

## **Canadian Icon Helen Shaver Entertains at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual West Coast LEAF Equality Breakfast**

**Vancouver, March 13** - Canadian film icon Helen Shaver wowed the audience with a funny, hopeful and serious message at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual West Coast Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) Equality Breakfast. Shaver joined West Coast LEAF and over 740 breakfast guests to celebrate International Women's Day as the breakfast keynote speaker. She commented on gender roles, pay equity and the status of women in Canada.

Speaking about the importance of West Coast LEAF, Shaver commented, "I have come to realize what a quiet, dedicated and profoundly sane organization it is...it is so necessary to have legal reform because the honour system doesn't seem to work".

"Helen delivered a motivating and inspirational speech to our guests today," said Alison Brewin, Executive Director of West Coast LEAF. "She added her own personal thoughts about equality and International Women's Day. Helen Shaver is my new BFF," she added with a grin.

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 2003 Nobel Peace Prize winner and Iranian human-rights lawyer Dr. Shirin Ebadi (2008) and counsel for *Roe v Wade*, Sarah Weddington (2007).

To donate to West Coast LEAF or for further information, visit [www.westcoastleaf.org](http://www.westcoastleaf.org)

### **About Helen Shaver:**

Helen Shaver's career spans over 30 years as an actor, director and producer. Some of her most widely recognized films include *In Praise of Older Women*, *Desert Hearts* and *We All Fall Down*. Her directing credits include: *Private Practice*, *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Judging Amy* and *The O.C.* Shaver is the winner of 2 Gemini awards for acting and a Daytime Emmy award for directing. She has a place on Canada's Walk of fame between Jim Carrey and Diana Krall.

### **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.

- 30 -

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