

## **Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams speaks at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual West Coast LEAF Equality Breakfast**

**Vancouver, March 19, 2010** – International Nobel Peace Prize winner, Jody Williams, gave an empowering, awe inspiring speech at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) Equality Breakfast. Williams joined host Gloria Macarenko and over 760 guests to celebrate International Women’s Day as the keynote speaker. She spoke about international law, the need to make change through peaceful activism, and current global events that are affecting human rights and equality.

“Tolerance is not acceptance; differences must be respected and supported through local and international law reform,” says Williams of woman’s equality issues. Williams continued to express her support of West Coast LEAF and their on-going efforts to uphold equality rights. “When woman are equal, men will be equal,” said Williams.

“I was delighted that Williams globalized West Coast LEAF’s efforts and showed how our work relates to societies and efforts around the world,” says Executive Director Alison Brewin of Williams speech. “The success of the event really shows that people in our community care about human rights and want to make a difference,” she added.

The West Coast LEAF Equality Breakfast takes place annually to celebrate International Women's Day and the progress made in advancing women's rights. Past speakers include Helen Shaver, a Gemini award winning actor/director (2009), and 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Iranian human-rights lawyer Dr. Shirin Ebadi (2008).

### **About Jody Williams**

Jody Williams received the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for her work with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. In 2006, Williams, along with six other women Nobel Peace prize laureates, established the Nobel Women’s Initiative to showcase and promote woman’s rights researchers and organizations working towards the advancement in peace and justice on a global scale. Williams’ work has appeared in a variety of publications such as the Wall Street Journal, The Boston Globe and the LA times.

### **About West Coast LEAF**

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

**International Women's Day (IWD)** is a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

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