



What is Transforming Our Future?

This two day course empowers community service providers by providing tools for identifying systemic discrimination, assessing legal avenues for change, and developing strategies that are meaningful to their communities.



Public Legal Education

Learn about international law, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Human Rights Law, Public Legal Education, and law reform.

West Coast LEAF will share their experience litigating equality rights, and participants will help shape the future of equality in BC and Canada.

What participants have said about Transforming Our Future:

"I've worked in the Human Rights field for more than 25 years and the materials used in Transforming Our Future are the best I've seen."

"What I liked best about these sessions was the interactive approach, the ability to look at and engage with a particular case."

"The most important idea I learned is that there are different types of legal strategies and their value/limitations."

"The facilitator was excellent."

"The workshop was interactive and built around the skill of the participants while providing comprehensive information so that everyone had an opportunity to learn regardless of individual knowledge."

"I learned that legal strategies are accessible to communities and that they can be learned."

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Charitable Status BIN: 119292464 RR0001



Transforming Our Future: Legal Strategies for Equality

West Coast Legal Education & Action Fund

Public Legal Education

The Face of Inequality and Systemic Discrimination

After working with the same employer for four months a new refugee to Canada is told that his wage will be reduced according to new employment laws creating a 'training wage'.

A woman denied access to legal aid is repeatedly summoned to court to defend custody, access and maintenance issues.

A young woman who is being sexually abused at home applies for income assistance only to be told that for those under the age of 21 there is a two year waiting period between leaving the parental home and qualifying for assistance.

Your community group sponsors a refugee family, but the delays in immigrations processing means the family has spent two years in a very dangerous situation and you can't get any information about their file from immigration.

These scenarios represent the experience of systemic discrimination—how can you and your organization contribute to changing these experiences for your clients and other Canadian residents?



Litigation

First Session

Examine the sources of equality law in Canada and how these laws are applied, particularly The Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Human Rights and International Law.

Analyze how the legal system works for groups/individuals who want to assert their equality rights.

Explore how test case litigation has been used in the past—successfully and unsuccessfully.

Second Session

Critically examine concepts of equality and systemic discrimination.

Review five legal strategies for addressing systemic discrimination.

Build a legal strategy and participate in skill development exercises in identifying and articulating systemic issues that face communities today.

Materials

Transforming Women's Future: A guide to equality rights theory and action
Edited by Melina Buckley

Transforming Women's Future: A 2004 guide to equality rights theory and law
Written by Melina Buckley and edited by Alison Brewin

Transforming Our Future: Legal strategies for equality course materials
Edited by Alison Brewin

Courses are offered on an ongoing basis and can be designed to fit the needs of your organization or group of advocates.

Course fee is \$100 (Group rates are available). In order to secure registration and receive materials in advance a 50% deposit is required two weeks in advance of course dates. Please note that childcare and other subsidies are available.

If you are a Law Foundation funded advocate, course fees can be a part of your professional development benefits. Please contact the Law Foundation for more information at (604)-688-2337.

Register at education@westcoastleaf.org or (604)-684-8772 ext. 114

Registration closes two weeks in advance of course dates and West Coast LEAF may cancel course offerings if minimum registration is not met.



Law Reform

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