

2012

West Coast LEAF ANNUAL REPORT

Making the promise of equality in the *Charter* a reality since 1985



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Catalina Rodriguez

We are very proud of our achievements this year. Our fight for women's equality continues, which we would not be able to sustain without the support of our funders and the generosity of our members and donors.

On the litigation front, I want to highlight three cases we were involved in this year:

The Polygamy Reference decision, released by the BC Supreme Court on November 23, 2011, was the result of decades of work, and a multi-month trial. We argued that exploitative polygamy should continue to be prohibited under the law.

We applied for leave to intervene in the Moore case in December of 2011 at the Supreme Court of Canada. The case brought to light two key issues in the test for discrimination under human rights law.

We were also involved in the SWUAV case which was heard by the Supreme Court of Canada on January 19, 2012. We were granted intervener status by the Court, along with our coalition partners ARCH Disability Rights Clinic and Justice for Children and Youth. We argued that Section 15 equality principles must be applied to the test for public interest standing, and are extremely pleased that the Supreme Court of Canada recently released its decision, broadening the test for public interest standing. It was a honour to be part of this success for women and marginalized people seeking access to the courts!

I also want to highlight our law reform publications, including our third annual CEDAW Report Card measuring BC's compliance with international human rights law protecting women's rights. We continue to solidify our position as the province's leading expert on equality rights, and we are pleased to have become a go-to resource for journalists seeking to better understand the impact of legislative changes or government measures. Our education reach has also been steadily growing, and this year we reached more youth than ever before with our workshops on workplace rights and sexual assault.

As President, I am proud of the staff team and volunteers that have made our successes possible. We have a group of dedicated women and men who give the organization the best of them everyday. We strive to make West Coast LEAF a place where they can thrive and shine. Your donations make this happen.

I look forward to our next year, and to the challenges and opportunities that it will bring.

2011-12 HIGHLIGHTS

EVENTS AND GATHERINGS

The Market at Doxa 2011

Kamloops Persons Day with Sharon Matthews, President of BC branch of Canadian Bar Association

2012 Equality Breakfast with journalist Chantal Hébert

LAW REFORM

2011 3rd CEDAW Report Card

Equality Impact Statements

Mapping the Gap: Linking Aboriginal Women with Legal Resources and Services report

Courtwatch project begins collecting data

Submissions and letters to BC Premier and Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, BC Standing Committee on Finance on the Provincial Budget, Chair of the BC Human Rights Tribunal

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

30 No Means No and Youth in the Workplace workshops to approximately 1000 youth

2 Transforming Our Future workshops in Smithers in partnership with the *Dze L K'ant*, and in Penticton in partnership with the *Penticton & Area Women's Centre*

36 talks through our Speakers Bureau

LITIGATION

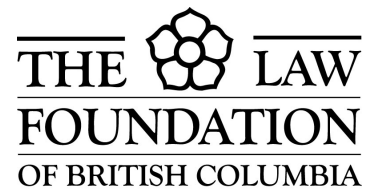
Reference on the constitutionality of section 293 of the Criminal Code

SWUAV v AG at the Supreme Court of Canada

British Columbia v Moore

Friedmann v MacGarvie

Withdrew from participation in the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry



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2012 Equality Breakfast

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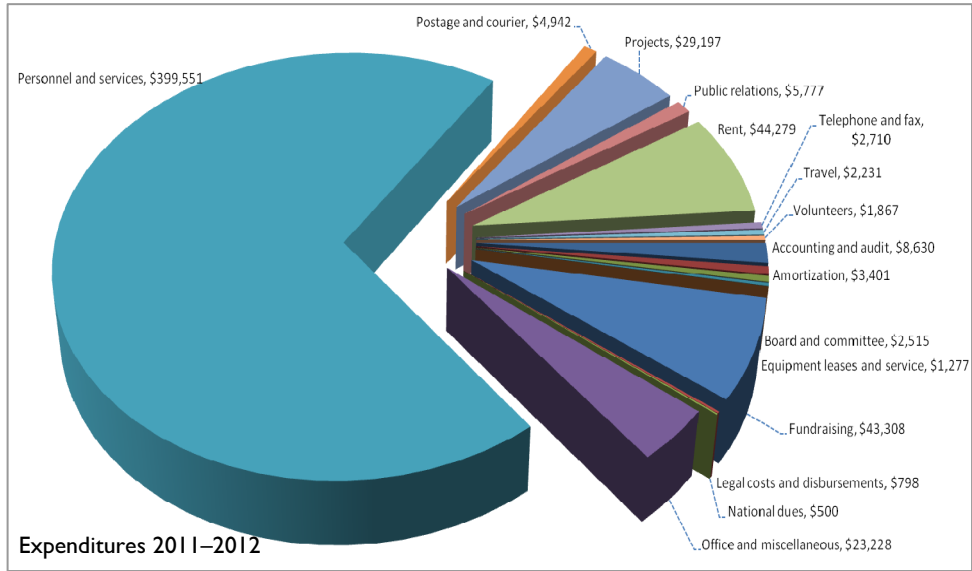
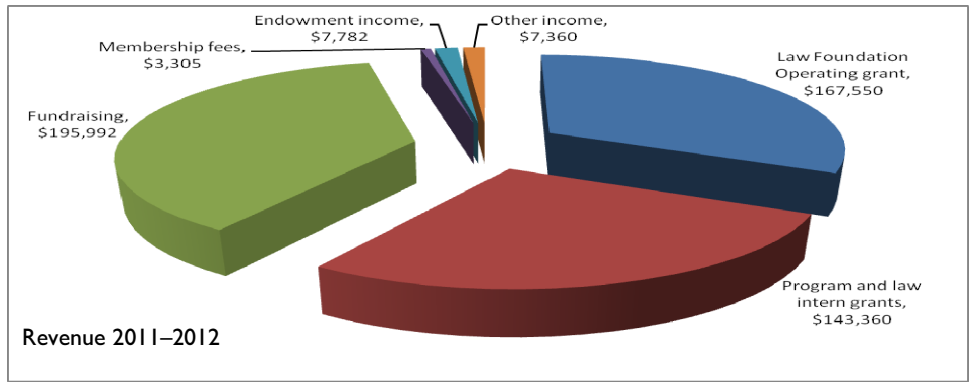
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Complete audited statements available upon request. Please email Kasari Govender, Executive Director at exec@westcoastleaf.org

GOODBYES!

We say a fond farewell to outgoing board and staff: Melanie Ash, Maggie Knowlan, Janina Kon, and Fiona York. Thank you for all your wonderful contributions!

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