

# LEAF *let*

The newsletter of West Coast LEAF  
VOLUME 19 NUMBER 3, September 2006



## Celebrating Women's History

On October 18, 1929, the Privy Council of Britain rendered its judgement in what has become known as the "Persons Case". In overturning the Supreme Court of Canada's decision that the term 'person' in the law did not include women and therefore women were not eligible to sit in the Senate, the Privy Council stated:

*...the exclusion of women from all public offices is a relic of days more barbarous than ours. And to those who would ask why the word "person" should include females, the obvious answer is, why should it not?*

Twenty-five years later women's rights are still evolving as a result of the work that

women do individually, and collectively, to advance the realization of women's equality.

We celebrate Persons Day while acknowledging that many women are still denied their full rights as persons. The rights of Aboriginal women are still widely obstructed.

The Status of Women Canada's Women's History Month 2006 theme is to make:

*Canadians aware of Aboriginal women's contributions to Canada, to their communities and to their families. It is also intended to promote understanding of the realities of Aboriginal women's*

*lives and the unique challenges they face. [www.swc-cfc.gc.ca](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca)*

It is through the recognition of the experiences of diverse women that the understanding of substantive equality will be fulfilled. The fight for women's equality has broadened to include not only women whose life experiences are similar to the women who pushed the Persons Case through the court system but to those of all women.

In recognition of the contributions that women have made to better our society we are pleased to host the following key note speakers in October.

### Persons Day Events:

#### VICTORIA

Jody Patterson and Lauren Casey have been at the forefront of empowering sex trade workers through Prostitutes Empowerment Education and Resource Society PEERS, a non-profit society established by ex prostitutes and community supporters. PEERS is dedicated to the empowerment, education and support of prostitutes.



Jody Patterson, Executive Director of PEERS

This dynamic society began as an offshoot of the Downtown Women's Project later evolving into Prostitutes Anonymous.

**Share in this empowering and inspiring success story on October 17, 2006 at the Princess Mary Restaurant located at 358 Harbour Road between 7-9 AM.**

#### CHILLIWACK

Jean Scott and West Coast LEAF are proud to present the film *Transforming Women's Future*. Our keynote speaker, Fran Watters, has made a significant difference in advancing women's equality. She is one of the brave women who inspired the creation of West Coast LEAF and shared in the vision of the Charter's equality provisions for women's rights in Canada.

**Join us for brunch on October 21, 2006. Please see the insert for details.**

#### LANGLEY

Melanie Mark is the 2006 recipient of the YWCA Vancouver's Young Women of Distinction Award and the President of the Board of Directors of the Urban Native Youth Association. She is the driving force behind the capital campaign to build a fifty million dollar project that will serve as a cornerstone for the Native community.

**Join us for an evening reception with Melanie on October 24 at the Coast Hotel and Convention Centre 20393 Fraser Highway between 7-9 PM.**

### Equality Events:

The Nanaimo Equality Event is scheduled for later this year.

**For events information, please see the insert or contact our office: (604) 684-8772 or toll free 1-866-737-7716.**

# *Access Coalition intervenes in legal challenge to BC's 'bubble zone' legislation*

By Bev Gallagher, Program Director

In December 2002 LEAF National intervened in the *Demers* case at the BC Court of Appeal. At issue was whether legislation that created a 'bubble zone' around abortion clinics to prevent certain activities was constitutional. The Court of Appeal found that it was.

This year a similar case, *Watson/Spratt*, is before the BC Court of Appeal. It specifically addresses whether the 'bubble zone' legislation infringes on a person's freedom of expression. The Access Coalition, comprised of the Elizabeth Bagshaw Society, Everywoman's Health Centre Society, the CARE program at the Children and Women's Health Centre of BC, the BC Pro Choice Action Network, and LEAF were granted intervenor status and filed its argument with the Court of Appeal this month.

The appellants, Mr. Watson and Mr. Spratt, were found guilty by a Provincial Court judge for protesting and handing out anti-abortion literature within the 'bubble zone' which contravenes sections of the *Access to Abortion Act*. They argue that this restriction infringes on their freedom of expression. The Coalition argues that one of the principles of the law is to provide women with the right to have access to "safe, equal and dignified access to lawful abortion services." This right is balanced with the right of people to engage in certain anti-abortion activities because the law does not create a complete ban on anti-abortion protest. Due to the competing rights of both groups, an 'access zone' is established under the law that prohibits people from engaging in certain activities, including interference with or intimidation of doctors, service providers or patients, and protesting and besetting within the zone. The Access Coalition argues that since the legislation is specific to when, where and how this activity can be done, any infringement on individual rights is justified. 🌱

## ANNOUNCING:

**B**ev Gallagher joins West Coast LEAF as Program Director until April 2007, when Kelly Roulette returns from leave.

*Bev volunteered with our Family Law Affidavit campaign and Court Watch program. She was called to the BC Bar this year and brings her passion and dedication for access to justice issues to West Coast LEAF.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR FORMER BOARD MEMBERS:

Sabrina Ali  
Stephanie Fraser  
Liz Hall  
Andrea Hilland  
Mary Woo Sims  
Suneeta Vyas  
Lindsay Waddell

## INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

### *New Board Members Appointed at June 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting*

West Coast LEAF is pleased to announce the Board of Directors for 2006-2007:

Pam Bhatti, *Public Legal Education Committee*  
Karey Brooks, *Law & Government Committee*  
Andrea Burton  
Rosalind Currie, *Past President*  
Amy Francis, *Vice President - External*  
Michelle M. Hassen  
Nitya Iyer, *Vice President - Internal*  
Kay Kobayashi  
Signy Madden  
Ritu Mahil, *President*  
Leslie Muir, *Legal Committee*  
Jan O'Brien  
Farnaz Riahi Nejad, *Treasurer*  
Mary Salaysay, *Breakfast Committee*  
Eloise Spitzer  
Karin Yeung

# West Coast LEAF Film Release

TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S FUTURE SCREENING A GREAT SUCCESS!

By Chris Conroy, Office Coordinator

On the evening of July 18 people began lining up outside the Pacific Cinémathèque on Howe Street in Vancouver. They waited in the warm evening air as the line slowly twisted closer to the door. They had come to see the premiere screening of *Transforming Women's Future* a film about the twenty year history of West Coast LEAF.

Inside, staff and volunteers put the finishing touches on the free event and greeters began welcoming people as they entered. The almost 200 guests packed the prescreening reception sipping wine and enjoying refreshments before being called to the main event.

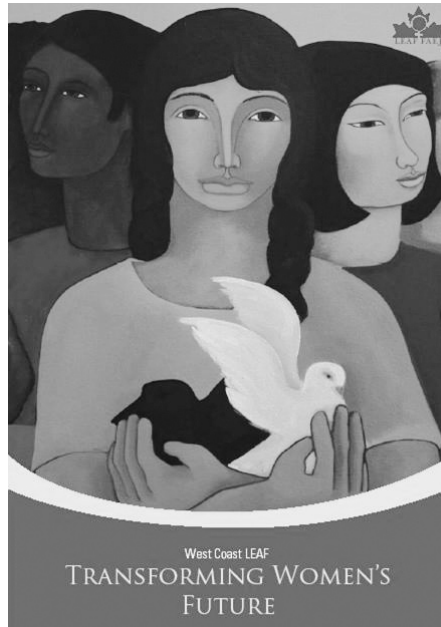
We were honored to have a few of the founding mothers in attendance that evening. Not to mention new and long time supporters of West Coast LEAF, interested members of the public, and friends of all those involved with the film. Afterward, Executive Director, Alison Brewin presented gifts of thanks to those who contributed to *Transforming Women's Future*. A large round of applause was given to filmmakers Julia Iriarte and Eva Urruita of Pampa Productions in appreciation for their endeavours in making the film a reality.



Alison Brewin, Executive Director, greeting guests as they arrive at Pacific Cinémathèque

powerful were the images of paintings donated by artist Nora Patrich and the music of Esteban Carballo. Both evoked emotions we all feel when we realize what West Coast LEAF has meant to women's lives.

We were delighted to see such support of our work for women's equality and enthusiasm for our continued efforts. 🌱



## THE ART OF TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S FUTURE

West Coast LEAF is honoured to have Nora Patrich's artwork displayed throughout our film and gracing the DVD jacket. Nora graciously allowed West Coast LEAF to include her work in *Transforming Women's Future*.

Nora Patrich was born on June 3, 1952 in Florida, a city in the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She began as a student of Architecture at the University of Buenos Aires and studied art in the studio of the famous Argentine painter Martinez Howard. In her youth, Patrich

became highly motivated by their principles the Spartacus movement, an important art movement in Argentina. During her forced exile from Argentina, she lived in Israel, Spain, Cuba and Mexico, where she attended the School of Art and Design.

Today, Patrich is an accomplished painter, muralist, print maker and sculptor. Throughout her career, she has been awarded important prizes. Among the most noted we find the 1995 Commendation from The House of Commons Ottawa, Canada, the Lieutenant Governor's Award BC, Canada in 1996, and the Nomination for the Woman of Distinction Award YMCA Vancouver, BC, Canada in the year 2001. Her work is widely exhibited and forms part of the permanent collection of different museums and selected institutions around the world, such as the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Simon Fraser University Canada, the Museum of Modern Art Buenos Aires, Argentina and the Museum of the National Palace of Guatemala. Since 1982, Patrich has made her home in Vancouver, Canada. She currently divides her time between her studios in Vancouver and Buenos Aires.

Nora Patrich understands her role as an artist in the widest possible sense. She does not limit herself to the creation of beautiful images for the pleasure of the aesthete; that is only part of the equation: Patrich creates beauty, records history, and, when necessary, denounces injustice. A feminist in essence, women are a principal and constant presence in her work. We see them through Patrich's eyes as the pillars of society in their many pivotal roles: as mothers, sisters, workers, friends and lovers. [www.norapatrich.com](http://www.norapatrich.com)

## Investing in Women's Equality...

**W**est Coast LEAF is grateful for the support that we receive from our donors and members. Your valued support provides crucial funding for our mission to advance women's equality through our work in the areas of law reform, public legal education and litigation.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing women's equality. Your investment in West Coast LEAF makes our work possible.

### SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT:

July 18<sup>th</sup> was the official launch of our film: *West Coast LEAF – Transforming Women's Future*. We would like to thank **Pampa Productions** for their important work on the film and also acknowledge the valuable contributions of our film sponsors:

Film Production Sponsor: 

Film Event Sponsor: 

Limited copies of the film are available by donation for a suggested minimum of \$20.00 – Please contact us for your copy. See page 3 for a full recap of the official film launch.

### SPECIAL THANKS:



#### OTHER SUPPORTERS:

Thank you to the Ethical Bean Coffee Company for their support in generously providing our office with coffee. We are pleased to partner with such a socially responsible company. Please visit [www.ethicalbean.com](http://www.ethicalbean.com).

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Celebrate Women's History Month this October:

- **Victoria:** Persons Day Event with Jody Patterson and Lauren Casey on October 17 at the Princess Mary Restaurant located at 358 Harbour Road between 7 – 9 AM
- **Chilliwack:** Persons Day event hosted by Jean Scott with Fran Watters Join us for brunch on October 21
- **Langley:** Persons Day event with Melanie Mark at Coast Hotel and Convention Centre 20393 Fraser Highway between 7 – 9 PM

**For events information, please see insert or contact our office: (604) 684-8772 or toll free 1-866-737-7716.**

**Special Note:** Limited copies of Jean Scott's book, *Brown Sugar and a Bone in the Throat*, are still available for sale. Please contact Jean at: 604 703 1668, 305 8934 Mary Street, Chilliwack, BC, V2P 4J3

## West Coast LEAF Association

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**Office Hours:** 9am – 5pm,  
Monday to Friday

LEAFlet is the newsletter of the BC branch of the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund.

**Editing & Writing:**  
West Coast LEAF staff



## Thank You!

### THEMIS CLUB

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#### JOIN THE THEMIS MONTHLY GIVING CLUB!

*Monthly Giving is the best way to support West Coast LEAF. It provides sustainable revenue, reduces administrative costs, and helps us to plan for the future.*

### CONTACT US!

We value your support and invite any questions or comments you may have. Please feel free to contact us at 604 684 8772 or toll free in BC at 1 866 737 7716.

West Coast LEAF is a provincial organization committed to promoting women's equality before Canadian courts, government agencies and human rights commissions; and to providing public legal education on the issue of equality rights for women.

West Coast LEAF is supported by:

