

ALBERTA FAMILY MEDIATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Edition 14: February 2006

Special points of interest:

- We welcome your input about the newsletters and encourage you to submit articles and features

The Conference is just around the corner. We hope to see you there.

**AFMS Spring Conference: April 20
and 21/06 at the
Chateau Louis Hotel- Edmonton,
AB**

Presenters:

Gerald Monk and John Winslade

*Day two of the
conference is already sold out!*

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Lunch and Learn Sessions

The location is always the Edmonton City Hall in the Heritage Room. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and the presentations run from noon until 1:00 p.m. There is a question period and mixer beginning at 1:00 to 1:30. This is a great venue to learn, share information and network with colleagues (all over a lunch break). Lunch and Learn sessions are a great way to network, learn and connect with colleagues all at once.

Next Lunch & Learn:

APRIL 12/06

See Page 5 for details

There is no cost and you just need to bring your own lunch.

These sessions have been held now for several years.

A.F.M.S. Address Change:

New address:

#1650- 246 Stewart Green SW

Calgary, AB T3H 3C8

Summary of Lunch and Learn Session December 7, 2005 Introducing: The Immigrant Men Advocacy Network

Leo Campos A. and Luis R. Garay presented interesting insights into the challenges that face immigrant men and their families adjusting to a new society.

The Immigrant Men Advocacy Network is a collaborative project between the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative, The Community Networks Group and Alberta Cross Cultural Services with funding from Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association.

Luis and Leo talked about issues regarding affordable housing, fair employment, income security, schooling, parenting, gender roles, recognition of foreign qualifications, cultural and legal awareness in Canada, spirituality and conflict.

The focus for Leo and Luis is to actively engage coordinators and participants in developing their own advocacy and leadership training while actively monitoring their learning process and actions. Luis and Leo talked about being inclusive and developing strength through diversity in order to constructively impact policymakers and develop a sense of community and solidarity among immigrant men that goes beyond ethnicity. "People first"

If you are interested in this program and want more information contact:

Leo Campos A. at (780) 995-6819 e-mail: leocamposa@aol.com
Luis R. Garay at (780) 964-4497 e-mail: luisricardogaray@hotmail.com

AFMS Spring
Conference:
April 20 and
21/06 at the
Chateau Louis
Hotel—
Edmonton, AB

Presenters:
Gerald Monk and
John Winslade

From the newsletter Editor— Charmaine Hammond

The 2006 Conference is quickly approaching, by now you have likely received your brochure and information. AFMS hopes to see you there.

I'd like to thank Barbara Bishop for providing two lunch and learn reports for the newsletter.

This is very valuable information for those who were not able to attend.

You can contact Charmaine at 780-464-3828.



Building Bridges for Collaboration

Last month, we looked at the elements of membership as it relates to collaboration.

This issue will speak to the Process and Structure factors, Communication Factors, Purpose and the Resource Factors. Winer & Ray (1994) suggest that some of the process factors that are essential in true collaboration are: members having a vested interest in both the outcome and the process,



flexibility, clear roles and process guidelines, and an appropriate pace for the development of the collaboration. They add the some of the elements of communication that add value to effective collaborations include openness, frequent communication and established communication links that are both formal and informal.

The factors of collaboration that are related to the purpose of the collaboration include having goals that are concrete, attainable and supported by clear objectives. They also reinforce the importance of having a clear and shared vision and a unique purpose.

Of course effective collaboration projects work best when there is

sufficient resources (time, money, people) and a skilled leader navigating the collaboration journey.

In describing collaboration processes (or journeys), Winer & Ray (1994) suggest that each exit is an entrance to somewhere else. The journey is similar to a cloverleaf whereby the participants keep coming back to the beginning, each time expanding on and improving what the groups is doing (based on what has been learned and experienced). This return to the beginning is not like starting over, but more a regeneration to continue along the different paths.

Book Review: Time In Parenting By Otto Weininger, Ph.D.

Time In Parenting is a book dedicated to the many teaching aspects that parents take on with their children. This book provides valuable and realistic information to parents about teaching children about empathy, The author's approach to dealing with parenting struggles is one based on what he refers to as "time in" instead of "time outs". He explains that "time ins" (when a parent maintains the connection with the child during times of upset, behavioural issues or outbursts) help the child learn how to verbalize emotions that are not perhaps easily understood. His approach is one that assists children in learning about self control, managing grief and conflict through the dialogue he/she experiences with the parent. This book also offers parents information about helping children cope during family crisis and challenge.

Membership Categories with AFMS

Registered Family Mediator (RFM) specializing in separation/divorce mediation.

Registered Family Mediator (RFM) specializing in General Family Mediation.

Registered Family Mediator (RFM) specializing in Family Business Mediation.

Practicing Mediator (designation for those who are continuing to gain mediation experience or for whom mediation is a small part of their practice.

General Member
Student Member

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Alberta *family* Mediation Society

*Advancing the practice of
family mediation.*

*We're on the web—
look us up!*

About AFMS

Established in 1984,
the non-profit
society provides
services to family
mediators.

The organization has a
part time administrative
assistant and is managed
by a volunteer board of
directors, with
representatives across the
province.

The society is dedicated to
both professional and public
education regarding family
mediation.

"Peace is not won by those who fiercely guard their differences, but by those who with open minds and hearts seek out connections."

-Katherine Paterson

"The moment one gives close attention to any thing, even a blade of grass it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself."
-Henry Miller

"Only in quiet waters do things mirror themselves undistorted. Only in a quiet mind is adequate perception of the world."
-Hans Margolius

"Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties."

-Erich Fromm

"A man who makes trouble for others is also making trouble for himself"
-Chinua Achebe

**ONCE AGAIN, MARK YOUR CALENDARS ALBERTA FAMILY MEDIATION SOCIETY
PRESENTS A NEW SERIES OF LUNCH AND LEARN SESSIONS
In Co-operation with Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre
(NO COST / BRING YOUR LUNCH)**

PLACE: EDMONTON CITY HALL, HERITAGE ROOM
TIME: 11:30 AM (doors open) to 1:30 PM
(Presentation begins at noon to 1:00 PM.)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

**Brad Kring (Legal Counsel and Senior Program Coordinator of the
Family Law Information Centre)
An overview of the New Family Law Act**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

**Dianne Dalley (Project Coordinator with MRJC)
An Overview of Research Project: Assessing Domestic Violence and
the Dynamics of Restorative Justice Mediation**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

**Gordon Andreiuk (Lawyer with Laurier Law Office)
Summary, insights, funny stories of
"Changes in Retroactive Child Support"**

**Contact: Barbara Bishop at Barbara.Bishop@gov.ab.ca or Sue Bedier at info@afms.ca
Visit our website: www.afms.ca**

Summary of Lunch and Learn Session January 11, 2006 "Gang Aftermath"

Rob Papin and Derek Powder from the Gang Prevention and Intervention Program through Native Counseling Services of Alberta presented a very powerful message through the film "Gang Aftermath".

The film provides a very real perspective from ex-gang members, both from within correction institutions and on the street, both male and female, about the choices they made and the very real and violent consequences of gang involvement.

The film shows the disillusionment and hurtful negative impact gang involvement has on family members, their children and society as a whole.

The film provides insight into the attraction of gang membership relating it as a means of filling a void in the aboriginal community created by alcoholism and substance abuse, the history of a loss of culture, ceremonies, traditions, elders, a sense of community and family. Gang affiliation has its own traditions, ceremonies, and sense of belonging that becomes an attractive option, especially for young people searching for an identity.

Throughout the video it was apparent how powerful Rob and Derek's message was for their young audience and the overt appeal of other options and life directions that was empowering for these young people.

Rob and Derek show natural leadership, acting as positive role models for their communities, with a clear understanding that these qualities are what made them "valued" gang members. The same qualities are opening up new positive life directions and options that will have considerable impact on their future.

Derek and Rob (Sean) answered questions from a diverse audience made up of correction services workers, court workers, private security company officials, mediators, social workers, and staff from Manitoba's Stony Mountain Institution, etc.

Rob and Derek modeled behaviour that was congruent with their words with a commitment to their program that is well received by all who value a society that is respectful and supportive of all its members.

If you are interested in this program and want more information contact:
Rob Papin or Derek Powder at (780) 451-4002 Fax: (780) 428-0187

Come to Helsinki 26th – 28th of May

(and experience the brightness of the early Nordic summernights)

The Nordic Forum for Mediation and Conflict Management (NFM) will arrange its fourth Conference in Helsinki, Finland from 26th to 28th of May 2006. This time we have decided also to make it a European Conference. We hope this will be the first in a series of Conferences for mediators in Europe. The conference will go into depth within conflict mediation in the fields of family, schools, work place, community, victim-offender, civil court, commercial relations, international peace building. We want to learn from the vibrant varieties of European mediation. Our Conference style combines solid theory with interactive workshops focused on the need of practitioners, openness for networking and culture. Also, at the Helsinki Conference we will present the results of a three year project “Nordic Map in Conflict Mediation”. More than one hundred experts have contributed experiences and reflections from the Scandinavian countries. We want to compare this with other countries and learn together. We also want to bring mediation on the political agenda in Europe. Finland is the chair of the EU in the second half of 2006.

Web site: www.n-f-m.org Conference coordinator: Elina Airola:
elina.airola@ssf-ffm.com

Another Resource for Parents- “Active Parenting Now” by Michael H. Popkin, Ph.D.

This book, written by Michael Popkin, Ph.D., is a parental guide for parents of children ages 5 through 12. His book stresses several main qualities that form the foundations of an individual's ability to cope and succeed in society. These qualities are: courage, self esteem, responsibility and cooperation. Popkin works from the analogy that those who succeed in life are people who can effectively handle problems and challenges that are likely to arise. His strategies for problem solving include:

- Problem prevention talks
- Determine problem ownership
- Intervention skills
- Support skills and;
- Conducting effective Family Meetings

This book also provides families with information about effective communication skills (including “I” messages, providing feedback and managing emotions).