

# Memorandum

## Re: Recommendation for Sarah Shorten Award

**Date:** October 31, 2017

**To:** CAUT Council

**From:** Wesley Crichlow and Pat Armstrong, Co-chairs

The CAUT Equity Committee is pleased to recommend University of British Columbia professor Dr. Margot Young for the CAUT Sarah Shorten Award.

Dr. Young is a tenured Professor at the Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia. After studying at the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, and the University of California, Berkeley, Professor Young began her teaching career at the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria. In 2002, she moved to the University of British Columbia.

Professor Young teaches in the areas of constitutional and social justice law. She is a research associate with Green College, the Peter Wall Institute of Advanced Studies, and the Centre for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice at UBC. She was the Director of the Social Justice Specialization at the law school and has organized the Law and Society Speakers Series for close to a decade. Professor Young served three terms as Chair of the university-wide Faculty Association Status of Women Committee.

Professor Young's research interests focus on law and theory related to equity, women's economic equality, urban theory, and local housing politics and rights. She is also working on the intersections between environmental justice, social justice, feminism, and human rights. Professor Young was co-editor of the collection *Poverty: Rights, Social Citizenship and Legal Activism* and was Co-Principal Investigator of the Housing Justice Project (HousingJustice.ca). She is widely published in a variety of journals and edited books.

Professor Young is a member of the editorial boards of the *Canadian Journal of Women and Law*, the *Review of Constitutional Studies*, *Studies in Housing Law* and is on the advisory board of the *Windsor Yearbook of Access to Justice*. In 2016, she became co-editorship of the *Law and Society Review*.

Professor Young is active in a variety of professional and community organizations. She sits on the boards for Justice for Girls and the David Suzuki Foundation. She is Research Associate with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-BC Office. Professor Young works with provincial and national women's equality groups during United Nation committees' periodic reviews of Canada's human rights record, travelling as an NGO representative to these meetings in New York and Geneva. More specifically, she works with the BC CEDAW Group and the Feminist Alliance for International Action.

Many letters of recommendations attest to Dr. Young's commitment to gender equity in the academy and beyond. She has developed and organized a highly successful mentoring program for faculty women, has been an important contributor to the work that led to the gender pay equity settlement at UBC and contributed immensely to feminist scholarship and activism. "She is highly sought out by her colleagues, by the community and by the administration as a knowledgeable scholar with a strong track record of success through her work on equity and diversity." "She has worked in all dimensions of her career to advance women's rights."

Her nominator summed up her contribution by saying that "Her commitment to cultivating an inclusive and empowering climate for women in universities has shown itself in a number of key ways. She has been active in formal institutional roles calling for administrative leadership on gender equity issues. She has been unstinting in her generosity to female colleagues—as a mentor and advocate. She is a role model and advocate for women law students, devoting personal energy and time to fostering female student leadership and empowerment."

Her work exemplifies the values that the Sarah Shorten Award seeks to recognize. The CAUT Equity Committee is honoured to submit the name of Dr. Margot Young for this nomination