

Resilient Together

LEAF's 2023-2024 Annual Report



LEAF
FAEJ

WOMEN'S LEGAL
EDUCATION & ACTION FUND
FONDS D'ACTION ET D'ÉDUCATION
JURIDIQUE POUR LES FEMMES

Our Story

For 39 years, the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) has proudly advanced gender equality in Canada through litigation, law reform, and public legal education.

Since our founding in 1985, LEAF has intervened in **over 160 cases** that have helped shape – and strengthen – the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, most notably sections 15 and 28.

We are an intersectional feminist organization, meaning we cultivate partnerships across communities to inform our understanding of how intersecting forms of oppression (racism, colonialism, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, classism, etc.) work within legal structures to further perpetuate inequality, discrimination, and harm.

We are committed to continually reflecting on our position as an organization working for gender justice in the context of a legal system grounded in colonialism and white supremacy. This system formed a part of efforts to erase and eliminate Indigenous persons and their cultures. Colonial laws and policies continue to subject Indigenous persons, in particular Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals, to disproportionate levels of violence and poverty.

We're particularly focused on:

- Prioritizing reconciliation and working to amplify and affirm Indigenous voices and systems,
- Amplifying the voices of those who experience gender discrimination,
- Pursuing feminist litigation, law reform and public education,
- Deepening and enriching the LEAF network, and
- Cultivating financial and administrative stability.



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Our Year in Numbers



11

active legal interventions



17

letters, briefs & committee appearances



1078

donors supporting gender equality



54

community partners



29

workshops delivered



912

workshop participants



12

local LEAF branches



418

LEAF members



361

new donors



22

public talks & press conference appearances



34

cases monitored / considered



9

new cases approved for intervention

Message from our Leadership

KERRY LYNN OKITA, HADIYA RODERIQUE, AND PAM HRICK

Last year, we wrote to you about the need to fight for gender equality when faced with a rising tide of gender-based discrimination. In the midst of continued, coordinated attacks on reproductive rights and gender justice, the need to come together to defend and advance the rights of women, girls, trans, and non-binary people is even more pronounced today than it was a year ago.

We've seen more provincial governments using the **notwithstanding clause** of the *Charter*, also known as the override clause, to do just that—override our equality rights and enact regressive laws. Quebec used it to discriminate against women who wear religious symbols, limiting their ability to participate in society. Last year, Saskatchewan invoked it to make their pronoun policy law, putting trans and non-binary youth at risk of family violence.

We will not sit and watch as governments restrict our rights. Your support has enabled us to stay at the forefront of these fights, whether it be in a court of law or in front of a legislature.

In 2023, LEAF joined the legal challenge against Ontario's **Bill 124** to insist that the right to bargain collectively is essential to gender equality. Through the power of worker-led resistance and legal advocacy, Bill 124 was struck down and the government was forced to repeal the anti-worker legislation earlier this year. This continues to be a major win for unionized workers, particularly women workers, who make up over 70% of those impacted.

Time and time again, the criminal legal system has failed so many survivors of sexual violence, especially racialized survivors who are disproportionately harmed by it. The trial process often retraumatizes complainants. When a case before the Supreme Court risked re-introducing **harmful myths and stereotypes in sexual assault trials**, and subjecting survivors to more intrusive questioning, we stepped in. The Court ultimately rejected this reintroduction, affirming the dignity and equality rights of survivors.



Kerry Lynn Okita



Hadiya Roderique



Pam Hrick

Despite the criminal legal system’s inability to meet many survivors’ needs, lawmakers’ default response to addressing gender-based violence is often expanding criminalization. That’s why we published the Avenues to Justice report in October 2023, looking at **restorative and transformative justice** (RJ/TJ) as proven, effective options to respond to sexual violence that centre healing and repair rather than punishment. Now, we’re urging provinces and territories to invest in RJ/TJ programs and make them more widely accessible.

While abortion in Canada has been decriminalized since 1988, **equitable access to abortion** is still not a reality. We launched the Abortion Access Tracker with Action Canada in March 2024, a comprehensive resource on policies and laws impacting abortion care. Amid growing attacks on reproductive rights, the Tracker is an indispensable tool for advocates looking to defend and strengthen abortion access in Canada.

New Brunswick and Saskatchewan recently rolled out policies targeting the **rights of trans youth**, with threats that Alberta would soon follow suit. Let’s be clear: these discriminatory policies are not in the best interest of trans and non-binary children or their families. In solidarity with trans advocates and communities, we will be going to court to defend the equality, dignity, and safety of trans people.

All of this work is vitally important to the fight for gender equality. None of it is possible without the generous support of the LEAF community — donors, community partners, volunteers, members, and advocates.

Thank you for the critical role you’ve played and continue to play in our movement. Together, we’ll keep working towards a future where gender equality is a reality.

In solidarity and gratitude,

Kerry Lynn Okita
Board Co-Chair

Hadiya Roderique
Board Co-Chair

Pam Hrick
Executive Director &
General Counsel



Strengthening Community Capacity

EMPOWERING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) ORGANIZATIONS TO PUSH FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

The use of feminist strategic litigation by GBV organizations can have a significant effect on GBV prevention and response. It can empower the communities they serve. It's also expensive, time-consuming, and difficult to navigate.

For the next two years, LEAF is working with GBV sector organizations across the country to help them further develop their capacity to use the legal system to push for systemic change. We will be:

- hosting workshops for on how and why to engage in feminist strategic litigation
- creating online resources
- building connections and networks

The participating organizations are already experts in GBV. They know about the issues facing the communities they serve, and they have ideas about what needs to change.

LEAF's Strengthening Community Capacity Project provides another tool to help address GBV and push for systemic change. Our goal is for organizations to leave the project with a better understanding of how to use the courts, resources their organization can use in the future, and new and deeper connections with other GBV organizations.

32
participating
organizations

12
provinces and
territories
represented

10
cities with
upcoming
workshops





Dina Awad



Morgan Camley



Raphael Eghan



Mélanie Power



Kay Scorer

Dentons Canada LLP

A team from Dentons is representing LEAF *pro bono* in our interventions regarding the rights of trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse youth in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick. To learn more, see pages 10-12.



It is an immense honour and privilege to represent LEAF in their interventions in matters before the Saskatchewan and New Brunswick courts challenging the respective provincial governments' policies that require schools to obtain parental consent for the use of a child's preferred name and pronouns. Both matters engage important substantive equality issues for transgender and gender non-binary youth, and considerations relating to the best interests of the child. They invite the courts to make important findings regarding how and what governments need to consider when making decisions that directly impact some of society's most vulnerable and marginalized groups. UR Pride's challenge to Saskatchewan's pronoun policy further allows the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal to interpret section 33 of the Charter, the bounds of which have yet to be determined.

The protection, promotion, and vitality of vulnerable and marginalized groups such as trans and non-binary youth is pivotal in the development of substantive equality and gender justice in Canada. Dentons is proud to play a part in moving the needle on these important issues and to support LEAF and its efforts on this important work.

Litigation

LEAF intervenes in cases that significantly affect the equality rights of women, girls, trans, and non-binary people in Canada. In 2023-2024, your support contributed to the following interventions:

Ontario's Bill 124, which restricted compensation increases in the broader public sector, disproportionately affected the livelihoods of women workers, who make up a large majority of health care, social services, and education workers. LEAF went to the Court of Appeal for Ontario in this case to emphasize the importance of collective bargaining to gender equality, particularly in feminized sectors.

A majority of the Court found that Bill 124 violated the collective bargaining rights of unionized employees in the broader public sector. The government of Ontario then repealed the legislation. This was a victory for collective bargaining rights and continues to have positive effects for women workers in Ontario.

LEAF was represented by Christine Davies and Danielle Sandhu (Goldblatt Partners LLP) and Kat Owens (LEAF).

Survivors of sexual assault already face a high risk of retraumatizing and intrusive questioning during trials. Together with West Coast LEAF, we went to the Supreme Court of Canada to ensure that harmful myths and stereotypes about sexual assault would not be reintroduced to sexual assault trials, and that complainants' dignity would not be further compromised. We argued that the lack of clarity around the rule against "ungrounded common-sense assumptions" increased the risk of intrusive questioning of complainants and created room for the use of stereotypes.

Anti-worker law repealed in Ontario

OECTA v HMK et al

Workplace Rights

Socio-economic Rights

Defended the dignity of complainants in sexual assault trials

R v Tsang

Sexual Assault & Consent Law

In March 2024, the Supreme Court ruled against recognizing the proposed rule against “ungrounded common-sense assumptions” as grounding an error of law. The Court agreed with our intervention in emphasizing the unique purpose of the prohibition against myths and stereotypes about complainants in sexual assault cases.

LEAF and West Coast LEAF were represented by Megan Stephens (Megan Stephens Law), Humera Jabir (West Coast LEAF), and Roxana Parsa (LEAF).

“[This] decision will have significant impact for all sexual assault survivors going through the trial process. [It] signals a clear recognition of the ongoing harms perpetuated by the legal system against survivors of sexual violence.”

- Roxana Parsa, LEAF Staff Lawyer and Co-Counsel

Challenging discrimination against Indigenous women and children in family courts

EY v AB

Family Law

Gender-Based Violence

Indigenous Rights & Law

LEAF sought leave to intervene before the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal to argue that the only thing courts should consider in relation to parenting time and decision-making is the best interests of the child. This analysis needs to respect a child’s Indigenous identity, culture, and community. It must also meaningfully address family violence within the wider context of the ongoing systemic inequality of women, particularly Indigenous women.

The Court did not let LEAF intervene, but we will continue to advocate for the rights of Indigenous women and children within the family law system.

LEAF was represented by Kimberly Stonechild (Lavoie Stonechild Law Office) and Joanna Radbord (McCarthy Hansen & Company LLP).

Ensuring trans and gender-diverse children in Saskatchewan can be their authentic selves

UR Pride v Saskatchewan

Identity-Based Oppression

Access to Justice

Schools should be supportive environments for students of all genders, but due to the government of Saskatchewan’s discriminatory pronoun law, trans, non-binary, and gender diverse youth in the province are at increased risk of harm.

The province’s pronoun policy requires parental consent for teachers to be able to use the proper names and pronouns of trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse students under the age of 16. The UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity launched a *Charter* challenge to the Policy before the Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench. LEAF planned to ask the Court to consider the distinct negative impact of the law on trans and non-binary students.

A judge also ordered the policy’s operation to be paused while the case was ongoing because youth affected by the policy would suffer “irreparable harm” in the meantime. Saskatchewan then enshrined the policy in law and invoked the notwithstanding clause to protect it from being struck down as unconstitutional.

In February 2024, a judge decided that even though the provincial government used the notwithstanding clause to protect its pronoun law from being found unconstitutional, a court can still declare that the law violates *Charter* rights. The Province is now appealing this decision.

The original case has been put on hold while this new issue—what courts can and cannot say about a law once the clause has been invoked—is resolved. We’ll also be intervening in the new case to highlight the importance of considering who is being impacted by a law, and how it will affect these groups to have the courts say nothing about the *Charter* rights violations occurring because of the law.

LEAF is represented by Morgan Camley, Raphael Eghan, Barbara Grossman, Kay Scorer, and Chloe Snider (Dentons Canada LLP).

When six women were denied Employment Insurance (EI) regular benefits after receiving maternity and parental benefits, LEAF looked to intervene in their constitutional challenge on EI rules. We intended to clarify what judges should consider when analyzing the constitutionality of a complex social benefit scheme, and to highlight the systemic disadvantages faced by women caregivers in the workplace and in the EI system.

Unfortunately, the Court did not let LEAF intervene. We’ll continue our advocacy to improve the social safety net with the goal of reducing the feminization of poverty, especially for those who work in precarious and/or part-time employment—often racialized and/or migrant women—and for low-income and single-parent families.

LEAF was represented by Olga Redko (IMK s.e.n.c.r.l./LLP).

Taking aim at gender discrimination in Canada’s social safety net

CEIC v LC et al

Reproductive Justice

Socio-economic Rights



Standing with trans and non-binary students in New Brunswick

CCLA v New Brunswick

Identity-Based Oppression

The New Brunswick government changed its policy on sexual orientation and gender identity (Policy 713). It now requires parental consent before the chosen name or pronouns of a trans or non-binary student who is under 16 can be used by school personnel in the context of classroom, extracurricular, and co-curricular activities.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association challenged the policy in court, arguing that the process leading to the changes was flawed and procedurally unfair, and that the policy infringes 2SLGBTQIA+ students' *Charter* rights, including their equality rights.

LEAF will argue that when assessing the violation of equality rights in this case, the Court should consider the best interests of the child as guaranteed under Canadian and international law and the prospect of family violence or other forms of abuse.

LEAF is represented by Mélanie Power, Morgan Camley, Kay Scorer, Kathryn Gullason, and Nicole Tzannidakis (Dentons Canada LLP).

Affirming the equality rights of sex workers

R v Kloubakov

Identity-Based Oppression

Socio-economic Rights

In November 2024, we'll be appearing before the Supreme Court of Canada to highlight the importance of taking an intersectional, substantive equality-based analysis when assessing the impact of several laws criminalizing sex work. This intervention builds off our work in *Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform v Canada*, where we intervened to highlight the discriminatory impact of sex work laws on sex workers.

The applicants in Kloubakov are third parties who are challenging the constitutionality of certain provisions of the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act* (PCEPA) related to procuring and materially benefitting from sexual services, alleging violations of the section 7 (life, liberty, and security) rights of sex workers. PCEPA not only criminalizes clients, but also the exchange of sex work for consideration.

LEAF will be intervening to argue that the s.7 rights of sex workers must be informed by the principles of substantive equality, as guaranteed by section 15.

LEAF is represented by Andrea Gonsalves, Olivia Eng, and Alexandra Heine (Stockwoods LLP).



Law Reform

LEAF makes submissions on laws and policy issues that impact the substantive equality rights of women, girls, trans, and non-binary people. In 2023-24, LEAF engaged in the following law reform activities:

Increasing criminalization as an anti-trafficking measure diverts resources into law enforcement and away from measures that could tackle the root causes of violence, as well as lead to increased surveillance and harassment of sex workers.

In May 2023, LEAF appeared before the Standing Committee on the Status of Women to advocate for a systemic approach to ending exploitation, grounded in anti-oppression and an understanding of the rights and agency of sex workers.

We urged elected officials to consider the negative impact of anti-trafficking legislation and law enforcement mechanisms on sex workers. Instead, providing stable social and economic support like affordable housing, health supports, and income support to people who are vulnerable to exploitation would more effectively address this form of gendered violence.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been lauded as an innovative and beneficial development for society. From an equity lens, however, there are many harms emerging from increased AI use, such as mass surveillance and the exacerbation of power imbalances between employers and workers.

Last year, the federal government introduced a bill aiming to regulate the growing use of AI through the creation of the *Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA)*. LEAF, in collaboration with Dr. Kristen Thomasen, demanded that human rights and substantive equality be guiding principles of these regulations and that the scope of the legislation be expanded substantially to properly mitigate gendered harms from AI.

Focusing on systemic solutions to end gender-based exploitation

Identity-Based Oppression

Gender-Based Violence

Centering equality and human rights when regulating AI

Hate Speech & Online Hate

Identity-Based Oppression

Recognizing the real crisis facing Canada's bail system

Access to Justice

Identity-Based Oppression

Gender-Based Violence

As an intersectional feminist organization, we are committed to challenging the notion that expanding the criminal legal system is the only or best way to address gender-based violence.

When the federal government tabled Bill C-48—proposing to tighten access to bail—LEAF, the Barbra Schlifer Commemorative Clinic, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS), and Luke's Place stepped in. We argued that the proposed law pushed Canada's bail system in a direction that would harm rather than protect individuals and the public by increasing reverse onus provisions. These provisions would lead to increased criminalization of marginalized communities, including survivors of intimate partner violence.

Bill C-48 was enacted into law in December 2023, but we'll continue being a feminist voice that is critical of the harms of criminalization in the context of ending gendered violence.

Against a bandaid response to coercive control

Gender-Based Violence

Coercive control is a concept used to describe a pattern of abusive behaviors in intimate partner relationships, based on tactics of intimidation, subordination, and control. Bill C-332 proposes the establishment of a new criminal offence of coercive control by an intimate partner.

In response, LEAF advocated against the criminalization of coercive control. The creation of a new criminal law would not lead to enhanced safety for survivors, but would instead disproportionately negatively impact Indigenous, Black, racialized, disabled, and 2SLGBTQIA+ populations, including survivors themselves.

We brought these concerns to Parliament Hill, speaking to the Justice and Human Rights and Status of Women parliamentary committees earlier this year. Rather than create a new criminal law to address coercive control, we urged the federal government to focus on preventive efforts, such as funding the infrastructure necessary for survivors to seek safety, alongside enhanced training to actors in the justice system.



Saskatchewan's pronoun policy was put on hold after an injunction was granted by a Saskatchewan court. In response, the Province introduced Bill 137, which overrode Saskatchewan children's *Charter*-protected rights.

LEAF wrote to Saskatchewan MLAs urging them to reject the proposed amendments in Bill 137, or at least to reject the use of the notwithstanding clause.

LEAF emphasized that while parents should be involved in their children's lives in healthy, supportive, and respectful ways, this is not possible for some children. For them, home is simply not a safe place. Passing the Bill would place some of the most vulnerable trans and non-binary youth in Saskatchewan in harm's way.

Unfortunately, the Bill was passed as tabled. Our advocacy for the rights of Saskatchewan youth will continue through our legal interventions (see pages 10-11 to learn more).

The Premier of Alberta announced sweeping policy changes in January 2024 that would disproportionately impact the rights and freedoms trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse youth. The changes included restricting and/or blocking access to gender-affirming care for minors, requiring parental opt-in for sex education related to gender identity and expression, and requiring parental consent for name and pronoun changes at school.

In an open letter, LEAF and 70 feminist organizations strongly condemned the policies, demanding Premier Smith abandon them and that all levels of government in Canada commit to increasing protections for trans people. We recognized the changes as part of a wider, coordinated movement to attack gender justice and reproductive rights globally by weaponizing the health concerns of women, trans, and non-binary people for political gain.

In partnership with Waterloo Region Community Legal Services, LEAF advocated for comprehensive healthcare coverage for pregnant international college students in Ontario, who only receive coverage from their college insurance providers if they become pregnant within a short window, usually 30 days, before their studies begin.

As part of our advocacy, we developed an advocacy brief and a factsheet for pregnant international students, and met with student groups and policymakers. We successfully raised awareness and secured commitments from policymakers to explore solutions.

Defending the rights of trans and nonbinary youth

Access to Justice

Identity-Based Oppression

Opposing Alberta's anti-trans changes to education, sports, and healthcare

Identity-Based Oppression

Reproductive Justice

Working to secure healthcare coverage for pregnant international college students

Reproductive Justice

Advancing reproductive justice for women's health

Reproductive Justice

LEAF provided a submission to the Federal Standing Committee on Health's Women's Health Study, drawing a link between gender equality and reproductive justice. The submission included four key recommendations:

- Invest in primary care and sexual and reproductive health care
- Invest in a national pharmacare plan, including universal contraception coverage
- Commit to a national strategy on sex-ed
- Work with Indigenous communities to shift away from the Birth Evacuation Policy

Shortly after the study's completion, the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-64, which would provide universal access to a wide variety of contraceptives and diabetes medication if passed. It was adopted by the House in June 2024, and is now awaiting a final vote from the Senate in the fall.

Towards an end to forced and coerced sterilization

Reproductive Justice

Identity-Based Oppression

Forced and coerced sterilization is a human rights violation, and a crime disproportionately committed against Indigenous women. Black women, disabled women, poor women, and intersex children have also been targeted for forced and coerced sterilization in Canada. Bill S-250 proposes the introduction of a criminal offence that specifically targets forced sterilization.

LEAF appeared before the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Senatorial Committee in support of the Bill's passage, because it would most likely apply to healthcare providers in positions of power relative to their patients and is narrowly limited to procedures primarily intended to prevent contraception (without the patient's full consent). If passed, the law would be an important step towards ending this discriminatory practice.

As of September 2024, the Bill remains under consideration by committee at the Senate.



Legal Education

LEAF's equality-centered education programs continue to inform youth and adults across the country. We offer four main workshops:

- **Only Yes Means Yes** remains a leading violence prevention tool to educate and empower youth by teaching them about sexual rights & responsibilities and the legal meaning of consent.
- **LEAF @ Work** focuses on analyzing real-life scenarios to prepare participants for equality issues they may encounter in the workplace, like sexual harassment and discrimination.
- **Reproductive Justice** focuses on topics like family planning, reproductive rights, medical care, abortion, and contraceptive access. We look at various sources of reproductive rights (like the *Charter*) and examine current gaps in access across Canada.
- **Double Tap on Consent** centres on technology-facilitated gender-based violence, exploring issues like the non-consensual distribution of intimate images and sexting. It fills an important gap in youth's legal knowledge around increasingly common behaviours.

LEAF's Public Legal Education (PLE) program had a successful year of rebuilding:

- LEAF's PLE Manager trained branch members in Windsor, Halifax, and Toronto on workshop facilitation and helped them build new community partnerships.
- LEAF Ottawa offered workshops at Ottawa-Carleton District School Board schools.
- Branches expanded their audience through strategic partnerships with employment preparation programs for women, trans, and non-binary people experiencing barriers to workforce entry.
- LEAF created a new workshop on pay equity for the Women Empowered employee resource group at HelloFresh Canada.



Community Justice Initiatives (CJI)



At CJI, we are committed to enhancing our community's ability to prevent and address harm restoratively. The traditional justice system in Canada seeks to establish punishment for each act of wrong-doing, assuming that will contribute to victim and societal satisfaction.

In contrast, Restorative Justice (RJ) focuses on meeting needs, repairing damages, and restoring relationships, where appropriate. RJ is not a specific model. Instead, it is a set of principles that can be applied to a variety of situations of conflict, harm and crime. We pursue this by training and supervising community volunteers to serve as Restorative Justice Practitioners.

CJI has had the pleasure of supporting LEAF's Avenues to Justice report which explored the barriers and opportunities to accessing restorative and transformative justice to address the needs that arise from sexual harm. As it is increasingly common knowledge that the criminal legal system does not and will never meet the justice needs of most survivors of sexual harm, the authors of this report captured Canada's readiness to remove moratoriums on sexual violence-related RJ programs as well as RJ's readiness to receive these cases.

Importantly, this report connects the dots from where we were at the time of the moratorium's implementation, where we are today, to what is needed to live in a society that supports providing effective restorative and transformative justice options for survivors to have their justice needs met. It's critical to have mainstream feminist voices like LEAF advocating for these avenues to justice.

Restorative justice in response to sexual harm continues to evolve as more and more people engage with this work. We are excited for a future where survivors are asked what their healing and justice needs are and we, with the diversity of our offerings, can collectively, meet these together.



— **Kate Crozier**
Interim Executive Director, Community Justice Initiatives Waterloo Region

Branch Update

From Edmonton to Halifax, LEAF has twelve member branches that advance gender equality in communities across Canada. These grassroots, volunteer driven branches are collections of law students, lawyers, activists, and academics who deliver educational programming, host advocacy events, build local connections with other gender equality seek organizations, and respond to community-level equality issues.

As a result of a significant contribution from Women and Gender Equality Canada, LEAF invested in branch orientation materials, developed a new financial and membership reporting process, and began visioning the structure and resources needed to enable the branches to continue and expand their work.

Through our Public Legal Education program, nearly half of the branches received training and resources to enhance their delivery of public legal education to local communities. This project was supported by the Law Foundation of Ontario and the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund Foundation. This program will continue over two years.

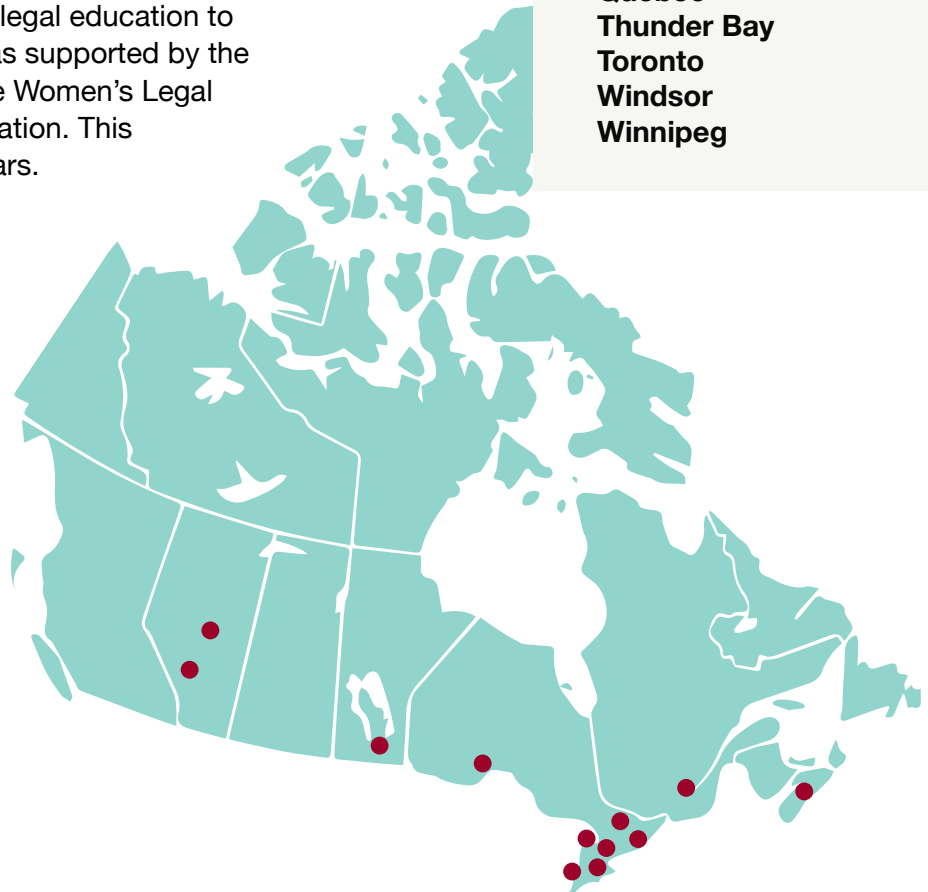
LEAF is deeply grateful for the contributions of the dedicated volunteers and branch members throughout the country – through branch efforts, our movement makes community-level impacts.



Branch Reproductive Justice Project Leads meet in Toronto for training.

LEAF Branches

- Calgary
- Edmonton
- Halifax
- Hamilton
- Kingston
- Kitchener-Waterloo
- Ottawa
- Quebec
- Thunder Bay
- Toronto
- Windsor
- Winnipeg



Alexandria Pike



For decades, I have been proud to support LEAF – it is central to women’s rights in Canada - combining complex analysis with broad advocacy and education.

LEAF’s Abortion Access Tracker is a prime example of how they deliver cutting edge tools to women across our country, driving real change. Keep up the great work, LEAF!

– Alexandria Pike
Partner at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP
LEAF donor and supporter



Abortion Access Tracker

Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights and LEAF recently launched the Abortion Access Tracker, an interactive website that illustrates the legal landscape of abortion in Canada and the reality of accessing abortion care across the country.

The Abortion Access Tracker maps where Canada has made progress on guaranteeing access to abortion. It also reveals a picture of unequal access: alongside a myriad of barriers that can be experienced by people seeking an abortion, provinces and territories have differing laws, regulations, and policies that affect how easily a person can access an abortion.

Did you know?

All doctors in Canada are allowed to **refuse to provide abortion care** because of their beliefs, and they are only required to provide a referral if they practice in Ontario or Nova Scotia.

Want to check out the Tracker and learn more? Scan this code!



EQUALITY DAY

An Evening for Equality 2023

LEAF's 2023 Evening for Equality was a great success! Hosted by the talented and larger-than-life Ms. Jada Shada Hudson, hundreds of our supporters came for an evening of celebrating feminist victories. We held a silent auction with locally made art procured by the Feminist Art Collective. The night was a heartening reminder that, for the work that remains to be done, we are in it together.

Thanks to all those who showed up for substantive equality, be it through sponsorships, attending, sharing their art, or spreading the word. The proceeds directly fund the advancement of gender equality through litigation, law reform, and legal education.

\$290,000

raised from the 2023
Equality Day Event

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Statement of Financial Position

AS OF MARCH 31, 2024

Assets	2024	2023
Current Assets		
Cash	\$551,025	\$1,362,566
HST recoverable	\$17,558	\$12,905
Accounts receivable	\$77,301	-
Prepaid expenses	\$45,575	\$18,881
Total	\$691,459	\$1,394,352
Investments		
	\$1,365,611	\$685,185
Total Assets		
	\$2,057,070	\$2,079,534
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$99,176	\$124,030
Deferred revenue	\$198,000	\$61,000
Deferred contributions	\$28,320	\$86,770
Total	\$326,036	\$271,800
Operating Net Assets		
Operational Reserve Fund	\$567,000	\$567,000
Unrestricted	\$1,164,034	\$1,252,504
	\$1,731,034	\$1,819,504
	\$2,057,070	\$2,079,534

Statement of Operations

AS OF MARCH 31, 2024

Revenues	2024	2023
Donations and Fundraising	\$1,159,582	\$766,890
Grants	\$1,156,185	\$753,185
Investment Income	\$88,103	(\$17,423)
Miscellaneous Income	-	\$7,134
Total	\$2,403,780	\$1,509,786

Expenses

Administrative	\$1,510,050	\$1,316,530
Fundraising	\$138,621	\$85,308
Legal Cases and Projects	\$581,783	\$96,451
Professional Fees	\$250,026	\$135,182
Total	\$2,480,480	\$1,633,471
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for year	(\$76,700)	(\$123,685)

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

AS OF MARCH 31, 2024

	2024	2023
Operating net assets, beginning of the year	\$1,807,734	\$1,943,189
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for year	(\$76,700)	(\$123,685)
Operating net assets, end of year	\$1,731,034	\$1,819,504

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LEAF acknowledges the support of Women and Gender Equality Canada.



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ReferToHer™ is proud to partner with LEAF as the exclusive matching donor of their annual #GivingTuesday fundraiser for three years. Like LEAF, ReferToHer is dedicated to advancing gender equity, specifically in the legal industry. ReferToHer is a website that hosts a series of lists, organized by practice group, of experienced female lawyers to whom you can confidently refer work. As referrals are key to achieving business success, this program helps ensure that women lawyers are positioned as equal, available resources for those seeking legal help. Visit [refertoher.com](https://www.refertoher.com) to learn more and to keep women top of mind not just for referrals, but also for speaking engagements, publishing opportunities, media interviews, and ranking and award nominations.

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All of LEAF's work is shaped by consultative processes. Our **Law Program Committee** advises and makes recommendations concerning our litigation and law reform efforts. **Case committees**, composed of academics and practitioners with relevant expertise, inform and support our arguments in litigation.

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Sexual Violence New Brunswick

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Transition House Association of Nova Scotia

Woman Abuse Council of Toronto (WomanACT)

Women's Shelter's Canada



Thank you for powering the movement for gender justice.

Together, we will continue to advance substantive equality under the law for all women, girls, trans, and non-binary people in Canada, no matter the forces that try to stop us.

To make a donation or learn more, visit leaf.ca/donate.

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