

Alberta Family Mediation Society Newsletter

Edition 22: June 2007

Special points of interest:

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

AFMS Conference– a huge success

AFMS wishes to thank everyone that helped in some capacity to make the conference and AGM a success!

The annual conference is a wonderful opportunity for learning but also for networking and meeting new colleagues in the field.

Approximately 150 people attended the Thursday evening session and about 110 people attended the workshop for professionals on Friday.

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AFMS NEW Board of Directors

Geeta Bharadia (President)	Elaine Bucknum
Jane Warren (Vice President)	Lynn Hutchinson
Karen Fawcett (Secretary)	Trevor Neil
Kate Wood (Treasurer)	Lynn Parish
Brenda Arseneault	Michael Porter
Kent Taylor (Past President)	Kim Rieger

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).

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

Wednesday May 2/07– Edmonton Public Schools– Peer Mediation Programs.

Wednesday June 6/07– Diane Daley– Mediation & Restorative Justice Centre. One year later– an overview of the research for assessing family violence and dynamics of restorative justice mediation.

John Hayes Award

At the Annual General Meeting each year, the John Haynes award is awarded to a person who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Family Mediation in Alberta. This is done in memory of the late Dr. John Haynes who pioneered the early training of family mediators in the province. This award has been in existence since 2001.

Thank you to all the mediators in Edmonton and Calgary who do a tremendous job of assisting families effectively deal with family conflicts and disagreements. Yogesh Gupta has been developing mediators throughout the province via contracts and now we can reach every area of Alberta. Yogesh also spearheaded the hiring of Family Court Counsellors and Family Information Specialists. In doing so, Yogesh has also helped build relationships with the Court-houses and law professionals across the province.

We'd also like to thank the Strategic Managers who attended our conference and were very instrumental in ensuring all ADR Programs in Justice were successful.

A special thank you to Alberta Justice for the important work you do and CONGRATULATIONS.

From the newsletter Editor– Charmaine Hammond

Spring has sprung! Arthur Rubenstein states that “The seasons are what a symphony ought to be: four perfect movements in harmony with each other”.

As mediators, what is it we do to maintain harmony and balance in our practice?

Contact Charmaine at 780-464-3828 or email Charmaine.hammond@hammondgroup.biz to share your strategies in the next newsletter.



Helpful Information

Alberta's Bullying Prevention Strategy

A provincial bullying prevention strategy was developed in response to feedback provided at the May 2004 Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying. Through the joint efforts of Alberta Education and Alberta Children's Services, three websites have been developed to help children, youth and adults learn about bullying and deal with bullying issues.

Bullying

Bullying, as defined by the Bullying Prevention Strategy is the assertion of interpersonal power through aggression. Bullying involves

- Repeated/consistent negative actions against another

- an imbalance of power between the bully and the target
- Contrasting feelings between the bully and the target as a result of the bullying episode (the child who bullies may feel excited, powerful or amused, while the target feels afraid, embarrassed or hurt).

The four most common types of bullying are:

- **Verbal Bullying**—name calling, derogatory comments, sarcasm, teasing, spreading rumours, threatening, making references to one's culture, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, unwanted comments.
- **Social Bullying**—mobbing, scapegoating, excluding others from groups, humiliation, gestures or graffiti intended to put others down.
- **Physical Bullying**—hitting, punching, kicking, poking, pinching, chasing, shoving, coercing, destroying, unwanted sexual touching.
- **Cyber Bullying**—using the internet or text messaging to intimidate, insult or spread rumours about someone.

Source: Alberta's Bullying Prevention Strategy

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www.teamheroes.ca

Aimed at children 3-11 years of age, the S-Team Heroes help kids learn about bullying prevention and intervention through this interactive online game.

www.B-Free.ca

Intended for youth 12-17 years of age, this site features interactive components and information about how youth can take a stand against bullying in their community.

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.

**"Forgiveness does not change the
past, but it does enlarge the
future."
Paul Boese**

The measure of success is not whether you
have a tough problem to deal with but
whether it is the same problem you had
last year. By John Foster Dalles.

It is not a problem when we have a
problem. It is a problem if we don't
deal with the problem. Mary Kay
Utech

The most serious mistakes are
not being made as a result of
wrong answers. The truly dan-
gerous thing is asking the wrong
questions. Peter Drucker