

In Memoriam: **Norma Joan Fleury** 1933-2013

by Hélène Bertrand

In January, we received a notice that one of our long-time supporters in Powell River, British Columbia, had passed away and that the Council of Canadians was named as a beneficiary of her estate, along with a handful of charities.

Norma Joan first joined the Council in 1997. We knew very little about her apart from her philanthropic history with us. She clearly had a long-standing commitment to social justice, as was shown by her ongoing support, but the only personal contact we'd had with Norma Joan was a note she wrote to us a few years back deploring the fact that not enough people were aware of the Council of Canadians' work and what we were fighting for.

So I went looking for anyone who could tell me more about Norma Joan – who she was, and what kind of person she was, to have given so generously and so silently.

After a few phone calls, it was Rosemary, a friend from her teen years, who told me more. Norma Joan was indeed a very private person, even with her friends. She had no family, only distant relatives, and had never married. She was a very organized person. She did not spend money

on herself, but would do anything for a friend. She was an avid quilter. And she would never go out unless she looked perfect. I also learned that Norma Joan had worked all her life at the Powell River pulp and paper mill. She had started on the floor and, in time, worked her way up to the position of Office Manager.

This last bit of information really stayed with me. Norma Joan would have been in the pulp and paper mill between the 1950s and the 1980s. Even though the Powell River paper mill was the largest pulp and paper mill in the world at the time, as a woman – even as an office manager, which in itself is no small feat for that era – this would not have been the most lucrative of occupations. And yet, her legacy to the Council of Canadians was substantial.

I guess Rosemary was right. Norma Joan did not spend on herself, but would do anything for a friend. And we can only be immensely grateful that she included the Council among her friends.

It's hard to say if she knew how much this gift would mean to all of the people across Canada working together to build a better Canada, but I like to think that she did. Legacy gifts to the Council of Canadians make all the difference in

helping to strengthen both the effectiveness of our current work and our ability to plan for the future. And I believe Norma Joan knew all about planning for the future.

Norma Joan's legacy will live on. It will live on in every campaign, in every action, and through every one of us at the Council of Canadians as we work together for social justice.

A gift in your will

You can help build a better Canada by planning a legacy gift. A legacy gift is one that you plan today to benefit the Council of Canadians tomorrow. It is a simple, yet powerful, way to carry forward your support for the Council's work while making a lasting statement about what truly matters to you.

Leaving a gift in your will – as Norma Joan did – can be as simple as adding one line to a new or existing will. In leaving a legacy gift with the Council of Canadians, you empower future generations with the means and hope to bring about the better Canada we know is possible.

For more information please visit our website at www.canadians.org/legacy or call us toll-free at 1-800-387-7177, ext. 244.