

N. JANE PEPINO BIOGRAPHY



Ranked one of the top 25 lawyers in Canada, Ms. Pepino is a dedicated social activist. From 1987 to 1997, she served as president of the Metro Action Committee on Violence against Women and Children (METRAC), a community-based organization whose goal is to define and lead systemic change at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. From 1997 to 2000, Ms. Pepino served as chair of the board of Women's College Hospital and played a key role in ensuring the continued existence of this important women's model health facility which was under threat of forced closure through restructuring. Since 1998, she has been a board member of the amalgamated Sunnybrook & Women's College Sciences Centre which has "leadership in women's health" as its mission.

Ms. Pepino was the first ever woman member of the Metropolitan Toronto Board of Commissioners of Police and became a vice-chair and acting chair over her term. She has served on the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

Most currently, Ms. Pepino is the founding chair of the Ontario Women's Health Council (OWHC), an independent advisory body established by the Minister of Health in 1998. The OWHC is a ground-breaking organization whose mandate is to act as an advisory body to the Minister on all matters relating to the improvement of women's health in Ontario. Ms. Pepino was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1985 and as a Member to the Order of Canada in 2000.

Jewish Women International of Toronto is a volunteer organization that works to strengthen the lives of women, children and families and strives to end the cycle of violence through education, advocacy and action. The Woman of the Year Luncheon is an annual event designed to honour a Canadian woman who has distinguished herself by her contribution to society.