



West Coast LEAF Association ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005



WEST COAST LEAF, in partnership with National LEAF, works to advance the equality of women in Canada. West Coast LEAF embraces women of all backgrounds, and respects and includes their diverse experiences in its organization and in its work. West Coast LEAF's concept of equality does not mean 'equality as sameness', but rather equality as the removal and disappearance of discrimination and disadvantage, which is consistent with Charter equality rights. West Coast LEAF carries out its work by

- conducting equality rights litigation, primarily using the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms,
- advocating for law reform, and
- carrying out related public legal education.

West Coast LEAF is a non-profit society and federally registered charity that relies on the support of the public to carry out its work. West Coast LEAF receives its primary operational support from the Law Foundation of BC. Thanks to the Law Foundation and the following agencies for their funding support of the organization during 2004/5:

- BC Gaming – Direct Access Program
- Estate of Joanne Brown
- Hamber Foundation
- Health Sciences Association of BC
- Human Resources & Skills Development Canada
- Justice Canada – Community Mobilization Program
- Status of Women Canada
- VanCity Savings & Credit Union
- Vancouver Bar Association
- VanCity Credit Union



Eljed Gatus teaching "No Means No" to grade six and seven students at Cunningham Elementary School in Vancouver.

West Coast LEAF Program Update

2004/05 HAS BEEN A VERY active year for West Coast LEAF programming. Some highlights include:

TRANSFORMATIVE PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

West Coast LEAF piloted Equality in Action which was designed to assist organizations, particularly legal organizations, in applying equality concepts in their work. We held two workshops – one for the Trial Lawyer's Association in April, and a second for the BC branch of the CBA in June of 2004. Each group had an opportunity to identify specific equality issues of concern to them, participate in a one day workshop, and receive a follow-up report with recommendations for further action.

Participants rated the workshops highly, particularly for the ways in which it expanded their understanding of how equality concepts can help their respective organizations more fully meet the needs of their members.

No Means No continues to provide educational opportunities to high school

and middle school students in Vancouver, Port Moody, Coquitlam, Nelson and Nanaimo. The program is designed to explore the legal definitions of consent as articulated in the 1999 Ewanchuk case, in which LEAF intervened. West Coast LEAF will be using this peer-facilitation model to design a new program for students on their rights in the workplace.

Front line workers and advocates have also had an opportunity to participate in West Coast LEAF's program, Transforming our Future: Legal Strategies for Change. The two-day program was offered in Vancouver in March 2004 and Victoria in October 2004.

LEGAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Since 2003, West Coast LEAF has been building the Single Mothers' Human Rights case in cooperation with the Poverty and Human Rights Project and the Community Legal Assistance Society to address the adverse effects of welfare

Continued on page 4

Thanks to the following supporters who contributed to West Coast LEAF in 2004/5

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WEST COAST LEAF ASSOCIATION (Incorporated under the *Societies Act* of British Columbia)

Statement of Operations & Changes in Fund Balances as at March 31, 2005

REVENUE	OPERATING	CAPITAL	ENDOWMENT	TOTAL	
	FUND	FUND	FUNDS	2005	2004
Grants	\$197,409	\$ –	\$ –	\$197,409	\$191,937
Fundraising (Note 4)	267,094	–	–	267,094	125,995
Membership fees	3,655	–	–	3,655	7,855
Endowment income (Note 5)	5,519	–	–	5,519	–
Other income	2,225	–	–	2,225	9,916
	<u>475,902</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>475,902</u>	<u>335,703</u>
EXPENDITURES					
Accounting & Audit	5,164	–	–	5,164	5,065
Amortization	–	3,785	–	3,785	3,397
Board & committee	5,831	–	–	5,831	9,767
Endowment contributions (Note 5)	35,978	–	–	35,978	30,025
Equipment leases & service	6,574	–	–	6,574	6,369
Equipment purchases	8,798	–	–	8,798	–
Forum/Guidebook workshops	–	–	–	–	13,938
Fundraising (Note 4)	24,640	–	–	24,640	26,062
Legal costs & disbursements	–	–	–	–	363
National dues	1,828	–	–	1,828	3,928
Office & miscellaneous	16,593	–	–	16,593	9,450
Organizational development	1,658	–	–	1,658	5,042
Personnel & services	232,126	–	–	232,126	210,494
Postage & courier	5,529	–	–	5,529	3,555
Projects	24,599	–	–	24,599	6,405
Public relations & education	3,388	–	–	3,388	1,993
Rent	21,915	–	–	21,915	20,148
Telephone & fax	3,141	–	–	3,141	2,594
	<u>397,762</u>	<u>3,785</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>401,547</u>	<u>358,595</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY OF) REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES					
	78,140	(3,785)	–	74,355	(22,892)
INTERFUND TRANSFERS Capital Assets acquired (net of disposals)					
	–	8,798	–	8,798	–
	78,140	5,013	–	83,153	(22,892)
FUND BALANCES , beginning of year	94,564	9,740	639	104,943	127,835
FUND BALANCES , end of year	<u>\$172,704</u>	<u>\$14,753</u>	<u>\$ 639</u>	<u>\$188,096</u>	<u>104,943</u>

Statement of Fund Balances as at March 31, 2005

ASSETS	OPERATING	CAPITAL	ENDOWMENT	TOTAL	
	FUND	FUND	FUNDS	2005	2004
Cash & term deposits	\$217,848	\$ –	\$ –	\$217,848	\$174,376
Accounts receivable	12,228	–	–	12,228	7,181
Interfund balances	(639)	–	639	–	–
Prepaid expenses	39,124	–	–	39,124	5,741
Capital Assets (Note 3)	–	14,753	–	14,753	9,740
	<u>\$268,561</u>	<u>\$14,753</u>	<u>\$ 639</u>	<u>\$283,953</u>	<u>\$197,038</u>
LIABILITIES					
Accounts payable	\$ 7,913	\$ –	\$ –	\$ 7,913	\$ 21,609
Due to VanCity	–	–	–	–	5,000
Community Foundation	–	–	–	–	3,927
Due to LEAF National	5,755	–	–	5,755	61,559
Deferred income	82,189	–	–	82,189	92,095
	<u>95,857</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>95,857</u>	<u>92,095</u>
FUND BALANCES	<u>172,704</u>	<u>14,753</u>	<u>639</u>	<u>283,953</u>	<u>104,943</u>
	<u>\$268,561</u>	<u>\$14,753</u>	<u>\$ 639</u>	<u>\$283,953</u>	<u>\$197,038</u>

Complete financial statements available on request.

Board members, Stephanie Fraser, Rosalind Currie, Elizabeth Hall, Mary-Woo Sims.



Continued from page 1
 legislation on single mothers. West Coast LEAF is consulting with single mothers and community agencies to identify women who might have a valid human rights complaint as a result of the legislative changes to BC's welfare system. The project involves research and writing on the impact of changes and cuts to income assistance and the disproportionate impact those cuts have on single mothers.

With the explosion of public interest this year in the community of Bountiful, near Creston, which practices polygamy, West Coast LEAF began to explore legal strategies to address the increasing human rights, women's equality rights, and religious freedom concerns that have been reported in the community. West Coast LEAF held a National Consultation on Women's Equality and Religious Freedom to further examine the myriad of issues involved in this complex debate. Participants represented a variety of faith-based institutions, academics, lawyers and community activists.

West Coast LEAF continues to be a strong advocate for the reinstatement and development of adequate family law legal aid in B.C. We continue to collect affidavits from women around the province documenting the impact the

legal aid cuts have had on their lives.

West Coast LEAF co-published "*Legal Aid Denied*", a paper co-published with the BC Centre for Policy Alternatives, outlining the history of legal aid cuts and their impact on women and families. The paper was only a small part of our efforts to articulate how the absence of funding for legal aid in civil law matters impacts access to justice.

In addition to these important projects, West Coast LEAF was involved in, or continued to monitor cases with implications for women's equality; submitted briefs to government on proposed legislation, making recommendations to advance the status of women; and worked closely with community organizations to increase awareness of the relevance of the Charter and other legislation in our daily lives.

None of this work would have been possible without the contributions of numerous volunteers, student researchers, community organizations and members of the legal profession who gave their time, knowledge, skills and financial support to West Coast LEAF. Because of their gifts, West Coast LEAF continues its growth as a vibrant and meaningful organization for women and men throughout BC. *Thank You!*

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West Coast LEAF



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1985 – 2005



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