

West Coast LEAF News Alert June 23, 2009



West Coast LEAF's Annual General Meeting is on June 25.
For information, please go [here](#).

Grade 8 students in Nelson learn that No Means No

Nelson - As of June 12, 2009, West Coast LEAF's No Means No education program was successfully completed by every eighth grade student in Nelson BC. The program's objective is to empower youth by teaching them about their rights, enabling them to understand the meaning of sexual consent and affirming their legal right to say "no".

The No Means No program has its roots in *R. v Ewanchuk*, a case involving the issues of consent and sexual assault. This case highlights the stereotypes about gender that still prevail, and which continue to undermine equality rights and perpetuate the cycle of violence.

In 1999, young people at a conference responded to this case by initiating a workshop to teach other youth about stereotypes and rights.

Ten years later, this education has been brought to every grade 8 student in Nelson.

"This program is an empowering one that educates young people about their rights and responsibilities regarding consent and assault," says Stacey Lock, co-ordinator of the program in Nelson. "Students respond to the youth facilitators because they feel like they are easier to relate to and they appear to be more at ease. I really love this job because I believe that it is giving young people the tools to be able to make good choices. It is powerful stuff."

The program is also delivered in the Lower Mainland.

Appeal Dismissed in Watson/Spratt

On June 18, 2009, the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed Donald Spratt's application for leave to appeal the BC Court of Appeal decision in *R. v Watson and Spratt*.

The dismissal concludes 10 years of challenges to the Access to Abortion Services Act, which creates a no-protest ("bubble") zone around abortion clinics to allow women access to clinic services free of unwanted approaches by anti-abortion protesters.

A coalition of abortion service providers and pro-choice organizations, including LEAF National with the coordinating efforts of West Coast LEAF, have been intervening in support of the legislation since 1996.

In *R. v Watson and Spratt* and the preceding cases, anti-choice activists argued that the bubble zone law violated their *Charter* right to freedom of expression. In September 2008 the British Columbia Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal *R. v Watson and Spratt* on the basis that it was a

reasonable limit of their freedom of expression.

For more information about *R. v Watson and Spratt*, including the factum for the intervention and the British Columbia Court of Appeal decision, please go [here](#).

About [West Coast LEAF](#)

West Coast LEAF's mission is to achieve equality by changing historic patterns of discrimination against women through BC based equality rights litigation, law reform and public legal education.

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