

# ALBERTA FAMILY MEDIATION SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 15: March 2006

### Special points of interest:

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

### John Haynes Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Family Mediation in Alberta:

This award is a significant achievement and the time has come again for the Board to consider nominations for this year.

Please email or fax any nominations to Michael Porter Chair of the Nominations Committee, AFMS . Please also include a short description of this person's work and why he/she merits the award.

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!**

### Inside this issue:

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### AFMS Board of Directors

Dr. Kent Taylor (President)

Ms. Geeta Bharadia (Vice President)

Ms. Bonnie Murray (Secretary)

Ms. Barbara Acton (Treasurer)

Ms. Barbara Bishop

Ms. Jane Warren

Dr. Trevor Neil

Ms. Lorri Yasenik (past president)

Mr. Michael Porter

Ms. Kim Rieger

Ms. Shelley Taggart

Kate Wood

Lynn Parish

# 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

## Next Lunch & Learn:

**APRIL 12/06**

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

## A.F.M.S. Address Change:

New address:

#1650- 246 Stewart Green SW

Calgary, AB T3H 3C8

**PRESENTS A NEW SERIES OF LUNCH AND LEARN SESSIONS**  
**In Co-operation with Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre**  
**(NO COST / BRING YOUR LUNCH)**

EDMONTON CITY HALL, HERITAGE ROOM  
 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"

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## From the newsletter Editor— Charmaine Hammond

It is hard to believe that we are already into the month of March. As I write this newsletter I am enjoying a visit to Ontario, my birthplace. As I visit with family and friends I am reminded about the importance of the stories that families carry with them through the generations. Listening to the stories and memories shared by my

grandparents not only warms my heart but reminds me of the importance of symbolism, history and a connectedness to our pasts. My grandparents are passionate storytellers and historians and they captivate my attention in a way that even the most intriguing book or movie cannot.

As we help families resolve conflicts in their family situations, the stories people share with us and their family can provide us with great learning. You can contact Charmaine at 780-464-3828.



## From Chaos to Coherence (Doc Childre & Bruce Cryer)–

In the book **From Chaos to Coherence**, the authors Bruce Cryer & Doc Childre explore many topics related to stress, change, resiliency and managing difficult situations.

In one section of the book they talk about the impact of judgments on one's ability to maintain a state of neutral. They describe judgements almost as a footprint in that when judgements are made, an impression is formed and that print remains until there is clarification or understanding.

They suggest that one effective process of overcoming judgments (those we make about ourselves as well as those that are made about others, even

when unintentional) is to practice coherent communication. Their description of coherent communication is similar to what is often practiced and modelled in the management of conflicts.

- 1) Achieve understanding– understanding views and getting to a state of “truly knowing”.
- 2) Listening non-judgementally.



- 3) Listen for the essence of communication.
- 4) Be authentic in the dialogue (heightens clarity and fosters transformation).

The book **From Chaos to Coherence** also offers readers several techniques to utilize in managing judgments and also to effectively manage stress and change.

Their book also indicates that they have resources available on line for youth, children, schools and adults (information on resiliency, free resources to manage stress) at [www.heartmath.org](http://www.heartmath.org)

**Alberta Conflict Transformation Society (ACTS) Community Conferencing Training**  
**April 27, 28, and 29, 2006 For more information contact ACTS at 944-5265**

As students taking courses in the field of ADR, the element of practice and networking is a very important part of the ongoing learning and the journey towards skills competency. One student, Dina Hendzel has arranged a Yahoo Group to post learning opportunities and role play groups. This site can be accessed at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/edm\\_adr/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/edm_adr/)

## 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**

## ALBERTA FAMILY MEDIATION SOCIETY (AFMS)

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Calgary, AB T3H 3C8

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Website: [www.afms.ca](http://www.afms.ca)



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.

**"One's philosophy is not best  
expressed in words; it is expressed  
in the choices one makes...and the  
choices we make are ultimately our  
responsibility."  
Eleanor Roosevelt**

**The most basic of all human needs is the  
need to understand and be understood.  
The best way to understand people is to  
listen to them. "**  
-Ralph Nichols

**Change. It has the power  
to uplift, to heal, to  
stimulate,  
surprise, open  
new doors, bring fresh  
experience and create  
excitement in life.  
Certainly  
it is worth the risk.  
--Leo Buscaglia**

Adopting the right attitude  
can convert a negative  
stress into a positive  
one."  
-- Hans Selye, MD, PhD,  
DSc Founder,  
International Institute of  
Stress

## **NEWS, RESOURCES AND NETWORKING:**

### ***Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre***

- An independent not-for-profit society promoting a community response to conflict and crime

\*\*Please note. This competition has been extended to March 17, 2006. Any questions, contact Dianne Dalley at 780 468 5310.

#### **Restorative Justice Mediation Practitioners (4 part-time contract positions)**

To become part of this team, you will be a highly skilled, experienced practitioner with the ability to work effectively as a co-facilitator in a male/female team. You will have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, have the ability to be flexible and work with a research team to refine processes in order to maximize positive outcomes for participants.

You will participate in the Restorative Justice Domestic Violence Research Project by conducting restorative justice mediation sessions, engaging in reflective practice and evaluation of your role, providing written post session evaluations, identifying training needs and participating in ongoing training.

Forward completed applications including names of references by **March 17, 2006** to:

Dianne Dalley, Project Manager

Email: [diannevdalley@yahoo.ca](mailto:diannevdalley@yahoo.ca),

Or mail to:

C/o Mediation and Restorative Justice Centre

430, 9810-111 Street

Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 1K1

### **2006 Family Court Review Update**

The January 2006 Family Court Review features a special article on Marriage in Canada by Hon. Irwin Cotler, articles by Rachel Birnbaum, Ramona Alaggia and Marvin Bernstein and a review of a book by Peter Jaffe. AFCC has arranged for Blackwell Publishing to post this issue online as a free sample, making it available to any member of the public who visits the Blackwell Synergy Web site. If you know of colleagues who might be interested in this material and would like to share it electronically, simply forward the link below and let them know that it is available.

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/fcre/44/1>

From AFCC

# AFMS New Governance Structure— 2006

AFMS has developed a new governance structure for the organization. This is the result of many discussions from the AFMS. The governance structure includes the Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Fund Raising Committee, Program Action Committee and the External Relations Committee. These committees are comprised of members of AFMS who volunteer to assist in the governing, sustainability and advancement of the organization. The information below has been provided by the Board for the membership to better understand the inner workings of the organization and how AFMS is structured.

## Alberta family Mediation Society – Governance 2006

Revised: February 6, 2006

### Preliminary Issues:

*A board member must chair all committees and there will be at least one other board member on each committee; the board will appoint these individuals. Any chair that wants a non-board member on his/her committee, must present the name/s of those persons to the external relations committee and this will be presented to the board for ratification.*

*Committees 3/4/5 will recruit non-board members to serve on their committees and/or subcommittees.*

*Immediately following the AGM in the spring, there will be a board meeting called to elect the new executive. The returning or incoming president will determine the format of that first meeting and will oversee orientation of the new board members and any other business he/she deems necessary.*

### 1. Executive Committee:

- a. will manage the work of the Board itself.
- b. will be chaired by the president; *officers of the board* and the chairs of each committee will be on this committee. The committees will report to the full board.
- c. will be responsible for filling vacancies on the board, if total board is not elected.
- d. will orientate new board members and provide training and education of the Society to the new board members.
- e. will ensure committees work together and will oversee the committees.
- f. will set board members performance standards and monitor board members performance.
- g. will develop a board mission statement and keep it updated.
- h. will update values, visions, and mission statement.
- i. *oversees the preparation and hosting of the annual retreat work session.*

### 2. Finance Committee:

- a. is accountable for overseeing the Society's financial performance *and ensures that the budget for the coming fiscal year is set at the January retreat.*
- b. oversees the financial reporting process: content, format, and frequency of reports to the board; and oversees implementation of the process.
- c. presents an overall assessment of the past year's fiscal performance at the annual retreat.
- d. reviews the audit report and oversees any corrective action.
- e. reviews all committees' financial reports and reports financial performance to the full board.
- f. This committee is chaired by the Treasurer.

### **3. Fund raising Committee:**

- a. identifies financial resource development targets.
- b. oversees the development of strategies to achieve these targets.
- c. monitors progress in implementing financial resource development strategies.
- d. cultivates funding sources, such as making presentations to foundations and other financial resources.

### **4. Program Action Committee:**

- a. has primary involvement in development of the Society's Business and Programs.
- b. suggests updates to values, visions, and mission statements.
- c. oversees *and evaluates* all program plans including both financial and program performance goals.
- d. This committee is chaired by the president elect.

### **5. External Relations Committee:**

- a. is responsible for maintaining effective relationships with other agencies and ensuring that the volunteer involvement in the Society is productive and satisfying.
- b. ensures that strategies for maintaining close, positive relationships with key stakeholders are implemented.
- c. develops strategies and plans for non-board volunteer involvement in the Society's planning, program development, and operations.
- d. monitors volunteer involvement, and suggests improvements.
- e. *co-ordinates presentation of the society's image to all internal/external groups.*
- f. This committee is chaired by the past president.

## **Committee Structure for 2005-6**

### **Executive Committee**

*Chair: Kent Taylor - president*

*Members: Geeta Bharadia – vice-president/ chair: program action committee*

*Bonnie Murray - secretary*

*Barb Acton – treasurer/chair: finance committee*

*Michael Porter – registrar*

*Shelley Taggart – chair: Fundraising committee*

*Lorri Yasenik – chair: external relations committee*

### **Finance Committee**

*Chair: Barb Acton*

*Members: Kate Wood, Jane Warren*

### **Fund Raising Committee**

*Chair: Shelley Taggart*

*Members: Kim Reiger*

### **Program Action Committee**

**Chair: Geeta Bharadia**

*Members: Chairs of each subcommittee*

*Barbara Bishop: Lunch & Learn*

*Members: Trevor Neil*

*Barbara Bishop: Conference*

*Members: Kent, Geeta Bharadia, Barb Acton.*

*Shelley Taggart: Directories*

*Members: Jane Warren*

*Jane Warren:*

*Website*

*Members:*

*Kent Taylor:*

*Newsletter*

*Members: Charmaine Hammond*

### **External Relations Committee**

*Chair: Lorri Yasenik*

*Members: Lynn Parish, Kent Taylor*