



For Immediate Release

**Ontario Trillium and RBC Foundations
provide \$188,000 to help educate youth on sexual harassment**

February 27, 2009, TORONTO – Ontario youth will soon be educated about sexual harassment, discrimination and pay equity in the workplace and their rights. With funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the RBC Foundation the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) will soon be in classrooms and community centres around the province and across the country with its LEAF at Work program.

LEAF at Work will provide youth (ages 14 to 19) with information about their legal rights and responsibilities in the workplace, how the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* relates to them in the work environment, and how to respond to situations of sexual harassment and discrimination.

“A high percentage of women will experience sexual harassment at some point in their working lives,” noted Audrey Johnson, Executive Director of LEAF. “By providing this program to youth before they enter the work force, we are offering concrete methods that will empower them and help make legal rights more meaningful.”

The program will target both young women and men, with the hope of closing the gap for groups that are marginalized in the workforce.

“The best tool for the elimination of inappropriate behavior is education,” said L. Robin Cardozo, CEO of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. “We’re glad that our grant is helping LEAF provide young people with the tools and resources they need to make informed choices about their work-related relationships.”

“RBC is committed to building a better Canada by helping improve the economic, environmental and social fabric of the communities where we work and live,” said Shari Austin, Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, RBC. “Our support of programs like LEAF at Work has a tremendously positive impact in the community and helps adolescents develop critical skills and self-esteem to build their own futures.”

LEAF is tremendously grateful for the support of the Trillium and RBC foundations and expects to begin pilots of the three year project in the fall.

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About LEAF

LEAF is a national, non profit organization committed to confront all forms of discrimination through legal action, public education, and law reform, and to achieve equality for women and girls under the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. For more information, please visit us at www.leaf.ca.

About Ontario Trillium Foundation

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province and continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

About RBC Foundation

RBC is committed to making a lasting social impact through inspired, responsible giving and by building strong partnerships with the charitable sector. In 2008, RBC contributed \$99 million to community causes worldwide with more than \$51.5 million in donations and \$47.5 million in sponsorship of community events and national organizations.