

**FAMILY MEDIATION CANADA**

**2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 11, 2006**

**12:00 P.M. (B.C. Time)  
Charest Reporting  
Suite 1650, 885 West Georgia  
Vancouver, BC**

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**Present:** 17 Members Present In-Person. 13 Members Present by Teleconference.

**FMC Board of Directors Present:**

Judge Michael Porter – President (AB) (Executive Committee)  
Gerry Schoel - Past-President (QC) (Executive Committee)  
Kathy Balagus – Secretary (MB) (Executive Committee)  
Jane Warren – Treasurer (AB) (Executive Committee)  
Robert Kominar – Member-At-Large (ON) (Executive Committee)  
Pat Donihee – Member-At-Large (NB) (Executive Committee)  
Beverley Porter  
Frank Bulger  
Dr. Howard Irving  
Judy McCann-Beranger  
Vivian Kerenyi

**1. The President called the meeting at 12:15 P.M.**

**2. Acceptance of Agenda** – Pat Donihee moved the agenda to be accepted as presented. Gerry Schoel seconded.

**3. Adoption of 2005 AGM Minutes** – Robert Kominar moved the adoption of those minutes and Beverley Porter Seconded, the minutes were adopted as presented.

**4. Election of Directors** –The Nominations Committee chaired by Gerry Schoel, Past President, Judy McCann-Beranger, Former Past-President and Pat Donihee presented the slate below.

Slate for FMC Nominations 2006-2007

<b>Director</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Period Ending</b>
Judge Michael Porter	Alberta	Elected	2nd	2010
Jane Warren	Alberta	Elected	1st	2007
Erika Deines	Alberta	Elected	1st	2009

leaving

Director	Province	Status	Term	Period Ending
Beverley Porter	British Columbia	Elected	2nd	2008
Vivian Kerenyi	British Columbia	Elected	1st	2007
Stephen Madigan	British Columbia	TBA	1st	2009
Kathy Balagus	Manitoba	Appointed	1st	2007
Pat Donihee	New Brunswick	Appointed	2nd	2008
Judy McCann-Beranger	Newfoundland	Elected	1st	2007
Andrew Pavey	Nova Scotia	Appointed	1st	2009
Dr. Howard Irving	Ontario	Elected	1st	2007
Elizabeth Sterritt	Ontario	TBA	1st	2009
Robert Kominar	Ontario	Appointed		
Frank Bulger	Prince Edward Island	Appointed	1st	2007
	Prince Edward Island	TBA		
Gerry Schoel	Quebec	Elected	1st	2008
	Saskatoon	TBA		
Cara Smith	Yukon	Elected	1st	2007

leaving

**Election of Directors Discussion:**

**Report by Gerry Schoel** – Within the above slate, Gerry mentioned the names of those that were proposed, Firstly, Judge Michael Porter (AB), Jane Warren (AB), Erica Deines (AB), Bev Porter (BC), Vivian Kerenyi (BC), Stephen Madigan (BC) to be announced, Kathy Balagus (MB), Pat Donihee (NB), Judy McCann-Beranger, Andrew Pavey (NS), Dr. Howard Irving (ON), Elizabeth Sterritt (ON) to be announced, Frank Bulger (PEI), Gerald Schoel (QC), Cara Smith (YK).

Jane Warren and Kathy Balagus leaving before the end of their term effective today leaving two positions open in Alberta and Manitoba.

**British Columbia** – The President advised that Linda Bonnell, from BC is prepared to stand for election to the board is prepared to take on the President-Elect position. The President also stated that Betty Ife, from BC is similarly prepared to stand for the board. Vivian Kerenyi stood down because she recognizing the need to have a President-Elect in order for Judge Michael Porter to continue as President and in order for the organization to continue. Gerry stated we now have four people standing for the position as an elected director, Erika Deines from Alberta, Elizabeth Sterritt from Ontario, Betty Ife from BC and Linda Bonnell from BC and asked if there are any other nominations from the floor?

Peggy English officially nominated Linda Bonnell and Pat Donihee seconded it.

Lia Versaavel nominated Betty Ife and Carole McKnight seconded it.

Gerry Schoel indicated that we still have Steve Madigan to discuss because he is a candidate which means you have three people for two positions. Therefore, he believes according to FMC bylaws, regulations, and so forth, we need to hold a vote.

To allow available BC Positions Bev Porter resigned as an elected director.

**Last call for BC nominations was made. Judge Michael Porter declared Linda Bonnell and Betty Ife as Elected Directors from BC.**

**A BC member election vote was held for appointing Bev Porter or Steve Madigan. Bev Porter was chosen by the BC delegation.**

**Ontario** – Gerry reported Dr. Howard Irving who was elected is finishing off his term in 2007 so he is an automatic continuation. Elizabeth Sterritt was duly nominated from Ontario; therefore she would be elected in her first term for Ontario. OAFM advised they will be appointing somebody but a name has not been put forth as of yet. Robert Kominar was under the impression that he should still be appointed however Gerry advised his term ended 2006. Robert put forth his candidacy. Vivian Kerenyi nominated Robert Kominar and Brenda Arsenault seconded it. An Election vote was held for the two people in Ontario, Robert Kominar and Elizabeth Sterritt who both spoke on their behalf. By a Vote of 17 to 8; in favour of Robert Kominar. **Judge Michael Porter declared Robert Kominar Elected for Ontario. Gerry Schoel advised that he is going to suggest to OAFM that Elizabeth Sterritt be appointed.**

**Alberta** – Gerry reported as we have two people from AB, Judge Michael Porter and Erika Deines, we've asked the Alberta Family Mediation Society to appoint a third and are still awaiting that name.

**Manitoba** – Gerry reported that we have asked Manitoba to appoint somebody.

Nominations were called, no other nominations. Upon motions duly made and seconded, nominations were declared closed.

*Judge Michael Porter made a vote of thanks to the outgoing directors. Thanked Kathy Balagus, who's been secretary for a number of years and a board member for some time before that, for all her hard work. Thanked Warren who's done a wonderful job as Treasurer. We are very, very grateful to both of them for the time they've put in and the work that they've done.*

#### **5. Treasurer's Report – Jane Warren:**

Jane reported on fiscal Year April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006. That year was a year that I hope FMC never has to repeat. It was a very rocky year, but a lot was achieved in terms of getting the finances back under control. A lot of cost cutting, and a significant reduction in expenses. Unfortunately a relatively significant reduction in revenue as well, but we're still on the right side of the balance so hopefully we can at least keep the revenue numbers that we have now going forward and hopefully build on them.

Our operations have now been reduced to a point where we are running fine, but we're just running on bare minimum from an expenditure point of view. So now, again, it's a question of where the organization is going to go from here. The year that the financial records are for were way under zero at this time last year. We got by by borrowing, which has subsequently all been paid back. We have no debt. We've paid off all of our outstanding liabilities including and most importantly the Delta Meadowvale issue that came out of the October 2004 Conference and I have a huge vote of thanks to Robert Kominar for helping me, he took care of it and negotiated with them.

One of the ways we have cut costs; is that we cut all staff; except for our administrative assistant. She's part-time on contract and is invaluable to what we all do. We don't want to lose that by any means.

According to our current fiscal year, assuming that membership stays the same and cost don't go up dramatically, then we're going to have a healthy surplus at this time next year.

With respect to certification there is money put aside in the certification account.

Jane then opened the floor for any questions or concerns.

Joyce Bradley commented on the electrifying difference between 2005 and 2006 and said that Jane did a bang up job with all of this. Vivian Kerenyi made a huge vote of thanks for everything Jane has done.

Gerry Schoel moved that we accept the Financial Statement as presented by the Treasurer. Brenda Arsenault seconded it. No one opposed. Financial Statement was accepted.

#### **6. Appointment of Auditors – Jane Warren**

A Motion to Re-Appoint the existing Auditors, Simon, McWhinnie, Riediger & Meredith was made. Joyce Bradley moved the motion and Pat Donihee seconded it. No one opposed. Judge Michael Porter declared Simon, McWhinnie, Riediger & Meredith as the appointed auditors for the upcoming year.

#### **7. President's Report – Michael Porter**

Michael reported that his report is really limited to the letters that he sent out to members over the course of the year. Specifically with respect to certification, the idea is to see if we can get certification preparation workshops running across the country and to see how we can get people across the country to join in the same number as BC. Robert Kominar, Dr. Howard Irving and Bev Porter said they will work towards putting on workshops. Peggy English and Joyce Bradley have also indicated that they'll step in and assist.

It was stated that when Michael went through last years minutes he noticed that it was requested that we put the executive and board meeting minutes onto the website. Our website was not in working capacity last year so we were unable to accomplish this but

the hope is to do this in the coming year. We've got a new website up and running but we have no one to operate it. So hopefully some one will step forward and help us with that this year.

There was also discussion in the previous year with Matt Thorpe of having an Aboriginal component to FMC. Matt Thorpe and Michael Porter did not get the chance to meet over the year and to date this Aboriginal component has not got off the ground.

Another item that must still be worked out is the new relationships that must be forged with provincial organizations. Our organization needs to take a much more global approach to things.

There has also been talk about an elder's council; a past president's council and so forth that Michael Porter would like to get going as well.

Michael opened the door for questions.

Members thanked Judge Michael Porter for his newsletter as it was found a very effective and clear way for members to receive information. Thanks were given to Michael for his time, effort, and hard work.

#### **8. Administrator's Report – Carrie Cekerevac**

Carrie was not present and Judge Michael Porter spoke on Carrie's Behalf indicating that she filed a brief Administrators Report outlining her responsibilities, what she's accomplished over the course of the last year, reported on the membership and certification numbers and that she's moved the office into her home. No questions about the report, Moved Forward to Certification.

#### **9. Certification Committee Report – Beverley Porter and Dr. Howard Irving**

Bev Porter reported that the Certification Committee members are Dr. Howard Irving from Ontario, Kent Taylor from Alberta, Lena K. Jones from Ontario, Kathy Balagus from Manitoba and Judy McCann-Beranger from Prince Edward Island and now from Newfoundland.

Bev Porter Reported: The Committee met a number of times by conference call, and back in June there was a presentation to the Harmonization committee, which passed the project. Then it went out to the board and the certification committee again to develop criteria around how that was going to be done. When the committee met again to discuss it, it was difficult to come up with additional criteria so the Committee listed a number of things for the pilot project and found it really difficult to come up with anything other than what was already proposed. . So then the certification committee came back to the board. At the following board meeting we had representation from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and BC and the Alberta representative was absent. During discussion at the meeting the board then agreed to revoke the resolution, and decided the certification process will stands as it has for the last ten years at this time.

Another vote at the board meeting was taken to develop certification for the next year. A process that would be going out across Canada to try and get more people certified. The board agreed to reduce the certification fee by \$300 for one year, and promote the workshops at cost. So Dr. Howard Irving agreed to start off in Ontario. He's going to be looking for somebody to co-facilitate with him. Robert Kominar, Peggy English and Joyce Bradley agreed to involve themselves with this process as well. Carole McKnight agreed to help in any way she can. FMC would like to get the workshops up and running across Canada. It was also stated that it would be good to look at people who have been through the certification process to run those workshops. Gerry Schoel added that FMC would like to offer a workshop during our annual conference as well.

Bev Porter continued and said that a change that FMC did make is now a requirement to have a degree or an equivalency of a degree. A Thank you to Lilian Henrikson, was made for all her hard work that she's done as a Certifying Administrator. And a big thank you was also made to Carole McKnight and Dr. Linda Neilson for their hard work and involvement in Certification.

Peggy English commented that she is glad we are moving forth with the workshops again because this is what made it work in the beginning. There has to be a national program so there's consistency across the country.

Judge Michael Porter asked if there were any other questions for Bev Porter as the chairperson of the certification committee. No further questions. Everybody at FMC is interested in making it the best it can be, we've got a sense of direction and we'll move forward. The certification committee was thanked for their work.

#### **10. Future Vision for Family Mediation Canada – Members debate**

Judge Michael Porter reported that there was a retreat in Winnipeg this year with Orysia Kostiuk, Past President who helped FMC develop a vision for the future, specifically on the professional development, the outreach program to the public, certification and FMC's charitable status. These are four areas we really want to focus on.

Joyce Bradley suggested that FMC have a central contact from the board, someone for the membership to contact and find out about volunteering for the board, committees, and to find out what's available to volunteer for. Vivian Kereyni suggested we have an elder's (wisdom) advisory board that people can refer to, who can just reflect on what they've done in the past, what's worked and what didn't. Donna Bond added perhaps a Past-President's council like Judge Michael Porter suggested.

It was also suggested that in the next year FMC look into child protection mediation.

Having a website blog was also suggested, FMC would need somebody to coordinate that and provide to our web technician.

The issue of future conference plans was raised. Judge Michael Porter said that FMC would like to do a number of regional conferences or team up with other organizations but nothing is set in stone.

### **11. Other Business**

A request was made by Andrew Pavey from Nova Scotia that membership fees come directly to the provincial organization and they would remit to FMC. Judge Michael Porter agreed to discuss at the next board meeting. A second piece of business from Andrew Pavey is that Nova Scotia is looking at revitalizing a child protection mediation program and has the backing of the law foundation and the court. Nova Scotia would really like to bring FMC into this project. Judge Michael Porter suggested that a committee would need to be built for this and that it would be discussed at the next board meeting.

Going forward FMC will look into public education, child protection, certification workshops, new things for FMC to get involved in and new opportunities for our members.

### **12. Adjournment**

Motion for adjournment was made and seconded at 2:00 P.M. (phone line was then closed)

Minutes recorded by Marina Hopkins of Charest Reporting Inc. and Prepared by Beverley Porter, FMC Secretary and Carrie Cekerevac, FMC Administrative Assistant