

**FAMILY MEDIATION CANADA**  
**President's Report**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**November 15, 2008 in Ottawa, Ontario**

As I look back over the last year I see that new energy has emerged within Family Mediation Canada. New board members have joined in with the more seasoned ones and together, they and their active committees, have been meeting, generating ideas, establishing plans and working towards their goals. FMC has been gaining more momentum because of the commitment, the energy and the enthusiasm generated by this Board.

In 2007 the FMC Board assessed in what way FMC provided for its members and then focused on initiatives that would benefit our members directly. Looking back over 2008 membership has grown and our services to members have also increased in the following ways: educational webinar opportunities; the distribution of the newsletter *Resolve* filled with professional articles, news from other provinces and all of FMC's news; better than competitive insurance rates with AON; reduced costs for certification; FMC participated as a collaborating organization for the AFCC conference held in Vancouver last May, FMC hosted an exhibitor table, and held a reception for all attending FMC members. The FMC Committee chairs have done a wonderful job this year. Each of the chairs have donated additional time commitments in order for their committees to meet and carry out plans that benefit our members. Well done!

The financial health of FMC has been stable and in such good standing that the Board has focused on ways that FMC can offer financial assistance to its members and affiliates. This past year FMC provided some financial support to Family Mediation Nova Scotia both for their Child Protection Research initiative and to host an educational workshop before last years AGM. Also, via a lottery system, five FMC members received full financial support to attend the Eldercare World Summit held in Ottawa last May.

Carrie Cekaverac, our Administrative Assistant, has completed one year as a FMC full time employee and her contract has been renewed. She is the front line for all the inquiries that FMC receives as well as being the glue that holds all of our FMC committees and Board work together and she has been doing a wonderful job. She completed the QuickBooks course and will be taking over the day to day book keeping in cooperation with the Treasurer.

The Board agreed to revive the discussion paper on FMC Certification Equivalencies Pilot Project at the last AGM. Over the year the certification committee has made some significant changes to the certification process, applicant's costs, and has hired experts to assist FMC with the development of a stream designed for those experienced mediators using Prior Learning and Recognition. One of our future goals is to examine how this approach can be incorporated so that FMC is more inclusive with each unique province or provincial mediation association.

As a national organization FMC wants to continue building and strengthening relationships with other mediation associations and we welcome feedback on how FMC can support the work of local and provincial mediation organizations. FMC has recently formalized a partnership with Eldercare Mediation Canada and together will develop a plan that is mutually beneficial to both organizations. An educational partnership has also been formed with the Canadian Counselling

Association so that both organizations can benefit by sharing educational objectives and information about webinar offerings.

FMC graciously accepted an invitation from Ontario Association for Family Mediation OAFM – Ottawa to host our 2008 AGM in Ottawa and together with Carlton University's Centre for Conflict Education and Research. The three organizations have worked together to plan a day long event today. It began with a morning workshop given by Dr Cheryl Picard and attended by alumni from Carlton's Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution, OAFM-Ottawa members, and FMC board and members. After the FMC afternoon AGM, we have planned a dinner together and an evening of discussion with OAFM-Ottawa, CCER and FMC. Thank you to the AGM Committee for all their time and effort to organize this day. A special thank you to Elizabeth Sterritt, President of OAFM-Ottawa, and an FMC Board Member, who was the instrumental link that brought the three organizations together in this educational partnership. Elizabeth worked especially hard to ensure that the details for this weekend came together. Ten members of the FMC Board from eight provinces coast to coast have gathered in Ottawa for this weekend and we are using this opportunity to meet together as a Board to discuss and create some new strategies and goals for FMC.

I look forward to another productive and exciting year working with the FMC Board for our many members across Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bonnell  
President