

Women's Legal Education  
and Action Fund

Fonds d'action et d'éducation  
juridiques pour les femmes

## ANNUAL REPORT

2016  
2017



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

# OUR MISSION

The Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) is a national, charitable, non-profit organization founded in 1985. LEAF works to advance the substantive equality rights of women and girls in Canada through litigation, law reform and public education using the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

We achieve our mission through public education, law reform and litigation. LEAF intervenes in key cases to ensure that when courts interpret equality rights there will be a systemic improvement in women's lives. We have grown to include volunteer branches across Canada and have attracted dedicated lawyers who offer *pro bono* services to our organization. Together we have tackled

major issues in Canada including violence against women, discrimination in the workplace, access to reproductive rights, pay equity, and women's economic empowerment.

Our work has already significantly improved women's lives in Canada but there is still work to be done.

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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIR OF THE BOARD

The past year has demonstrated the fundamental importance of our gender equality advocacy, particularly as south of the border many feminist gains appear to be in danger of being rolled back. LEAF National has engaged in cases of critical significance for the well-being of all Canadian women, while our local branches have tackled issues that are specific and relevant to their communities.



Lise Gotell,  
LEAF Board Chair

As you read through the pages of this report we hope that you—our partners, our donors, our sponsors, and our dedicated volunteers—will feel a sense of pride in all that we have been able to accomplish together. LEAF has made significant legal inroads to combat injustice against Indigenous women in Canada, including the overturned verdict in the trial that acquitted Bradley Barton for the death of Cindy Gladue. We played a pivotal role in the Canadian Judicial Council’s inquiry into the conduct of “why couldn’t you just keep your knees together” judge, Robin Camp. And together with LEAF branches we delivered important public education promoting the understanding of women’s legal rights through our programs *Only Yes Means Yes*, *Reproductive Justice*, and *LEAF at Work*.



Hailee Morrison,  
LEAF Executive Director

Even though LEAF’s work has resulted in significant legal gains, women and girls in Canada continue to face disproportionate levels of violence, along with social and economic barriers to equality in the workplace, at home, and in law. In our current legal work, we are seeking to:

- Clarify the law of capacity to consent to ensure the sexual autonomy of women who are intoxicated;
- Explore alternatives to the criminal justice system to address the justice needs of sexual assault complainants;
- Defend the rights of women and children who have been cut off social assistance when a spouse and father violates the rules;
- Ensure pay equity for women in the workplace;
- Guarantee access to justice through human rights law to those alleging discrimination in legislation.

LEAF relies greatly upon the support of Canadian feminist academic, activist, and legal communities. Members of these communities generously donate their time, their research skills and their knowledge, serve on our Law Program Committee, and represent LEAF at appellate courts and at the Supreme Court of Canada.

LEAF would not be able to conduct its vital work without your generosity. With your ongoing support, LEAF’s work will continue to foster equality in Canada.

**Please donate today at [www.leaf.ca](http://www.leaf.ca).**

## A REPORT FROM OUR LEGAL DIRECTOR



Dr. Kim Stanton,  
LEAF Legal Director

LEAF advocates for women's equality rights in a broad cross-section of areas at appellate courts across the country and at the Supreme Court of Canada. This past year, LEAF achieved significant victories in justice for Indigenous women and girls; we advocated for judicial accountability, drawing attention to how a judge's endorsement of rape myths damages confidence in the judicial system; and we shed light on how seemingly neutral legislation can negatively impact women's substantive equality. These are just a few examples of what LEAF accomplished through its hard work in fiscal 2017. The following legal report highlights these and other activities across the country.

*—Dr. Kim Stanton, Legal Director, LEAF*

### Thank You to Our Pro Bono Lawyers and Community Partners

*The following individuals donated countless hours to make Canada a safer, more accessible, and more equal place for women and girls.*

Adriel Weaver	Danielle Martin	Isabel Grant	Laverne Jacobs	Tamar Witelson
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## RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

Indigenous women and girls constitute one of the most marginalized groups in Canada, facing systemic racism, sexism, and colonialism, among other barriers to equality. LEAF continued its work this year to advocate for Indigenous women's status rights, equality rights, and safety from sexual and physical violence.

### **R v BARTON** **Justice for Cindy Gladue**

Like so many people across the country, we were shocked by the March 2015 acquittal of Bradley Barton for Cindy Gladue's murder. An Indigenous woman, and cherished daughter and mother, Cindy Gladue bled to death in a hotel bathroom in Edmonton. The jury accepted the defense argument that she had consented to rough sex.

In September 2016, LEAF, together with our partner, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW), intervened at the Alberta Court of Appeal (ABCA) arguing that the trial judge allowed discriminatory stereotypes about Indigenous women to impact the outcome of the trial. We argued that the characterization of Ms. Gladue as "Native," coupled with the depiction of her as a "prostitute," created a heightened risk that the jury would rely on discriminatory beliefs, misconceptions, or biases about the sexual accessibility of Indigenous women.

The ABCA, in a decision that reflected many of LEAF and IAAW's arguments, made explicit that there is no place for racial prejudices and rape myths in the prosecution of sexual assault. Chief Justice Fraser, writing for the unanimous bench, wrote, "myths and stereotypes continue to stalk the halls of justice in cases involving sexual offences" and the resulting "inequality falls most heavily on women since sexual assault has been, and continues to be, largely a gender-based crime."

We are pleased that the Court of Appeal took a stand against discriminatory myths and stereotypes. We are also hopeful that this case will ensure trial judges are more careful in instructing juries in future.

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*LEAF and IAAW were represented by Edmonton-based lawyer Lisa Weber of Weber Law Group in the appeal.*

## National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

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Over 1200, and likely many more, Indigenous women and girls have disappeared or been murdered in Canada over the past 40 years, a number completely disproportionate to their percentage in the general population.

Last year, LEAF actively participated in the development of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) inquiry. The Inquiry Commissioners granted LEAF both national and regional standing on the basis

that LEAF's broad expertise in systemic discrimination, and developing systemic solutions to this discrimination, will contribute to the Inquiry's understanding of the tragedy and to its ability to make useful recommendations.

We look forward to keeping the Inquiry accountable to a feminist understanding of violence against Indigenous women and girls, rooted in the experience and knowledge of Indigenous families and survivors.

## GEHL v ATTORNEY GENERAL (Canada) Equality Rights for Indigenous Women

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Dr. Lynn Gehl is an Algonquin-Anishinaabe woman with more than five continuous generations of Indigenous ancestry. She sought registration as an "Indian" in 1994 under the registration system in the *Indian Act*. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) determined that Dr. Gehl did not qualify for registration because her grandmother did not identify Dr. Gehl's grandfather on the birth certificates of her children. In accordance with AANDC's Proof of Paternity Policy, if the father is not listed on the birth certificate, he is assumed to be non-Indigenous.

LEAF intervened and argued that the registration provisions of the *Indian Act*, as they are implemented by the Proof of Paternity Policy, create a distinction that constitutes discrimination based on sex and/or marital status, and that the parent who will be disadvantaged by this will inevitably be the mother

since it is fathers, rather than mothers, who are unstated on birth certificates.

The Ontario Court of Appeal agreed that the policy is discriminatory. In line with LEAF's arguments at the appeal, Justice Sharpe of the Ontario Court of Appeal wrote that the Proof of Paternity Policy:

...perpetuates the long history of disadvantage suffered by Indigenous women. As Parliament itself recognized in 1985, the historic practice of stripping and denying Indigenous women of status represented a significant disadvantage that was inconsistent with the Charter's promise of equality.

LEAF is pleased to continue to actively advocate for the eradication of all forms of discrimination in the *Indian Act*.

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*LEAF was represented by Renée Pelletier and Krista Nerland in the appeal.*

## BILL S-3, AN ACT TO AMEND THE INDIAN ACT Elimination of Sex-based Discrimination in Registration

In addition to courtroom advocacy, LEAF has confronted gender discrimination in the *Indian Act* through law reform and policy advocacy. In November 2016, LEAF's Legal Director Dr. Kim Stanton and Krista Nerland, LEAF's co-counsel in *Gehl*, made submissions to the House of Commons and Senate Committees regarding Parliament's

proposal to amend the *Indian Act* and eradicate its ongoing discrimination against Indigenous women. LEAF submitted that the government's proposals left intact significant areas of sex discrimination in the *Act* and urged the government to use the opportunity presented by Bill S-3 to eradicate all forms of gender discrimination in the *Indian Act*.

## JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Far too often, judges in Canada are influenced by or demonstrate discriminatory beliefs in their comments or actions, indicating to women and marginalized groups that they are not welcome or equal in the courtroom.

LEAF is committed to ensuring that the justice system is accessible and welcoming to women and marginalized groups, and we are pleased to have the opportunity to illuminate how judicial conduct, words, and actions can negatively impact these groups' experience of the justice system.

### Canadian Judicial Council Inquiry into the Conduct of Justice Robin Camp

In the 2014 sexual assault trial of Alexander Scott Wagar, Justice Robin Camp asked the complainant, a 19-year-old Indigenous woman who was homeless at the time of the assault, "Why couldn't you just keep your knees together?" Justice Camp also demonstrated disregard for the rape shield laws (laws that limit the ability to introduce evidence or cross-examine rape complainants about their past sexual behavior) which LEAF has fought very hard to establish and protect.

LEAF formed a national coalition of women's organizations that intervened to ensure that a feminist voice for survivors would be heard at the inquiry into the conduct of Justice Robin Camp in September 2016. The Canadian Judicial Council recommended that Justice Camp be removed from his position as a judge. The Council quoted from our submissions in its decision, writing:

...the reasonable person 'must include the perspective of survivors of sexual assault, and

marginalized women generally, as they are entitled to a judiciary that rejects sexual myths and stereotypes and understands and respects equality'...A judge performs a unique role in society and his or her capacity to continue in the execution of that role cannot be judged without regard to the perspective of those who would most likely be affected by the Judge remaining in office. That is not to say that such a perspective is the sole or the dominant one in evaluating public confidence, but it is one that should be included, and must be understood.

The Council's recommendation sends a clear, strong, and important message to every Canadian that women are entitled to a fair judicial system untainted by myths about women and sexual assault.

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*LEAF and the national coalition were represented by Alison Gray of Bennett Jones LLP (now Gowling WLG) and Nitya Iyer, QC of Lovett Westmacott (now appointed to the BC Supreme Court).*

### **LEAF Complaint to Ontario Judicial Council Regarding the Conduct of Justice Bernd E. Zabel**

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On November 9, 2016, the morning after the American election, Justice Bernd E. Zabel entered his Hamilton courtroom wearing a red hat embroidered with Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign slogan "Make America Great Again." Justice Zabel explained to the courtroom that the 2016 US election was "a historic occasion." He placed the hat on the dais, where it remained during the morning's court proceedings.

LEAF's complaint emphasized that for many Canadians, Donald Trump has become inextricably linked with misogyny, violence, and discrimination. We expressed our concern that Justice Zabel's expressed support for Donald Trump might be taken as condoning the well-publicized and offensive comments Donald Trump has made about marginalized groups and perhaps as a reflection of Justice Zabel's own views. LEAF emphasized the impact this conduct could have

on the public's perception of the justice system and that sexual assault survivors could foreseeably be uncomfortable and distrustful if required to testify before an officer of the court who has so publicly celebrated the election of an admitted assailant. That discomfort would be increased exponentially for women who experience intersectional inequality by being members of two or more marginalized groups, and who historically already experience limited access to or a distrust of the judicial system.

LEAF welcomed the Ontario Judicial Council panel's September 12, 2017, decision to reprimand and suspend Justice Zabel, in an acknowledgment that his actions breached the public's confidence in the judiciary.

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*LEAF would like to acknowledge the volunteer contribution of Kristen Pennington, of Grosman, Grosman & Gale LLP.*



## SEXUAL VIOLENCE

With a high number of sexual assault cases going unreported and relatively few convictions for those who face trial, activists and experts are calling for changes to the way the legal system handles sexual assault trials. Throughout its history, LEAF has played a significant role in developing a feminist approach to sexual violence in the courtroom. Our work in this area has continued this year.

### R v AL-RAWI Affirming Voluntary Consent

Following a trial in Nova Scotia Provincial Court, Judge Gregory Lenehan acquitted Bassam Al-Rawi of the charge of sexual assault, despite evidence that the police found the complainant partially undressed and unconscious in the back of Mr. Al-Rawi's taxi cab. The Judge found that the Crown failed to prove the complainant's lack of consent to sexual contact or that the complainant was incapable of offering her consent. The complainant had no recollection of the events due to her level of intoxication and, therefore, could offer no direct evidence of her state of mind at the time of the alleged assault.

In March 2017, LEAF and the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre applied to intervene at the Nova Scotia

Court of Appeal in the Crown's appeal of Mr. Al-Rawi's acquittal in this sexual assault case. Our intention is to assist the court in determining how they should evaluate incapacity or lack of consent when a complainant has no memory of the events due to her intoxication. At the appeal this fall, we will also highlight the ways in which discriminatory myths and stereotypes about women, including intoxicated women, have affected judicial decision-making in this area.

*LEAF and Avalon are grateful to counsel Nasha Nijhawan and Kelly McMillan of Nijhawan McMillan Barristers for their pro bono representation in this case.*

### Due Justice for All

Recent high-profile trials have illuminated how traumatizing and challenging a sexual assault trial can be for survivors of sexual violence. In addition to advocacy in the courts, our legal team engages in law reform and policy advocacy to advance women's equality.

Accordingly, in 2016, LEAF partnered with METRAC Action on Violence and Womenatthecentre to begin Due Justice for All, a three-year project dedicated to improving access to justice for sexual assault complainants. The project, funded by Status of Women Canada, will examine whether there are viable alternative paths to justice for sexual assault survivors.

## SUBSTANTIVE EQUALITY

Efforts to achieve substantive equality recognize that policies and practices which appear to be neutral and non-discriminatory may not address the specific needs of certain groups of people. In effect, they may be indirectly discriminatory, creating systemic discrimination.

### **SPARKS v NOVA SCOTIA (Department of Community Services) Economic Equality for Women**

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In 2015, the Department of Community Services determined that Brenton Sparks had unreasonably refused to participate in employment services offered by the Department and as a consequence, suspended Mr. Sparks' social assistance benefits. As a result, his spouse and their three children also had their income assistance terminated and were unable to meet their own basic needs for food, transportation, and shelter.

In March 2017, LEAF co-intervened along with the spouse regarding entitlement to social assistance of dependent spouses in Nova Scotia, arguing that legislation imposing consequences on

dependent spouses could exacerbate the already disproportionate levels of poverty experienced by women and children, particularly women with caregiving responsibilities.

LEAF took this opportunity to argue that legislative decision-making should take into account the material realities of women in order to ensure that apparently neutral legislation does not negatively impact women's substantive equality.

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*LEAF was represented by Claire McNeil of Dalhousie Legal Aid Service and her student, Kimberly Sweeny in the case.*

## EDUCATION ACROSS THE NATION

Women's equality rights are not only achieved through court action. LEAF branches across Canada have active educational programs and public speaking engagements that inform young people about sexual rights and responsibilities, reproductive justice, and equality issues in the workplace, so they are less likely to become victims or perpetrators.

LEAF's proprietary workshops conducted by volunteer facilitators include:

### ONLY YES MEANS YES

*Only Yes Means Yes* is a workshop designed to educate youth about their legal rights and responsibilities in engaging in sexual relations. This educational program encourages young men and women to recognize the important concept of consent and gender imbalances in issues of sexual assault and unwanted sexual advances.

### REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Women cannot always control the conditions under which they become pregnant or raise their families due to: socialization, social pressure, or custom; inadequate access to or unsafe contraceptive technology; poverty or enforced economic dependence; sexual coercion or violence;

Last year, LEAF branches conducted 78 educational workshops and public speaking engagements, reaching 1,640 youth and community groups across Canada

and societal pressures, economic circumstances, or lack of adequate day care. *Reproductive Justice* workshops highlight how the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* can be a tool to protect the reproductive rights of women.

### LEAF AT WORK

*LEAF at Work* offers engaging, dynamic workshops for youth to analyze real-life scenarios regarding equality issues such as sexual harassment, pay equity, and employment standards in the workplace.

*"Any facilitator will tell you that the most interesting groups are the ones that challenge you on your base presumptions. Groups that are not already primed to agree with you, force you to provide better examples and articulate your points in a more precise way. With respect to Only Yes Means Yes, the most challenging groups have always been all-boys gym classes where misconceptions around consent are often accepted as incontrovertible truths. While these groups are generally harder to reach, I am better able to see the effectiveness of the program when I engage with them. Not all of them leave the workshop as newfound feminists, but I can confidently say that most of them are moved and changed by the experience, which is a win in my books!"*

– Sherifa Hadi, volunteer facilitator, Ottawa

### LEAF HALIFAX AND PEI Sarah Baddeley, Chair

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Many of our *Only Yes Means Yes* workshops are with groups that support marginalized youth. Based on the stories these young people bring to our discussions, we have observed how factors such as race, poverty, disability, and gender can intersect in their lives to make them particularly vulnerable. We have also seen how legal education on the law of consent can empower youth to understand their rights and help them gain a deeper sense of the treatment they deserve.

Last year, LEAF Halifax's *Reproductive Justice* workshops and public speaking engagements focused on the reproductive health of incarcerated women. LEAF is a founding member of the Women's Wellness Within project, providing parenting resources, as well as the services of nine volunteer doulas in two correctional facilities in Nova Scotia.

### LEAF OTTAWA Megan Fultz, Chair

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*LEAF at Work* is our most active workshop series. Our workshop coordinators have fostered great relationships with teachers all over Ottawa. Many young people enter the workforce for the first time without a solid understanding of their rights and responsibilities. Many teachers in charge of co-op programs want the *LEAF at Work* training to become a regular part of preparing students for their placements. *LEAF at Work* offers a tremendous opportunity to empower young people and create meaningful learning opportunities both for them and our law student workshop facilitators.

### LEAF EDMONTON Danielle Paradis, Chair

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LEAF Edmonton, Women's Law Forum, and Equal Voice Alberta North held a panel discussion on harassment and violence in politics and on the campaign trail. This is a particularly important topic in Alberta given our Premier, Rachel Notley, faced over 400 threats in 2016, 26 of which were forwarded to police as they approached a criminal threshold. This was an all-party event featuring women candidates who have run for office or currently hold office from all four major political parties. Women shared their experiences, challenges, and ideas for how to make campaigning and holding office more inclusive and safer for women.

### LEAF WINDSOR Madalyn Bavaro, Chair

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LEAF Windsor, with volunteer facilitators from Pro Bono Students Canada, hosted *Only Yes Means Yes* workshops with Grade 11 and 12 law and health classes throughout Windsor. These interactive discussions create a comfortable space for discourse around the topic of consent and sexual relations, and contribute to shifting viewpoints in this younger generation.

We also hosted a wine and cheese event in conjunction with Windsor Law's If/When/How group and utilized LEAF's *Reproductive Justice* workshop information to educate attendees about the law regarding abortion and reproductive rights of women in Canada.

LEAF welcomes its newest branch in Thunder Bay and commends the following branches for their dedication and time

Edmonton / Halifax and PEI / Ottawa / Sudbury / Toronto / Windsor

## PERSONS DAY EVENTS

Persons Day refers to the Persons Case dating back to October 1929 when the Judicial Committee of the British Privy Council (then Canada's highest court of appeal) ruled that women were to be considered persons under the law and therefore eligible to sit in the Canadian Senate.

LEAF acknowledges that the Persons Case achieved personhood for certain Canadian women and excluded many others, including Indigenous and racialized women. However, the decision cracked open the door to equality for others to push through. LEAF believes that we can work together to open the door more widely and more completely to achieve full equality for all women and girls across Canada.

LEAF branches across the country host Persons Day events to help raise awareness about women's issues relevant to their communities.

### LEAF NATIONAL

**Hailee Morrison, Executive Director**

More than 500 people attended LEAF National's annual Persons Day Breakfast Gala where keynote speaker Margaret Atwood expressed her thoughts on the misogynistic rhetoric of (then) presidential candidate Donald Trump. "This is a reminder to us that the hard-won rights for women and girls that many of us now take for granted could be snatched away," said Atwood. "Culturally, those rights are very shallowly embedded, by which I mean that they haven't been around that long, historically, and that they are not fervently believed in by everyone in the culture. It seems like the male candidate for president of the United States does not believe in them. That's a pretty interesting role model for boys and men." The speech was followed by a lively interview with Globe and Mail columnist Elizabeth Renzetti and then Ms. Atwood met privately with a group of students from the Ontario Justice Education Network.

### LEAF SUDBURY

**Carol Stos & Tannys Laughren, Co-chairs**

Each year when LEAF Sudbury searches for a film or documentary to screen in honour of Persons

Day, we think about what subject matter would be most relevant and educational for our Greater Sudbury audience. In the Spring of 2016, local media featured a series of reports and articles about Sudbury as a hub for human trafficking. More than 150 people came out to our screening of Avenue Zero, a documentary by H el ene Choquette featuring candid interviews with survivors, victims, witnesses, and perpetrators of human trafficking. The film was followed by a panel discussion with Cristina Scarpellini from Angels of Hope Against Human Trafficking, Katherine Hucal of Greater Sudbury Police and Crown Attorney, Susan Stothart. While many people don't think of Canada when they think of forced labour and sexual slavery, it is definitely a homegrown issue.

### LEAF HALIFAX AND PEI

**Sarah Baddeley, Chair**

Unlike the rest of Canada, surgical abortion services only became available to Prince Edward Island residents in 2017, and medical abortion is not yet available. Our 2016 Persons Day Breakfast, attended by 80 people, focused on access to abortion in PEI and the legal work required to challenge policies that may continue to prevent access.

**LEAF OTTAWA**  
**Megan Fultz, Chair**

Elder Claudette Commanda, a First Nations activist and a University of Ottawa law professor delivered the keynote speech to more than 140 attendees at LEAF Ottawa’s Persons Day Breakfast 2016. The focus of the event was on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, examining why native women are murdered at a higher rate than non-Indigenous women. Professor Angela Cameron, Shirley Greenberg Chair for Women in the Legal Profession, talked about her work on the historic symposium to discuss the design of the inquiry. Verna McGregor opened the event with an Opening Prayer.

**LEAF EDMONTON**  
**Danielle Paradis, Chair**

The Gladue case highlights that although the law on sexual violence may have evolved, not enough has changed on the ground when it comes to sexual stereotypes and rape myths making their

way into a trial judge’s judgment. More than 300 lawyers, university students and community groups attended LEAF Edmonton’s Persons Day Breakfast focused on sexual violence and women’s advocacy, led by keynote speaker Professor Jennifer Koshan. Professor Koshan discussed how the legislation has changed over time and how some recent cases provide hope that sexual stereotypes will not be tolerated in the courtroom.

**LEAF WINDSOR**  
**Madalyn Bavaro, Chair**

LEAF Windsor held a panel discussion with three of our great legal minds, Justice Renee Pomerance, The Honourable Mary-Jo Nolan and Professor Julie Macfarlane. The three women shared stories about women’s legal issues that they had observed in the community, as well as struggles they had personally faced in their careers. The event was attended by faculty and law students at the University of Windsor and served as an important reminder of the need to talk openly about the challenges female lawyers face.

**Thank you to our 2016 Persons Day Sponsors**

*Your generosity helps LEAF build a better and more equal Canada for women and girls!*

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# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Women's Legal Education and Action Fund's financial statements provide our supporters with a summary and insight into the organization's financial well-being.

The Board of Directors is committed to investing in programs that will sustain the organization into the future. The dollars we raise, year after year, allow us to engage in litigation, law reform, and public education.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ended March 31	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets		
Cash	328,214	368,142
HST Recoverable	13,836	4,470
Accounts Receivable	331	–
Prepaid Expenses	16,271	13,586
	<b>358,652</b>	486,199
Investments	279,771	233,139
Capital Assets	1,810	–
	<b>640,233</b>	619,338
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	44,950	51,786
Deferred revenue	91,351	120,606
	<b>136,301</b>	172,392
<b>OPERATING NET ASSETS</b>		
	<b>503,932</b>	446,946
	<b>640,233</b>	619,338

Independent Auditor's Report provided by HILBORN LLP.

Complete audited statements available on request.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended March 31	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Donations and fundraising	650,324	640,638
Grants	289,344	282,799
Investment income (loss)	18,377	(4,598)
	<b>958,045</b>	918,839
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Administrative	496,245	437,772
Fundraising	77,634	96,265
Legal cases and projects	293,986	395,681
Professional fees	33,194	36,827
	<b>901,059</b>	966,545
Excess of revenue over expenditures for year	<b>56,986</b>	(47,706)

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended March 31	2017 \$	2016 \$
Operating net assets, beginning of year	446,946	494,652
Excess of revenues over expenditures for year	56,986	(47,706)
Operating net assets, end of year	<b>503,932</b>	446,946



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Thank you to Lerner LLP and Lenczner Slaght for raising more than \$20,000 at the International Women's Day event in March 2017.



LEAF acknowledges the support of Status of Women Canada  
and the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund



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