

# NEWSLETTER

## LEA ROBACK FOUNDATION



Number 4, december 2011



...Lea loved life and loved people. All throughout her life, she devoted herself to defending the rights of the underprivileged, and especially the rights of women. She fought the good fight consistently and courageously.

“Time for outrage!” wrote Stéphane Hessel not too long ago, in a 14-page essay that became a bestseller. Lea would have liked this clarion call to be outraged delivered by a gentleman who was over 90 years old. Age knows no bounds for being outraged and for sharply denouncing injustice. It’s time to take action: such was the spirit that always motivated Lea.

Monique Simard, spokesperson of the fundraising campaign



Lea Roback in Quebec City, 1987.

### Great Partners of the Foundation:

the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ);  
the Confédération des syndicats nationaux (CSN);  
the Fédération interprofessionnelle de la santé du Québec (FIQ);  
the Syndicat des fonctionnaires municipaux de Montréal (SCFP);  
Ms Thérèse Laliberté;  
as well as a foundation and one friend who wish to remain anonymous.

### Partners of the Foundation:

the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ);  
the Fédération nationale des enseignants et des enseignantes du Québec (FNEEQ-CSN);  
the Syndicat de la fonction publique du Québec (SFPQ);  
the Syndicat des conseillères et conseillers de la CSQ, Fonds de solidarité;  
POUDRIER BRADET, Lawyers;  
Ms Lucille Panet-Raymond;  
Ms Annalee Yassi.

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

### *The Foundation still has lots of momentum*

**As** the years go by, awareness about the Foundation just doesn't stop growing. And this is surely something we can all be proud of, because our fundraising activities are therefore bringing in more and more dollars, which enables us to help the women who call upon us ever more effectively.

As you will see while reading through this issue of our Newsletter, the FTQ has now joined the ranks of the Partners of the Foundation. Excellent news, since we can now count upon the support of the leading Quebec union organizations: the CSN, CSQ, FTQ, FIQ and SFPQ. All to be expected, given that Lea Roback was a dedicated and committed trade unionist, n'est-ce pas?

A special fundraising event was held in early September thanks to the remarkable magnanimity of a great friend of the Foundation, as well as a founding member of our organization, Monique Simard. I invite you to read the article about this activity, as it will surely tempt you to join us the next time around.

Our annual fundraising campaign is currently under way and Monique Simard has accepted to manifest her attachment to the Foundation even more by accepting to act as its official spokesperson. Thank you to everyone who has already made his or her donation; and to everyone else, don't forget about us!

You'll also notice, as you read through the mini-portraits of our scholarship recipients this year, to what extent a scholarship from the Foundation can play a key role in improving the lives of women, who are already rather remarkable human beings.

This year, the Board of Directors decided to grant more generous scholarships, as the costs associated with going back to school or continuing one's education are increasingly dear. The future doesn't appear particularly promising for those women who seek to do one or the other given the forthcoming tuition increases and budget cutbacks on the Quebec Government's agenda.

All of the work being done by the Foundation would be impossible without the sustained commitment of the members of our Board of Directors, who don't place limits either on their time, or their devotion to keeping the values defended by Lea Roback alive and strong. Accordingly this "outraged" personage is still with us today in our struggle for the right to an education and the advancement of women's rights.

Lorraine Pagé, president



*Since 1994, 174 scholarships have been awarded by the Foundation. In June 2011, the Board of Directors granted eight scholarships valued at between \$1,000 and \$3,000.*

## THE 2011 SCHOLARSHIP

*... Pour nous, les boursières, c'est comme un rêve devenu réalité... Imaginez votre réaction lorsque nous lisons que nous avons été retenues : on danse, on crie, on pleure de joie... J'en ai encore les larmes aux yeux et la chair de poule.*

*Audrey Bellemarre*

*Merci à vous d'exister... C'est un lourd fardeau que vous soustrayez à nos épaules, c'est une immense part de joie et d'espoir que vous installez dans nos cœurs.*

*Audrey Bellemarre*

*Sachez que vous faites désormais partie de ma vie. Quand on rend service à quelqu'un des fois on ne réalise pas combien ça signifie pour cette personne...*

*Vous m'avez donné un coup de pouce pour que je puisse pousser encore plus loin... Cet argent va vraiment changer ma vie...*

*Marguerite Nyandwi*

### Two scholarship recipients will be finishing high school

**Line McDuff**, 42 years old, a mother of young adults, ended up unemployed after being involved in an automobile accident. She is finishing a number of courses to earn the equivalent of a high school diploma and will then continue on to get a Vocational Diploma (VD) in accounting. Line is very active in her community, Saint-Barthélemy, close to Trois-Rivières.

**Gessica Cineus**, 26 years old, is enrolled in an adult education program to complete the high school prerequisites necessary for her to be accepted in the West Island Career Centre's nursing program. DESTA, a Montreal group that supports young black anglophones with special needs, is supporting her in this initiative. Gessica is active in DESTA and works especially with young people with mental health problems.

### Some of the scholarship recipients will be going to college

**Audrey Bellemarre**, 19 years old, a Shawinigan resident, is completing her Diploma of Collegial Studies (DCS) in delinquency intervention techniques. She is studying in a Quebec City CEGEP. She'd really like to go to University in political science and philosophy.

She is active in several student committees (Front vert, Amnesty International, Femmes, Mobilisation), and also volunteers at the Coop Roue Libre and a rehabilitation centre for people with intellectual disabilities.

"And yes, **Sylvie Fortin** wrote to us, at 52 years old, I'm going to take a chance to fulfil my dream, I'd like to get a DCS in social work."

A mother of three disabled children, Sylvie is a model of unparalleled determination. She finished high school via an adult education program, while her children were in day care. After taking a break for family reasons, she earned a vocational diploma in 2005. After falling ill, she ended up unemployed. Her involvement and commitment to the Women's Centre gave her the impetus to decide to fulfil her dream. Sylvie lives in Péribonka and is pursuing her studies in Jonquière.

A native of Burundi, **Marguerite Nyandwi** spent nearly six years in a refugee camp in Kenya, before coming to Montreal as a refugee in 2008. Marguerite is working very hard to earn her Diploma of Collegial Studies (DCS) in nursing and is now in her 3rd year. She also has to take a few remedial courses during the summer. She was a volunteer with the Red Cross in Kenya.



*Merci de croire en des femmes comme moi et merci surtout de nous donner la chance de faire des études supérieures... Je vais toujours comme intervenante sociale aider mon prochain parce que c'est ma passion et je crois qu'avec mon baccalauréat en travail social j'y arriverai encore mieux.*

*Nathalie Langlais*

*I am on a challenging yet exciting journey to make a positive difference in this world, like the lea Roback Foundation constantly does... One day, I will bestow the same kindness and compassion that the lea Roback has shown me... Thank you..*

*Jacintha Findlay*

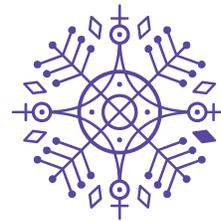
## Condensed Program at TELUQ

**Mélanie Martel** is a 35 year old single-parent mother of three (3) school age children. That's why she opted for distance learning at Télé Université, where she is enrolled in a condensed program in adult educational intervention. She has been active for more than 10 years in COMSEP, a regional grassroots education and anti-poverty organization.

## Two scholarship recipients are enrolled to do a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)

**Nathalie Langlais**, a 36 year old Montrealer decided to move to Abitibi to achieve her goal of doing a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW). She was already a social work technician, and boasts extensive work experience in the field. She also did volunteer work at the Coopérative Les Katacombes, and at Antre-jeune de Mercier.

A 30 year old single-parent mother of a 7 year old child, **Jacintha Findley** chose McGill University to pursue her Social Work studies. She is active in Projet Chance (affordable housing); and volunteers as a parent-companion for Wellington Elementary School students during their school outings.



# 2011 CAMPAIGN

*IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE A DONATION*

*The 2011 fundraising campaign is still under way. There's still time to send us your DONATION, if you haven't already done so. We remind you that you can now make your donation on-line at:*

<http://www.fondationlearoback.org>

## A RESOUNDING SUCCESS: FUNDRAISING COCKTAIL AT MONIQUE SIMARD'S HOME

Last September 6, Monique Simard, a co-founder of the Lea Roback Foundation, played host to some 50 friends of the Foundation, old and new, in her lovely home. What a wonderful and profitable evening it was!

For \$100 per person, everyone present was able to renew contact with some old acquaintances and make new ones. They were also able to enjoy Monique's gracious hospitality and magnificent garden on this wonderfully warm and delightful evening. Thanks to this fundraising activity, everyone was likewise able to make a nice CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOUNDATION'S MISSION. We thus raised some \$5,000, which will help economically disadvantaged women to undertake or continue their studies, so as to improve their living conditions, as well as those of their children.

Monique's unwavering support, as well as that of the people who turned Lea's dream into reality is what helps the Foundation to nurture and grow this formidable solidarity initiative.

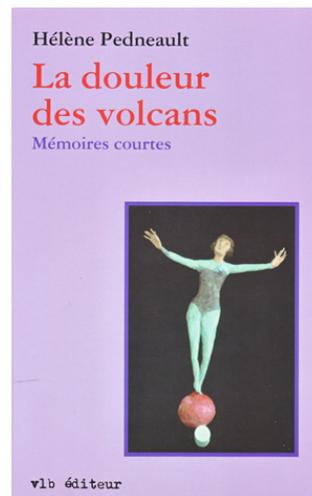
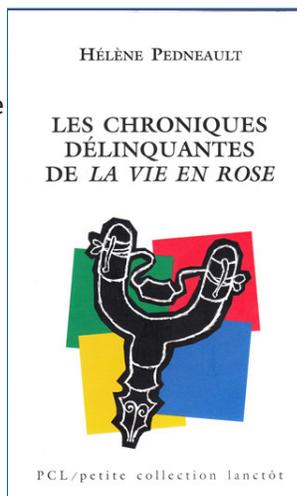
Thank yous to everyone who participated in this very pleasant evening, as well as to those individuals who were unable to make it, but who made a donation all the same.

And of course, a big big THANK YOU to Monique.

## NEW FLASHES

### Sale of H el ene Pedneault's books

Last September, Ms Sylvie Tremblay and Ms Monique Fauteux presented *Viens, on va se faciliter la vie*, a show honouring H el ene Pedneault. The Foundation was able to set up table there to sell some of H el ene Pedneault's books. An opportunity to raise a few dollars for the Foundation and to raise awareness about it as well, but especially a wonderful opportunity to promote and disseminate the work of our great friend.



### H el ene Pedneault's Art Collection

Last December, the Foundation held a silent auction to sell works of art from our dear friend's collection, a part of her estate. Four major works were still in our storage boxes, notably two paintings by Pierre Gauvreau. One of them was purchased by a friend of the Foundation. The three other paintings were auctioned off by an art gallery and have now found buyers. The profits from these sales will of course be translated into scholarships.



Encan d' uvres d'art l gu ees par H el ene Pedneault   la  
Fondation Lea-Roback – Samedi 4 d cembre 2010 – 14   17 h  
SOCI T -SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE – 82, rue Sherbrooke Ouest

### Web site: Activity report and Financial statements

We've been talking about this for a while now and it will very shortly be a fait accompli! The annual activity report, as well as the Foundation's financial statements will be available on-line on our Web site. The Foundation will thus be able to more effectively report on its various activities and administration. And, our donors will be able to view the details regarding how their money is being put to good use.

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