

FAMILY MEDIATION CANADA
President's Report for the AGM October 26, 2007 in Halifax, Nova Scotia

I took over as President of FMC on May 22, 2007. As a priority FMC's status as a charitable organization was reviewed and all the practical details and paperwork were completed to ensure that FMC is in good standing.

Without an Executive Director the FMC Executive often contributes additional volunteer hours towards the day to day running of FMC. Our Board met via tele-conference every six weeks and the Executive met at least once between board meetings. Over the last year new Board relationships have formed and a new energy has emerged. In order to sustain this energy we need our FMC members to join committees and to share their talents and expertise.

The focus of the Board this year was on the big question: What does FMC do for its members? Why belong to FMC? We looked at initiatives that would benefit our members.

The financial picture for FMC is now stable and organized into a well-run portfolio. This enabled the Board to make the decision to hire Carrie Cekaverac, as our fulltime Administrative Assistant and employee of FMC on July 3, 2007. The Board has embraced this decision as we felt it was most important for Carrie to be available to our membership and to new members, on a regular basis, Monday to Friday. Our members can get informative assistance with their questions or be directed to a Board member or committee chair, in a timely manner. All of FMC's historical documents have been moved into storage near Carrie who has begun to sort and archive FMC's history. Carrie is also initiating and organizing many marketing ideas for FMC.

Last fall FMC negotiated a new insurance package for our members with Aon Canada Ltd. It's a great package for mediators. We were also approached by other organizations for letters of support for their projects. And we were pleased to award the Daniel L. Hamoline Bursary to Susan Gavin of New Brunswick.

The re-launching of our Newsletter *Resolve* was done for our FMC membership. It is one way for each of you, no matter which province or territory you live in, to share information, ideas, and educational opportunities and to become aware of what is going on in the field of mediation in the rest of Canada. Your Educational Committee has introduced educational Webinars as a way to provide educational opportunities in topical fields.

The Board has agreed to revive the discussion paper on FMC Certification Equivalencies Pilot Project that was prepared in September 2006. The topic of Certification is indeed a sensitive one and each Board member brings to the table their own feelings and ideas, as well as their provincial perspective.

As a national organization we want to strengthen our relationships with Provincial associations. I had the pleasure of speaking with Alberta Family Mediation Society Board members, and the Provincial Director of Family Justice Services and A/Deputy Minister in British Columbia. I also met with Peter Salem, President of AFCC, to discuss plans to hold our AGM in May 2008 in Vancouver at the same time as the AFCC annual conference.

Family Mediation Nova Scotia offered to host the Annual General Meeting of FMC in conjunction with their Annual General Meeting and I will be attending in person. FMNS has also organized an education day before the AGMs and FMC has provided an educational grant to FMNS to assist them with the costs.

I look forward to a productive year.

Linda Bonnell
President