



EQUALITY BREAKFAST 2024  
**HUNGRY FOR EQUALITY**



**Happy  
International  
Women's Day  
to all of you  
change-makers.**

**Proud  
sponsor** **Vancity**

# AGENDA



- 6:30 Doors open
- 7:15 Breakfast is served
- 7:25 Homeland welcome: Musqueam Elder Doris Fox
- 7:35 Welcome and acknowledgements:  
Michelle Eliot, CBC Vancouver  
IWD shared values: Miller Titerle + Company
- 7:50 West Coast LEAF update: Raji Mangat, executive director
- 8:05 Break | Final bids: silent auction closes at 8:20 am
- 8:25 Speaker introduction: Vancity  
Keynote: Pam Palmater
- 8:50 Thank you: Martina Zanetti, WCL board president  
Closing remarks: Michelle Eliot



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# THANK YOU TO OUR BREAKFAST PARTNERS

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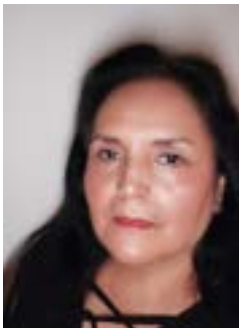


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## HOMELAND WELCOME



**DORIS FOX** is a Musqueam Elder. Throughout the year, Doris works at different wellness days as a life coach, spiritual advisor, and healer using various traditional healing methods taught to her by Elders and by various other Indigenous healers. Doris sits on several advisory boards, committees, Elders Circles, etc. As well, Doris works at several health clinics as an Elder and healer.

Doris teaches various traditional arts and crafts such as, traditional Salish weaving, cedar-bark weaving, beading, etc., that were taught to her by her Elders. During her classes, Doris ensures that the students know about the history, traditions, values, and beliefs behind the ancient knowledge that she shares. Doris also shares her knowledge of intellectual property and the importance of artists knowing how to protect themselves and their work. Doris is an artist and clothing designer, as well, and has taught sewing classes.

## EMCEE



PHOTO COURTESY CBC

**MICHELLE ELIOT** is an award-winning journalist and the host of CBC British Columbia's weekday call-in show, BC Today, where she engages in conversation with listeners on the day's top stories and on issues important to British Columbians.

Eliot has hosted numerous CBC news specials, including tapping into her Filipino heritage as part of CBC's Mabuhay B.C., an ongoing initiative to share stories from the province's Filipino community. Eliot has been recognized by the Radio Television Digital News Association and the Jack Webster Foundation for stories that delved into the opioid crisis in BC, the immigrant experience in Canada, and for coverage of the 2017 NDP-Green deal for a minority government in BC.

Active in the community, Eliot has hosted numerous events and forums, including discussions on proportional representation, basic income, costs of caregiving, and anxiety and motherhood. As a parent of a child with special needs, Eliot also participates in events in the disability community.

## KEYNOTE



**DR. PAM PALMATER** is an internationally renowned speaker, award-winning Indigenous podcaster, prolific author, and social justice activist driving reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. With four degrees, including a doctorate in law focusing on Indigenous rights, Pam helps change academia as Professor and Chair in Indigenous Governance at Toronto Metropolitan University.

A Mi'kmaw Nation citizen and member of Eel River Bar First Nation, she champions social justice and educates people about Indigenous rights so they can push for meaningful changes to Canadian laws and policies. As a practicing lawyer for over two decades and an expert in Indigenous law, she testifies before United Nations treaty bodies, Parliamentary committees, and inquiries like Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and the most recent Nova Scotia Mass Casualty Commission.

Considered one of the Top 25 Movers and Shakers by the Financial Post, Pam's 200+ publications on Indigenous issues and human rights are shaping a path towards social justice and climate action.



## ABOUT WEST COAST LEAF

Together, we can co-create a society that is just, equitable, and free from discrimination

West Coast LEAF envisions an equitable and just society for all women and people who experience gender-based discrimination. We are committed to an inclusive and intersectional vision of feminism that includes women, Two-Spirit people, intersex people, gender-non-conforming people, trans people of all genders, and people with non-binary gender identities.

We recognize that we do this work in the context of historic and ongoing colonial violence and injustice, and we are committed to working for the full realization of the rights of Indigenous peoples.

We respectfully acknowledge that our organization is located on traditional, ancestral, and unceded Coast Salish homelands, including the territories of the **xʷməθkʷəy̓əm** (Musqueam), **Skwxwú7mesh** (Squamish), and **səlílwətaʔ / Selilwitulh** (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. As an organization that includes many settlers, we take responsibility for learning and seeking long-term transformation in our relationships with Indigenous peoples and the land.

West Coast LEAF promotes substantive equality, an approach that recognizes and celebrates differences. Rather than treating everyone the same, substantive equality ensures that historically disadvantaged people can actively participate in society and access justice. We strive to ensure that the equality principles in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, which advance the rights of all disadvantaged and marginalized groups, are fulfilled.

## OUR BEGINNINGS

West Coast LEAF came out of the desire of feminist activists, lawyers, and academics to ensure that the newly drafted equality provisions of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* were robustly interpreted and applied through the courts. Our founders'



Gratitude from West Coast LEAF  
to our Partner in Community Care

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vision was to combat sex- and gender-based discrimination by mobilizing the law as a catalyst for broader social change.

Since our founding in 1985, we have helped bring about some of Canada’s most important feminist victories for reproductive rights, workplace standards, fairness in family law, access to justice, legal protections from sexual harassment, and more. Working collaboratively with community, we use litigation, law reform, and public legal education to create transformative change.

We are proud of our humble beginnings—our first “office” was a filing cabinet outside the doors of Lynn Smith’s office at UBC’s then Faculty of Law and board meetings were held at her dining room table. Now, nearly four decades later, we are a well-respected and sought-after national voice advocating for gender equality and justice.

## FUNDERS OF OUR SPECIAL PROJECTS



Women and Gender  
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité  
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Social Sciences and Humanities  
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# THE PEOPLE OF WEST COAST LEAF

## Alana Prochuk

(she/her or they/them), manager  
of public legal education

## Basya Laye

(she/her), director of  
development and engagement

## Bety Tesfay

(she/her), staff lawyer

## Caitlin Anderson

(she/her or they/them),  
bookkeeping & administrative  
coordinator

## Cat Hart

(they/them), manager  
of fundraising

## Chandrika Manjunath

(she/her), event associate

## Humera Jabir

(she/her), staff lawyer

## Iman Baobeid

(she/her), manager of  
communications (on leave)

## Kait Woodman

(she/her), interim manager  
of communications

## Kate Feeney

(she/her), director of litigation

### Kate Murray

(she/her), law and  
policy researcher

### Raji Mangat

(she/her), executive director

### Sharnelle Jenkins-Thompson

(she/her), manager of  
community outreach

### Sharon Xia

(she/her), manager  
of donor support

### Suyu He

(they/them), interim manager  
of community outreach

### Victoria Chen

(she/her), operations  
& finance manager

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Alexa Lizotte

Elder Doris Fox

Frances Rosner

Lorelei Williams

Owen Ballendine

Summer Rain Bentham



## A HUGE VICTORY FOR SINGLE MOTHERS!

On February 15, 2024, West Coast LEAF, representing the plaintiff Centre for Family Equity (formerly known as the Single Mothers' Alliance), reached a settlement with the Province of BC and Legal Aid BC (LABC) after a nearly seven-year constitutional challenge. Finally, lone parents navigating family violence will get more of the legal aid services they urgently need.

More than 20 years ago, the provincial government cut legal aid funding for family law by 60 per cent. This meant that survivors of family violence, who are overwhelmingly women and often single mothers, faced far too many barriers to escaping abuse and vindicating their rights in family law cases that dragged on and on, becoming more complex and difficult over time.

This milestone is the result of years-long persistence in a belief that people navigating the family justice system while at their most vulnerable should not be left alone without legal support.



**From left to right: Viveca Ellis, CFE Executive Director, Mai Eagle Speaker, CFE Board Member, Attorney General Niki Sharma, Raji Mangat, West Coast LEAF Executive Director, and Michael Bryant, CEO of Legal Aid BC**

West Coast LEAF started this case in 2017 in partnership with Centre for Family Equity (CFE), two courageous and remarkable individual plaintiffs, and countless others behind the scenes who

have been steadfast in their vision for an equitable, safe, and accessible justice system for those leaving family violence.

The settlement from this case will replace a one-size-fits-all model of family law legal aid with robust, multidimensional, and sustained services. The solutions offered by this exciting new tier of services will make the family law legal aid system more responsive to the on-the-ground realities of survivors and better able to meet survivors' complex legal needs.

This settlement will replace a one-size-fits-all model of family law legal aid with robust, multidimensional, and sustained services.

This outcome shows us a new way forward for family law legal services, but it also highlights the impact of collective action. Advocacy efforts — including litigation — can be important strategies for seeking meaningful change and improving outcomes for people in our province. When we come together in support of those whose needs are not being met, we help create a more equitable society for all.





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## BECOME A SUSTAINING SUPPORTER

We still have a long way to go! More than ever, we need your help to make positive, transformative change. Go to [westcoastleaf.org/donate](https://westcoastleaf.org/donate) or **scan the QR code** to become a donor today!

### **Want to take action for justice and equality?**

Together, over the past four decades, we have made tremendous gains for gender justice, securing some of the most important feminist victories in Canada. This is possible because our supporters provide long-term, sustainable support through monthly donations. Become a monthly donor today and help create an equal and just society for all women and people who experience gender-based discrimination.

Email Cat Hart at [chart@westcoastleaf.org](mailto:chart@westcoastleaf.org) to learn more about ways to give.



## EQUALITY BREAKFAST SILENT AUCTION DONORS

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corrinehuntdesigner

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Cynthia Lau  
Ceramics

You have until 8:20 am today to place your bids online before the auction closes. Go to [westcoastleaf.org/auction](http://westcoastleaf.org/auction) or **scan the QR code** to peruse this year's selection of sought-after prizes! Thank you to all our generous donors!



Deco Bear – Claire Man	Kapé Philippine Coffee	New Format Studio
Deep Cove Kayak	Kate Metten Ceramics	Pacific Sands Beach Resort
Delta Hotels by Marriott Victoria	KidsBooks	Para Sympa
Ocean Pointe Resort	Kim Thomson	Studio – Rachele
Dilly Dally Kids	Kinder Books	Camsusa RMT
Earls Kitchen and Bar	Kindred Cultures	Penticton Lakeside Resort
Elektra Women’s Choir	Kumsheen	Plain Jane Skin Bar
Fairware	LACAR	Please! Beverage Co.
Fiorino, Italian Street Food	Laughter Zone 101	Prestige Hotels & Resorts
Forbidden Vancouver Walking Tours	Leslie Chesick	Purdys Chocolatier
Formula Fig	Linda Nardelli	Rain City Games
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre	Luppolo Brewing Co.	Rain or Shine Ice Cream
Harbour Dance Centre	Massy Books	Raji Mangat
Indian Art from the Edge	MeeT	RKC Law
Jericho Beach Kayak	MeMi Collective	Royal BC Museum
	Museum of Anthropology	Scandinave Spa
	Museum of Vancouver	
	Nectar Yoga Retreat	

Shine MD  
Squamish Lil'Wat  
Cultural Centre  
Sriracha Revolver  
Hot Sauce  
Superflux Beer  
Company  
Takasa

Terra Foods  
The Cinematheque  
The Hive  
The Polygon Gallery  
Vancouver Art Gallery  
Vancouver Symphony  
Orchestra  
Vicky Law

Victory Gardens  
Vancouver  
Water's Edge  
Shoreside Suites  
WCL Board  
Wine Basket  
Willowcraft Pottery  
Witness the Fitness  
Zoe Si



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for B.C. health care workers.



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[@heu\\_in\\_bc](https://www.instagram.com/heu_in_bc)



[HospEmpUnion](https://www.facebook.com/HospEmpUnion)



[heu.org](https://www.twitter.com/heu.org)

A photograph of three young women of diverse ethnicities laughing and hugging each other. The woman on the left is wearing a white top and a yellow watch. The woman in the middle is wearing a plaid shirt and has her hair in braids. The woman on the right is wearing a yellow top. The background is a bright, indoor setting with a window.

“

**You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.**

*Maya Angelou*



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# THANK YOU TO THE EQUALITY BREAKFAST TEAM

## BREAKFAST COMMITTEE

Basya Laye  
Cat Hart  
Chandrika Manjunath  
Kait Woodman  
Raji Mangat  
Sharon Xia  
Victoria Chen

## EVENT COORDINATORS

Amber Leung  
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Licelle Talastas  
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## ACCESSIBILITY

Catherine Siegler, Live Captioner, Accurate Realtime Inc.  
Lisz Keallen and Holly Lam, ASL Interpreting Inc.

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Nadene Rehnby,  
Hands On Publications

## VIDEOGRAPHY

D'Arcy Hamilton,  
Momentum Media Productions

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Johnny Liu & Tony Doan,  
Johnny Liu Photography

## LIVE TWEETERS

Alana Prochuk  
Greta Shuting Lin

A huge heartfelt thank you to all the event volunteers that make today possible. Thank you to the staff at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver for their incredible hospitality. We are grateful to the Encore Global team for helping this event look and sound amazing.



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TOGETHER, WE CAN  
**CO-CREATE** A SOCIETY THAT IS  
**JUST, EQUITABLE, AND**  
**FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION.**

# BC TODAY

WITH MICHELLE ELIOT

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