



B.C. Human Rights Coalition

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Media Advisory

November 29, 2007

International Human Rights Day Event

(VANCOUVER, Canada) – The B.C. Human Rights Coalition and the United Nations Association of Vancouver invite our friends and the media to attend our 19th annual celebration of International Human Rights Day, Monday, December 10, 2007, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event 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 in the field of 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.

This year, the B.C. Human Rights Coalition has nominated *Frances Kelly* as the Award recipient for her outstanding contributions in advancing the equality rights of disadvantaged groups, and most specifically the equality and human rights of persons with disabilities. Ms. Kelly has headed the Disability Law Program at the Community Legal Assistance Society since 1993. Under her leadership, the Program conducts test case litigation, law reform and public legal educational initiatives to push for strengthened equality and human rights for the disability community. As an accomplished lawyer, Ms. Kelly has acted as counsel on high profile and leading equality rights cases before all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada. Many of her successful cases such as *Grismer*, *Miele*, *Moore*, *Hutchinson*, *Bolster* and *Jubran* have greatly expanded the law, had a positive influence on government and institutional policy makers and received both national and international attention. Ms. Kelly is also past co-chair of the BC Human Rights subsection of the Canadian Bar Association and current vice chair of the Equality Committee. She is a sought after speaker on equality and disability issues and has presented at numerous legal and community educational conferences.

Please join us in honouring *Frances Kelly* and in celebrating the birthday of the Universal Declaration of Rights and Freedoms. The evening will also include a special presentation on Sharon McIvor's flagship case on Aboriginal women's rights.

Monday, December 10, 2007
Law Courts Inn, 4th Floor – 800 Smithe Street, Vancouver, BC
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For further information please contact:

Terri Kennedy or Susan O'Donnell, BC Human Rights Coalition

The B.C. Human Rights Coalition is a non-profit community-based organization. We strive to promote and strengthen the human rights of British Columbians through advocacy, education and law reform.