

Leaving a Proud Canadian Legacy



Pictured: Paul Armstrong

"I was inspired to leave a legacy gift to the Council of Canadians because they keep the issues that I find important in the public eye, and they continue to lobby for the public good on issues fundamental to our survival. Whether it be clean air, water, health care, trade agreements or democracy, the Council of Canadians continues to be a forceful, yet eloquent, organization for change. I will always be a strong supporter. And a bequest was the right choice for me as a senior on a limited income because it doesn't come from my current income. This organization is a beacon of hope for our future generations."

- Paul Armstrong, Alberta

As a Council of Canadians supporter you have helped fight to protect many of the important things we value in this country: our social programs, environment, culture and democracy.

By being a part of this organization, along with tens of thousands of other concerned citizens across the country, you continue to exercise your democratic right – indeed duty – to be a powerful voice for Canada's public interest. We take on stronger opponents in government and multinational corporations without hesitation to ensure that our rights and interests are not compromised or threatened.

Every day the Council of Canadians offers principled advocacy, tireless campaigning, and the deep conviction of beliefs which are expressed on issues that promote the common good. By working together we turn on the power of grassroots organizing and galvanize communities into action.

From our very first day almost 30 years ago, when we dropped a Canadian flag on the deck of the American icebreaker *Polar Sea* after it defied international law by sailing into Canadian Arctic waters without permission while the then-Mulroney government remained silent, we

have showed that the Council of Canadians is a powerful collective voice of the people.

In the ensuing years we have waged many campaigns. We opposed the sale of instrumental Canadian companies to U.S. interests, fought to protect medicare, alerted Canadians to the looming danger of genetically modified food, defeated the initiative to introduce the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, and put a stop to the proposed merger of four major Canadian banks. We have worked in communities across the country to protect water from mining waste, fracking and government neglect.

More recently we supported the efforts of eight brave Canadians as they shone a spotlight on the election fraud that occurred in the 2011 federal election, exposing an orchestrated effort of voter suppression.

These campaigns show there is a constant need for vigilance and action. Much work lies ahead given the challenges that persist today. It is therefore important to think about what issues future generations will be facing and what they will be struggling to protect.

A gift in your will is an opportunity to continue the support you have provid-

ed to the Council of Canadians during your lifetime and help ensure that our citizens' movement remains strong for generations to come.

By including a legacy gift to the Council of Canadians in your estate plans, you can show extraordinary generosity, foresight and leadership while making a lasting difference to issues that matter to you.

People who leave legacy gifts come from all walks of life – with different income levels, professions and passions. Because of their enduring love for their country and concern for others, their memories live on, and their gifts remind us all that we, too, can make a difference in the lives that follow.

Your bequest can be a specific sum of money or a percentage of your estate once other family, legal and tax considerations have been met. You may also choose to set up a gift annuity or give a piece of property or investments such as stocks, bonds and RRSPs.

Giving a legacy gift is an important decision that requires thoughtful planning. For more information please contact H el ene Bertrand, Major and Legacy Gifts Officer, at hbertrand@canadians.org, or by calling toll free 1-800-387-7177, ext. 244.