



B.C. Human Rights Coalition

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Media Advisory

November 24, 2003

International Human Rights Day Event

(VANCOUVER, Canada) – The B.C. Human Rights Coalition invites the media to attend our 16th annual celebration of International Human Rights Day, Wednesday, December 10th, 2003, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The day provides an opportunity for those working in the human rights arena to come together and celebrate accomplishments. In addition, each year the Renate Shearer Memorial Award is presented to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to human rights. This award is a memorial to the life and work of Renate Shearer who was a champion of equality and dignity for all.

The major event of the evening will be the presentation of this year's award to *LEGIT – the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force* and the *Rainbow Refugee Committee* for their long-term contribution in advancing equality rights for lesbians, gays, bisexual and trans-gendered (LGBT) persons. *LEGIT* was originally formed in Vancouver in the early 90's and has since grown to include chapters across Canada and has helped thousands of same sex couples in cross-border relationships gain permanent residence in Canada. *LEGIT* also played a significant role in successfully lobbying government for positive change to the benefit of same sex couples in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. The *Rainbow Refugee Committee* was founded in 2000 and works to assist refugees and refugee claimants who have experienced persecution in their home countries due to their sexual orientation, HIV status, or gender identity.

Please join us in honouring *LEGIT* and the *Rainbow Refugee Committee* and in celebrating the birthday of the Universal Declaration of Rights and Freedoms.

Wednesday, December 10, 2003
Coast Plaze Suite Hotel at Stanley Park
1963 Comox Street, Vancouver, BC
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For further information please contact:

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The B.C. Human Rights Coalition is a non-profit community based organization. In addition to our law reform and general advocacy work, we jointly operate a publicly funded human rights clinic that provides complainant representation to those that have filed a formal complaint with the BC Human Rights Tribunal. This clinic service came into effect March 31, 2003 coinciding with the amendments to the *BC Human Rights Code*. See www.bchrcoalition.org for more information.