

Member of Parliament and Human Rights Advocate Speaks at Law Hour

Irwin Cotler, MP for Mount Royal and official opposition critic for human rights, visited Law Hour on March 13, 2008. His lecture, “Jewish Values, Human Rights and the Pursuit of Justice”, talked about the importance of being involved in the human rights effort.

“The struggle for human rights needs to have a sense of urgency and a sense of permanency,” said Mr. Cotler. “We need to relate to each other out of our own sense of authenticity, out of our shared experiences, and out of our own sense of who we are. We all have particular identities, but we all share a common humanity.”

Mr. Cotler is currently on leave from his position as Professor of Law at McGill University where he specializes in Constitutional and International Human Rights Law. He is a scholar and advocate of international stature, holding eight honorary doctorates. He has been a visiting professor and scholar at both Harvard and Yale. Mr. Cotler spoke later the same evening to students at Saint Mary’s University giving a lecture titled, “The Charter: A Revolution in 5 Acts.”

Law Hour is a student organized, student run regular meeting that invites speakers on a range of topics to come to the law school and speak with students. This year’s chair of the Law Hour Committee is second year student, Adam Picotte.