



CBA Women Lawyers Forum 2011 Cecilia I. Johnstone Award

We are delighted to announce that this year's recipient of the national CBA Women Lawyers Forum Cecilia I. Johnstone Award is **Kerry-Lynne D. Findlay, QC, MP**. The award recognizes "women who have achieved professional excellence in their field and influenced other women to pursue legal careers, supported other women in career advancement or opened doors for women lawyers in a variety of job settings that historically were closed to them."

The award recognizes Kerry-Lynne's work in support of many women's groups and activities but especially as one of the founders in 2003 of the WLF in BC and as its inaugural Chair.

Kerry-Lynne had a vision of a national forum supporting women lawyers across the country. After ensuring that the BC WLF was firmly established, she traveled across Canada speaking to many CBA Provincial Councils and also to individual women bar leaders and groups of women to engage them in discussion about the need for a national association of women lawyers. Remarkably, she undertook this task on her own time and initiative, and at her own expense. She drafted the national constitution and by-laws and spoke at the 2005 national CBA mid-winter meeting that established the WLF as a national Forum. Kerry-Lynne was elected as the founding Chair and served for four years on the national executive as Chair and Past Chair.



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The WLF is now established in every province, except PEI and Nunavut. It has the second highest membership of all national conferences and forums. Most of this is due to the work and vision of Kerry-Lynne. She is truly the "Founding Mother" of both the BC WLF and the national WLF.

Kerry-Lynne is a Past President of the CBABC Branch (1997-1998) and a recipient of the 2001 YWCA Woman of Distinction Award - Management, the Professions and Trades. She was recently elected as the MP (Conservative) for Delta-Richmond East and was appointed by the Prime Minister as **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice**.