

Certification Committee Report to the
FMC Annual General Meeting via tele-conference
On November 16th, 2013

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

As of November 6, 2013 we have a total of 145 certified members: 115 from British Columbia, 13 from Ontario, 5 from Manitoba, 2 from Alberta, 3 from P.E.I., 2 from New Brunswick, 2 from Newfoundland, 1 from Nova Scotia, 1 from Quebec, and 1 from Saskatchewan. Since our last AGM we have 10 new FMC Certified mediators, we currently have 8 candidates in the application process. Last year 10 certified members retired.

The certification committee had several meetings over the last year. The committee focused on aligning the Elder mediation certification program with the two FMC certifications for Family Relations Mediator and Comprehensive Family Mediator. The committee concluded that it was necessary to create a contract position with dual roles to both oversee all new candidate applications, which was formerly known as the Certifying Administrator role, as well as to be trained as an assessor. The committee agreed to create two contract positions with identical roles, one for each program, to administer both certification processes that would adhere to similar procedures, policies and standards. An Expression of Interest for a Certification Registrar was sent to each FMC Comprehensive Family Mediator late last summer. Greg McCann Beranger has been in the role of Elder Mediation registrar and Linda Bonnell is the new Family Certification registrar.

The certification committee also spent time reviewing the need to hire and train other assessors for the Family Relations and the Comprehensive Family mediator certifications. An Expression of Interest was sent out to all of the comprehensive certified mediators. We are pleased to announce that Antoinette Clarke has joined the assessor team and she brings to this work a wealth of experience in the field of family mediation. She is currently one of FMC's PLAR (Prior Learning and Recognition) assessors. The committee would like to thank Kirstin Lund who has provided assessments for FMC all year and who has agreed to work with the training of the two new assessors. We are also pleased to announce that Leanne Shafir, who was on leave from the FMC assessor role last year, has returned to be part of our assessor team.

The committee would like to acknowledge Rick Shields from Ontario who retired from the certification committee this year to focus on the provincial needs of family mediators in Ontario. Carrie Cekerevac, FMC's Operations Manager has been a most valuable assistant with our certification program over the last number of years. She will still remain the first to have contact with our new certification candidates and will refer them to either the Certification Registrar or the Certification Committee for assistance.

Linda Bonnell
Chair, Certification Committee