



**Family Mediation Canada / Médiation Familiale Canada**

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**2017 FMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:**

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

**Time:**

12:30 P.M. Eastern Time

**Location:**

Law Society of Upper Canada  
130 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario

**BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE:**

To call into the telephone conference, please dial **1-888-289-4573** and then enter the access code **1893116**.

**Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Acceptance of Agenda
3. Adoption of 2016 Annual General Meeting Minutes
4. Election of Directors - Nominations Committee – Gerry Schoel / Tom Dart
5. Reports
  - a) President’s Report – Lia Versaevel
  - b) Treasurer’s Report – Tamara Bodnaruk-Wide
    - i. Review of Financial Statements 2015/2016
    - ii. Appointment of Accountants
  - c) Certification Committee Report – Judy McCann-Beranger
  - d) Governance Committee Report –Gerry Schoel
  - e) Membership Committee Report - Brenda Arseneault
6. Future Vision for Family Mediation Canada – Members
7. Other Business
8. Adjournment

**President's Report**  
**Prepared for the 2017 FMC Annual General Meeting**  
**on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 in Toronto, Ontario at 12:30 P.M.**

This has been a relatively quiet term in the history of FMC, but there have been a couple of situations that have taken up a great deal of our time and energy and will likely continue to need work by the incoming President and Board. These include the ongoing need to improve the website, and the frustration around unauthorized use of our intellectual property for the profit of other organizations.

As we move forward, we realize the critical need to identify conflicts of interest of members and particularly committee and Board members who may be subject to improper use of materials or information, or breaches of confidentiality.

Even though we are all volunteers on the Board and the committees, I feel it is important to request that, to the best of anyone's ability, they are able to make time commitments to regular meetings of the Board. With a country that spans multiple time zones, this is increasingly difficult, however, with technology, I believe our recorded meetings could be made accessible to those who miss a meeting, and that we could set up a format for people to participate remotely on line, rather than on a phone.

Although we considered alternatives to a full time executive secretary last year, it does not seem, in my view, that we could manage all the administrative tasks on less hours, or in having two people conduct the functions of the job in different parts of the country and then attempt to coordinate. I do believe that we need to continue to review this major expenditure, but this in no way reflects on our collective appreciation for all of the work that our current incumbent in this role performs.

I took office in Vancouver in 2015, on the heels of a Federal change in government, however, we have not gained significant supports federally, and I believe there is an ongoing need to obtain grants and funding from Federal sources, and to look at Provincial and private funding sources as well.

It will become increasingly important to provide webinars, mentorships, practicums, job shadowing opportunities and supports to work through Prior Learning Assessments and Certifications across Canada. Due to the increasing costs for members to attend annual AGMs and training events, we will need to look at new ways to get the information out, perhaps in the form of training in regional locations supported by FMC, or "Cruise Ship" training where we provide expertise and information in on board formatting, or combine training with regional retreats that are family friendly.

The devastating loss of personal friendship earlier this year, in the death of my long term colleague and friend, Betty Ife, a former FMC President and influential force on so many committees and projects, become a shared loss as I realized that Betty was everyone's friend in FMC. As colleagues we rallied and recognized Betty, dedicating a new scholarship in her name, to be awarded to a nominee who demonstrates, as Betty did, the tenacity in overcoming physical disabilities, in pursuit of certification as a mediator. The Betty Ife Memorial Scholarship will be just one legacy to commemorate the life of an incredible person who chose mediation as a career.

We must “add value” to our membership and certification groups, and provide incentives, marketing, training and possibly insurance benefits, in order to expand our membership and retain those who are currently members.

We are excited to embark upon a formal Association Agreement with FDRIO and look to other partnerships, affiliations, associations in the future.

We are pleased to have had the opportunity to work with FDRIO to present this year’s Conference, and look to other organizations to help us host conferences in the future.

We have embarked with FDRIO upon promising work on a peer reviewed professional publication based on Canadian experience and law, and anticipate more news in this regard in the near future.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served FMC as President over the past two years, and look forward to my continuing role as Past President.

Respectfully submitted,

Lia Versaevel, MA  
President  
Family Mediation Canada



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### **Treasurer’s Report**

I am happy to report, once again, that the 2016-2017 fiscal year for Family Mediation Canada was a stable one.

As in prior years, MNP LLP in Waterloo, ON, prepared our year-end financial statement. This year’s financial statement did not require auditing. In this statement, they once again report that “Based on [their] review, nothing has come to [their] attention that causes [them] to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.”

Copies of the financial statements have been distributed to board members, executive members, and other members attending the AGM as an attachment to the agenda. Further, a copy will be posted to the website along with a copy of this report after the AGM.

At year end (and continuing to today), FMC was in a very stable financial position, with no outstanding debt. I continued to search for innovative ways to save FMC money, and to streamline practices. Financial highlights of 2016-2017 (similar to 2015-2016) include:

- We maintained the minimum balance necessary each month to waive monthly banking fees, which is a significant savings to FMC;
- Reducing service fees for ADP payroll processing;

- Continuing the process of website development, creating an e-commerce section to accept payments on-line for things such as yearly membership renewals, new membership payments, webinars and conference fees;
- We continued to earn interest on our locked-in GIC.

This was my last year as treasurer, as I am now moving on to the position of President. As I pass the reigns to the next treasurer, I hope that they aspire to the same goals as I did: To make every effort to be the guardian of FMC funds with integrity and frugality, seeking ways to save FMC money where possible, and ensuring that they are accountable for same to the board, the executive and the membership at large. I thank the membership for entrusting me with this responsibility, and have truly been honoured to serve in this position for the past number of years.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara Bodnaruk-Wide, B.A., M.J.A., Acc.F.M., FDRP Med.  
Treasurer  
Family Mediation Canada



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### **Certification Committee Report**

The FMC certification committee is chaired by Judy McCann-Beranger (NL) and the members are: Cynthia Spratt Goodmundson (MN), Betty Ife (BC, deceased), Eric Skoglund (NL) and Linda Bonnell (BC).

It is with great sadness that we had to announce the sudden death of our fellow committee member, Betty Ife on March 20 of this year. Betty Ife was a dear friend, colleague, mediator, teacher and mentor. Serving on the FMC Board of Directors for 10 years in her various roles as President, Treasurer, Editor of Resolve, FMC Certification Chair and numerous other committees, Betty was a tremendous advocate for mediation. A certification scholarship Award has been established in Betty's memory to honor her life and contributions.

We are very pleased to welcome Jennifer Hubbard to the committee. Jennifer is a Lawyer/Mediator in BC who is FMC Comprehensive Certified. Jennifer comes with a keen interest and passion for the field and will be a real asset to the committee.

We had twelve new candidates this year with 10 successfully completed applicants (6 Family Relations and 4 Comprehensive) and 2 still in process. for a total of 140 Family Relations and Comprehensive certified mediators: 2 from Alberta, 116 from British Columbia, 5 from Manitoba, 2 from Newfoundland, 11 from Ontario, 3 from P.E.I., and 1 from Quebec. FMC certification is considered by most in the field to be the gold standard certification program.

Over this past year the committee addressed numerous queries from people seeking or renewing their certification credentials, responded to requests to review training programs, reviewed and approved family mediation training on request and have just completed a process of reviewing and updating our Candidate's Manual.

We are pleased to work with a group of master mediators from FDRIO (Ontario) who are taking leadership in the province with regard to quality standards and who have started the FMC certification

process. We are looking to grow our Training/Webinar opportunities in 2018 and welcome opportunities to highlight quality trainers.

A very special thanks to our Certification Committee for their dedication and donation of expertise and many precious hours. Thanks to our Certification Registrars, Linda Bonnell who oversees the assessment process and all it entails for the Family Relations and Comprehensive certifications and to Certification Registrar, Greg M. Beranger who oversees the assessment process for the Elder Mediation Certification.

Thank-you to Carrie Cekerevac, for her support to the committee and who is the first contact with our new certification candidates. Carrie does the referral to either the Certification Registrars or the Certification Committee for assistance.

Thanks to the Board of Directors, whose ongoing recognition, commitment and support of this exemplary program allows us to continue promoting and developing this necessary standard.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy M. Beranger  
Certification Committee Chair  
Family Mediation Canada



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### **Governance Committee Report**

The Governance committee has reviewed a number of different projects to make sure that they meet FMC's Bylaws and internal regulations. For example FMC is presently negotiating with FDRIO and there are a number of documents (Agreements) that we are reviewing on an ongoing basis. Elder mediation and the Accreditation committee have also had proposals that were reviewed.

The committee is also reviewing the situation of membership on the Board and whether or not it has to be revised, especially in light of the difficulty of recruiting members to sit on the Board. Similarly we are reviewing the question of representation from the different regions in Canada as membership has been changing dramatically.

The governance committee has also made recommendations re our complaints procedures which have been adopted by the Board. This has made the procedure easier to manage and faster to reply when a complaint is registered.

If a member has a suggestion as to changes that they believe would benefit FMC please do not hesitate to contact the chairperson.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Schoel, c.o.  
Certification Committee Chair  
Family Mediation Canada

## Membership Committee Report

As of November 10, 2017 FMC has a total **435** members and the total in each province is as follows:

- Alberta - **49**
- British Columbia - **193**
- Manitoba - **15**
- New Brunswick - **6**
- Newfoundland – **9**
- Nova Scotia - **18**
- Northwest Territories - **1**
- Nunavut - **2**
- Ontario - **119**
- Prince Edward Island - **9**
- Quebec - **3**
- Saskatchewan – **9**
- Yukon - **2**

Of those **435** members, we have **22** new members that have joined our organization this year and the total of new members in each province is as follows:

- Alberta - **1**
- British Columbia – **8**
- Manitoba - **1**
- New Brunswick – **2**
- Newfoundland – **1**
- Nova Scotia – **2**
- Ontario – **5**
- Prince Edward Island - **2**

FMC continues to offer a referral program, which rewards current members of FMC with \$25 off their next year's membership renewal dues for each new member referred to FMC. Thank you to those of you who have recruited new members for Family Mediation Canada.

If you would like to sit on the membership committee or if you have any comments or suggestions for the committee please contact our office.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Arseneault  
Membership Committee Chair  
Family Mediation Canada