



Family Mediation Canada / Médiation Familiale Canada

Education Committee Report
Prepared for the 2015 FMC Annual General Meeting
on Saturday, November 14, 2015

The Board of FMC is very much aware of the challenges posed by distance and cost to delivering training to family mediators across Canada, especially those in rural, remote, and small communities. This year FMC continued to offer webinars to bring topics of interest to members of FMC and non-members alike across Canada through the use of technology.

In May 2015 Mary Damianakis presented on “International Family Disputes and Mediation” which was well attended by 19 participants. It was so well received that she was requested to give an encore presentation, which she did in September 2015, attended by 9 participants including the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development. Congratulations, Mary, on putting together training on a sensitive issue.

In December we have scheduled a webinar on “Enhancing Your Sensitivities – What Elder Mediators Need to Know to Facilitate Optimal Outcomes”. Judy McCann-Beranger, our presenter, is a well known trainer and educator in the field of Elder Mediation, and has put together a webinar that is sure to stretch the social and ethical issues related to Elder Mediation and Family Mediation.

This month we invited Hilary Linton to lead our annual workshop. Hilary is presenting on the topic of “Advanced Family Mediation Skills”, helping FMC help our certified family mediators with their annual training requirement of fourteen hours of mediation training each three years. The workshop agenda is jam-packed with topics that no doubt all our attendees will find useful in their practice.

Many members of FMC are actively involved as mentors and trainers in their own communities. A few of our members are offering training on a bigger scale – both nationally and internationally – and we at FMC are very proud of their involvement in helping mediators obtain mediation and family mediation content skills and training.

FMC is also aware of the challenges facing mediators who are trying to get their practical hours in order to apply for certification. We are in current discussion with the certification committee to see what might be done to address these issues.

In the meantime we welcome your input into topics that might be appropriately delivered through webinars and our annual workshop.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ife
Education Committee Chair
Family Mediation Canada