Maude Barlow Shares Her Legacy

By Hélène Bertrand

For almost three decades, Council of Canadians members like you have helped to bring about transformative social, economic and environmental change here in Canada and beyond. While our country and our world face serious and persistent issues, we are without question better off today due to our collective advocacy. This is a legacy we can be proud to leave to our children and grandchildren, who are now joining the Council of Canadians and taking up the causes for positive social change.

A simple, yet powerful way Council members choose to commemorate their lifetime of activism is through planning a legacy gift in their will. For National Chairperson Maude Barlow, her decision to leave a legacy gift to the Council of Canadians was deeply personal and profoundly gratifying. She shares, in her own words, why she chose to leave a gift for the Council in her will.

“For as long as I can remember I’ve loved this country. I’ve always believed that I’ve been blessed to live in the greatest land on Earth – and that I share this place with good and decent people who want the best for themselves and their neighbours.

“I have always believed that the human chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and that no one should be left behind in the inevitable changes that happen over time. I was raised to be honest, to be fair, and to be unafraid to speak out when I see things happen that just aren’t right.

“When we came together to form the Council of Canadians many years ago, we shared a determination and a passion that the voice of everyday Canadians must be heard in the face of momentous issues that would so deeply affect our future. That determination and passion remains with me today, and I’m sure it will remain with me until I draw my last breath.

“Looking back over decades of activism with the Council, I couldn’t feel more deeply that I made the right choice to commit myself to this cause, this movement and this organization. I can’t imagine how my time, my energies and my passions could have been better spent than in advancing Canada’s common causes with tens of thousands of like-minded people from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

“Those of us who lead the activist life know and appreciate that we receive more from our work than we give. We are given the gift of belonging with fellow travellers who share our deepest beliefs, values and convictions. We are never isolated. We are never alone. We know that we will end our days on this Earth possessing the fundamental satisfaction that we have spent our lives well – and that we have done right by each other. I can’t imagine a gift richer than that.

“As I write this, I am 65 years old. Hopefully, I’ll have the good fortune to continue my life’s work for many years to come. My firmest intention is to remain immersed in the struggle for Canada’s future for as long as my mind, body and soul enable me.

“But when I look long into the future, I have a deep and abiding confidence that the movement and the Council will move forward and thrive beyond me. I know in my heart and soul that Canadians will always need us to be their voice, their advocates, and their champions.

“When my end draws near, I will consider my years with the Council and its membership to be an important part of the footprint I’ll leave behind in this world. I’ll feel joy in the knowledge that, in my own small way, I’ve contributed to humanity’s future to the best of my ability.

“This is a legacy in which I take great pride. I hope that you share my feelings of belonging to something truly special, of giving in your own way to the betterment of our human community, and of believing in something greater than yourself. A legacy gift is a wonderful way to commemorate our collective actions.

Thank you for your commitment, your loyalty and your tireless support of the great work we do together.”

For information on how you can help shape Canada’s future with a legacy gift to the Council of Canadians, please contact Hélène Bertrand at hbertrand@canadians.org, or by calling toll-free 1-800-387-7177, ext. 244.