

**Family Mediation Canada
Annual General Meeting 2008
November 15th, 2008
Ottawa, ON**

Treasurer's Report

As I complete my term as Treasurer for Family Mediation Canada it is my pleasure, once again, to report that Family Mediation Canada is in a stable financial position. Thanks to the hard work of our Board Members and Carrie Cekerevac, our Administrative Assistant in our Head Office in Waterloo, ON, we have managed to further streamline our operations, cut costs, and stay on budget.

Through the magic of technology and a lot of patience on the part of Board and Committee Members, we conduct most of the business of FMC by e-mail, fax, and phone, including conference calls. Carrie is our only full-time employee. She coordinates our operations from a home office, and this has allowed us to greatly streamline our operation. Aside from Carrie our staff includes a bookkeeper – Brian Altman – whom we pay a nominal monthly fee to keep our financial business in order, and to coordinate our audit each year. We contract with four assessors across the country – Carole McKnight in West Vancouver, BC; Anne Bolton in Winnipeg, MB; Leanne Shafir in Toronto, ON; and Kirsten Lund in Charlottetown, PEI -- to carry out certification assessments as needed. And we contract our web hosting and maintenance with Jason Stevens out of Calgary, AB. All the rest of our manpower is volunteer, and this has greatly enabled us to cut our operational costs these last two years.

This year's audit for the financial year ending March 31st, 2008 was completed by the offices of Simon McWhinnie Riediger and Meredith out of Kitchener, ON. A copy has been posted on our website. Should you have any questions arising from their report and financial statements please give us a call, or drop us a line, and we'll try to answer them as best as we can.

FMC continues to operate in the black. As of this writing we have no outstanding debt. Our net assets as of March 31st, 2008 totalled \$88,329 – up \$18,896 from 2007.

The balance in our **operating account**, as of November 15th, 2008, is \$57,717.88. 67% of our income overall, and 90% of our operating funds, comes from membership dues. To those of you who chose to renew your membership this year, or who came aboard as new members, we thank you. Without your continued support there would be no funds to keep FMC going. We also generate a small income from the sale of publications, and advertising (on our website, and in Resolve) thanks to the marketing efforts of Carrie. And we generate income from webinars which we share with our presenters 60/40 after expenses. From our operating account we pay out approximately \$1811 in office expenses (office supplies and equipment rental), and operational expenses (insurance, bookkeeper's fees, auditor's fees, utilities, web hosting, and banking fees) each month.

And we pay Carrie and pay her employee expenses, bringing our total monthly expenses to approximately \$4,404. Annually this translates into a budget of \$52,846.82.

This year we felt that we were in a secure enough financial position to give back to our Members. We awarded the Daniel L. Hamoline Q.C. Bursary of \$1000. We gave an educational grant of \$200 to Family Mediation Nova Scotia. We gave a research grant of \$5000 to the Alzheimer's Society of PEI Inc. to further their research into the benefits of elder care mediation. We gave a \$200 grant to Family Mediation Nova Scotia to help out with their research into Child Protection Mediation. We sponsored five FMC members to attend the Elder Mediation International Conference in Ottawa last spring. And we donated a free membership, and held daily basket draws at the AFCC Conference in Vancouver, BC in May. With your continued support we hope to continue with many more partnerships and membership rewards in the coming year.

The balance in our **certification account**, as of November 15th, 2008, is \$5,322.15. This account is totally separate from our operating account. Certification fees are paid into it, and certification assessor's fees come out of it. This past spring we parcelled out the duties of our former Certifying Administrator in an effort to further reduce the cost of certification and make it more affordable for our members. As a result of this move we have been successful in reducing the cost of certification from \$600 to \$400, and yet still cover our certification expenses.

A big thank you to Carrie Cekerevac, our Administrative Assistant, for the outstanding job she has done this past year coordinating invoices and receipts, processing payments, making deposits, entering financial information onto our working database, and answering financial questions from myself and other Board Members.

Although my term as Treasurer has drawn to a close I will continue to provide financial updates to our Members via *Resolve* and *Resolve Express*. And always we welcome your feedback.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ife
Treasurer
Family Mediation Canada