

Mrs. Leah West Sherriff



Mrs. West Sherriff graduated in 2007 with a major in Politics from the Royal Military College (RMC) of Canada. She was awarded the Sword of Honour and the Canadian Defence Academy Profession of Arms Award for her demonstrated excellence in military professionalism, leadership and character as well as consistently displaying the highest values of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Upon graduation from RMC, she was posted with the Royal Canadian Dragoons as an Armour Officer where once again she stood out among her peers. In 2010, she was deployed to Afghanistan as a Junior Operations Officer for Task Force Kandahar. In 2012, she completed a Masters of Arts from the American Military University in Intelligence Studies – Homeland Security. After completing ten years of service, Leah retired from the Canadian Armed Forces to pursue a career in law.

While attending the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Leah continued to expand her professional portfolio in the realm of defence and security. She worked as a legal researcher as part of the National Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada, as a student in the War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity Unit of the Department of Justice, and as a Research Assistant on topics related to antiterrorism and Bill C-51. Upon graduation, she was the Judicial Law Clerk to the Honourable Justice Richard Mosley of the Federal Court of Canada, Canada's foremost national security Jurist. Leah is currently Counsel for the National Security Litigation and Advisory Group of the Department of Justice, and is the Anti-terrorism Research Fellow at the University of Ottawa where she is completing her Masters of Law.

Mrs. West is also an elite triathlete who most recently finished 13th and was the top Canadian finisher in her age category at the 70.3 Ironman World Championship. In September 2017, she was the top 5K female finisher at the Canada Army Run held in Ottawa. She is an example to men and women everywhere who aspire to serve their country and society well.

The candidate was selected among other tremendous young men and women nominations who demonstrated leadership and engagement to Canadian security and defence.

The 2017 "Game Changer" Selection Committee was composed of Vice-Admiral Denis Rouleau (Retired) as Chair and, as members: Colonel Robert Elrick (Retired), Major-General Nicolas Eldaoud, Dr. Tim Goddard, Mrs. Françoise Gagnon, Major-General Daniel Gosselin (Retired), Mr. Doug Wilson-Hodge, Mr. John Jones and Mrs. Louise Mercier.