ALBERTA FAMILY MEDIATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Friday, November 28, 2025, 1:00pm

22 AFMS Members in attendance (in-person): Larissa Brell, Iain Campbell, Brett Carlson, Dora Dang, Jami Felesky, Larry Fong, Chantille Groves, Tanya Hutchinson, Gordana Jovanovic, Alasdair Gordon MacKinnon, Micheline Maes, Katherine McKinnon Forgeron, Brad Mustard, Sharon Numerow, Krysta Ostwald, Sanjiv Parmar, Jim Pender, Marcus Sixta, Beth Graham, Sarah Tucker, Matthew Wirove, Bonnie Murray

17 AFMS Members in attendance (online): Nadine Gerig, Edith Kloberdanz, Erika Gordon, Rebecca Adenekan, Dr. Norm Wellington, Doug Moe, KC, Carolyn Allan, Tracy O'Hara, Rita Richardson, Wanda Dennelly, Henrietta Falasinnu, Jan Crommer, Sharon Crooks, KC, Heidi Apolonia, Taylor Norum, Brenda Arseneault, Jacqueline Foreman

Chaired by Brad Mustard, KC, Chair of AFMS. Brad welcomed all to the AGM in person at the annual conference and online at 1:01pm.

1.0 Motion - *to approve the Agenda* **–** Larry Fong, seconded by Iain Campbell, all in favour, passed.

2.0 Motion - *to approve the 2024 AGM Minutes* **–** Iain Campbell, seconded by Dora Dang, all in favour, passed.

3.0 Reports

i) Treasurer's Report (below)

i. Audited financial statements from the 2024/2025 fiscal year on the AFMS website at: Documents - Alberta Family Mediation Society

ii) Report from the Chair (below)

Motion - *to accept these reports into the record* – Katherine McKinnon Forgeron, seconded by Iain Campbell, all in favour, passed.

4.0 Election of the Board of Directors for 2025-26

The Alberta Family Mediation Society is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of a maximum of 15 members of the Society. A new Board of Directors is elected each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The AFMS Board of Directors meets once each month (usually about 9 times per year, currently the second Wednesday of each month at noon) by video conference for 1 hour. Additionally, the Board meets face-to-face up to two times per year. Committees are chaired by Board members and meet whenever necessary throughout the year.

All current members are invited to put their names forward or to nominate individuals who may be interested in contributing to our progressive organization. AFMS welcomes representation from all regions of Alberta. All Board members are required to sign the Board Commitment, Conflict of Interest, and Loyalty Agreement. If you are interested in joining the Board or volunteering on a committee, please submit your CV and a brief statement outlining your interest in volunteering to **info@afms.ca**.

List of Nominees

Returning: Tanya Hutchinson – Calgary
Iain Campbell – Calgary
Edie Kloberdanz – Calgary
Beth Thompson - Calgary
Brad Mustard – Calgary
Katherine McKinnon Forgeron – Calgary
Sharon Numerow – Calgary
Jami Felesky – Calgary
Sharon Crooks - Lacombe

New: Nadine Gerig – Red Deer

Motion – *to accept the slate as presented as the new Board of Directors* – Dora Dang, seconded by Jami Felesky, all in favour, passed.

5.0 Election of Auditor – HoLLP, Edmonton
Motion – *to re-elect our accountants HoLLP as the auditor for AFMS* – Dora Dang, seconded by Iain Campbell, all in favour, passed.

6.0 **New Business -** none

7.0 **Motion –** *to adjourn the AGM* – Larry Fong

Treasurer's Report 2025, Fiscal year end March 31

I'm pleased to share that our auditor, Ho LLP, has completed their review and provided us with a clean audit opinion for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

We closed the year with a loss of $10,441, primarily due to delayed membership renewals and the absence of paid trainings or webinars, aside from complimentary Lunch & Learn sessions for members.

Despite this, AFMS remains in strong financial shape, with an operating cash balance of approximately $40,000 at fiscal year-end.

We are excited about some new revenue producing plans already underway this year. As well, we are tightening up the expense side of our budget in anticipation of a break-even budget next year. The short- and long-term financial sustainability of AFMS remains a priority of the board.

As always, member feedback is welcome. If you have any questions regarding the Society's finances, feel free to reach out to me at info@afms.ca.

I would also like to extend my many thanks to our administrator, Sue Bedier, for her dedicated efforts in maintaining our financial records, for assisting the Board, and for bringing me up to speed quickly, and to our auditor, Ho LLP, for their patience and work.

Sincerely,

Sharon Numerow, CDFA, Treasurer

Report from the AFMS Chair 2025

We are excited to host our second in-person conference in two years and extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone joining us, both in person and virtually. With members across Alberta and Canada, offering a virtual option for the AGM enables broader participation and engagement among our community.

In early 2025, the board successfully held a retreat and updated our Strategic Plan. Our Vision Statement and goals are set out below.

VISION STATEMENT

AFMS envisions a future where family mediation is the preferred method for resolving disputes in Alberta, fostering harmonious families and communities through skilled, compassionate, and innovative conflict resolution.

MANDATE

The Alberta Family Mediation Society is committed to:

1. Advancing the practice of family mediation through rigorous training, education, and professional development.
2. Promoting public awareness and understanding of the benefits of family mediation.
3. Setting and maintaining high standards for mediator certification and ethical practice.
4. Advocating for accessible and equitable family mediation services across Alberta.
5. Fostering collaboration among mediators, legal professionals, and community organizations to enhance the family justice system.
6. Embracing innovation and technology to improve the delivery and accessibility of mediation services.
7. Supporting research and development of best practices in family mediation.
8. Providing leadership in shaping family mediation policy and practice in Alberta.

This year has been dynamic with mandatory participation requirements for certain forms of ADR leading to a notable rise in memberships and mediators pursuing AFMS designations. Visits to our website and calls to our phone line from individuals seeking family mediation information have increased significantly.

We have set a goal to develop AFMS-branded courses. Building on our arbitration training at last year's AGM, we plan to introduce advanced arbitration training opportunities in February 2026 with Dr. Larry Fong, Ret. Judge Nancy Flatters, KC and Brad Mustard, KC as instructors.

We have sought to increase the frequency of Lunch & Learns to provide continuing education for our members. Topics covered recently at our Lunch & Learn sessions:

- **October 28, 2025 - Child Sexual Abuse in Family Law Contexts.**
- **May 27, 2025 - AI readiness in the legal sector. Is Your Legal Practice AI Ready?**
- **April 22, 2025 - How to Read Financial Statements**
- **February 25, 2025 - Understanding Coercive Control**

All our Lunch & Learns are available for members to view anytime on the AFMS website.

Over the past few years, we have conducted a thorough review of the education and experience requirements to ensure our designations remain current and relevant. We have also finalized our new designation, “Registered Family Mediator and Arbitrator” (RFMA), and published it on our website. We have clarified on the website the designations for parenting coordination with arbitration powers and parenting coordinator with non-arbitration powers.

We are updating our membership registration process, eliminating the PDF version in favour of more web-based submissions.

We have worked to establish stronger partnerships and relationships with key stakeholders, including AFCC, ADRIA, the Courts, the University of Calgary, and FMC.

Our partnership with Family Mediation Canada (FMC) continues to benefit our members, including reduced-cost training, the opportunity for a national profile, and certification in elder mediation for those who choose that path.

Our relationship with ADRIA continues to provide a reciprocal membership fee discount for dual members.

The AFMS Board of Directors is always looking for additional members to assist us on the Board or on our various committees. If you are interested, please get in touch with anyone on the Board or our Administrative Officer, Sue Bedier.

I want to express my deep gratitude to my fellow Board members for their support and dedication. Their expertise and hard work have been invaluable. We have a small hands-on working board whose dedication is unmatched. I want to thank Sharon Crooks for her years of dedication and work on the Board in many capacities, including Chair and Past Chair. I want to also recognize and thank Katherine Mooney for her time on the AFMS Board.

I also want to recognize our exceptional Administrative Officer, Sue Bedier. Her knowledge, commitment, and care are critical to our organization's ongoing success.

In closing, I wish you and yours all the very best, and thank you for your support of AFMS.

Brad Mustard, KC, Chair