fundraising letters and from those humble beginnings went on to join the board of West Coast LEAF and to hold the position of fundraising chair and branch Vice President. She currently serves on the LEAF national board.

A busy lawyer now in commercial and construction litigation and working as a mediator, Colleen also has two young children and an always hectic schedule. Her support of LEAF and the time and money she invests into the organization speaks volumes about her dedication.

"The resources I invest into LEAF not only give me personal satisfaction but also set an important example to my children and to my colleagues about commitment to this cause," says Colleen.

In the past 13 years, Colleen has seen LEAF come a long way and believes its role will only expand in the future.

"I think there will be more and more demand on the organization as an example and resource for international groups pursuing equality rights elsewhere in the world. I also think LEAF's education work will continue to grow as we build on our successes in the courts. Through our education programs we are using LEAF cases to educate the public, and particularly our young people, about the significance of equality rights."

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

# Congratulations On a Job Well Done! Persons Day, IWD Events Bring In Record Amount

LEAF's annual Persons Day Breakfast was one of the most successful to date! Through the efforts of dedicated supporters we raised an impressive \$172,000 for the organization. A big heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone that helped make the latest breakfasts so successful - you are all very much appreciated!

Originally held in celebration of the landmark Persons Case and as a breakfast, LEAF's annual event may now occur at different times of the year and day. They are hosted by various LEAF branches and affiliate groups across the country and feature speakers from all different walks of life who have in common a strong belief in the importance of LEAF's work.

This past year LEAF supporters joined together from coast to coast to enjoy many event highlights. In central Canada, close to 1,000 people attended the Toronto breakfast hosted by Barbara Hall and featuring speaker Ann Coombs, a consultant in consumer research, marketing and e-commerce. Major sponsors included C.A. Delaney Capital Management Ltd., Devlin Applied Design, Starbucks Coffee Company, The Toronto Star and Toronto Hydro Energy Services.

LEAF Sudbury enjoyed a great turnout as over 600 supporters met at the Caruso Club to hear the Honourable Margaret Norri McCain speak. Lead sponsors included TD Canada Trust, Global Travel Destinations, Cyber Beach Communications, Journal Printing and the Law Office of Joseph Michael Fragomeni.

In Kingston around 250 people met at a day long symposium at Queen's University to hear Judy Rebick and Maude Barlow discuss the progress of women since the 1970 Royal Commission on the Status of Women. The highlight for most was participating with women of all ages as they shared history and planned for a better future.

In Western Canada, Kim Pate, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies, did double duty and spoke at both the Regina and Saskatoon breakfasts about restorative justice issues for women. In total close to 400 people came out to show their support. The lead sponsors at the Saskatoon event were Halyk Harradence and The College of Law, University of Saskatchewan while Jacqui Shumiatcher was the major corporate sponsor in Regina. In Edmonton Judy Rebick spoke to a crowd of about 240 people. Fraser Milner Casgrain was the top sponsor.

LEAF Manitoba's Persons Day Breakfast was the biggest ever with 880 in attendance. This year's guest speaker was Sally Armstrong, former editor-in-chief of *Homemaker's* magazine, who spoke passionately for women's rights on a global scale. Major supporters included James Richardson & Sons, Frontier Subaru, Assante, International Institute for Sustainable Development and UNPAC. Another event highlight was the recognition of those women who have acted as Breakfast chairs since the inaugural event. Two of these dedicated supporters, Betty Hopkins and Daria Kiperchuk, have been steadily involved with LEAF Manitoba/Winnipeg since its formation.

In Victoria guests were in a unique position as both LEAF counsel and Blencoe counsel were in attendance at the breakfast however only LEAF had the opportunity to speak! This exciting breakfast, sponsored in large part by the Victoria Legal Community, garnered great media coverage and had over 230 people in attendance.

Around 450 people shared their morning cup of coffee at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver and listened to the passion of speaker Dionne Brand as she read some of her poems. Held in March on International Woman's Day, the biggest sponsors were VTV and the West Coast Title Search.



LEAF Sudbury Persons Day Breakfast 2000 Committee with Mary Lou Stirling (left front), Carissima Mathen (fourth from left), and guest speaker Hon. Margaret McCain (front right).



Left to right: Cyndi Forcand, Ertrice Eddy, Betty Hopkins, Chair (of Branch), Sharron Gould, Sandra Venuto Damiani, Estella Muyinda, Keynote Speaker Sally Armstrong, Director of Litigation & guest speaker for legal update Carissima Mathen, Sherri Walsh (partly hidden), Lucia Jofre.

Things were quieter on the East coast however, in Halifax, five women shared breakfast and discussion about holding an event in October 2001. In addition to sharing their time, they also made donations to LEAF. In Richibucto, New Brunswick about 35 resourceful LEAF supporters gathered at the Richibucto River Resort to hear a speaker from the Women's Labour Union.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make the events such a big success. We look forward to working with each of you to build on our accomplishments and hope to make next year's Persons Day breakfasts bigger and better than ever!



Mary Margaret Dauphinee, Chair, LEAF Kingston.

In 2000, 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 includes gifts \$100 and over received between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If there are any errors or omissions please contact the LEAF Foundation at (416) 595-6171.

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LEAF and LEAF Foundation would like to celebrate the lives of the following individuals and to mark their passing with family and friends:

Ross Kirkpatrick Armstrong  
 Maxwell Goldthar O.C., C.A.  
 Shirley Kelly  
 Maureen Hennessy  
 Adele Fournier

Is there an individual or event that you would like to commemorate? Perhaps a close friend or family member whose life embraced the values of equality and inclusiveness for which LEAF strives. A birth? A bat mitzvah? A relative or friend who has recently graduated from law school? By making a donation on behalf of someone else, these occasions can be a means to promote equality for all!

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:

Colleen Cattell  
 Paula Jubinville  
 Kathleen Kohlman

Colleen Albiston  
 Denise Arsenaault  
 Beth Atcheson  
 Irene Bailey

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There are a variety of opportunities to volunteer with LEAF. Branches use volunteers on legal committees, in education and in fundraising work such as event coordination assistance. LEAF National helps unite women who want to start an annual event and/or Branch in their area. The national office also needs volunteers with IT and desktop publishing skills and volunteers for general office administration work. For more information please contact LEAF via e-mail at [exdir@leaf.ca](mailto:exdir@leaf.ca) or via phone at 416-595-7170.

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