



**Family Mediation Canada / Médiation Familiale Canada**

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**A TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH TO CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION: A FAMILY MEDIATION CANADA WEBINAR SERIES**

Presented by Sharon J. Crooks, LLM

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Child protection mediations are among the most difficult mediations done by mediators. There are many reasons for this. The subject matter is always difficult and emotionally charged for all parties because you are dealing with children and their caretakers, many of whom have suffered or are suffering from addiction, disabilities, or mental health challenges. The breadth of knowledge required encompasses provincial and federal laws, region specific practices, advanced mediation skills, and an understanding of diverse groups and the acute, chronic and complex traumas that have influenced and affected that group or individual intergenerationally. The effect of trauma and stress on the brain architecture and development of children is a complex but important area that will also be touched upon.

This 4-part course will provide an overview of what you need to know to effectively mediate child protection cases. It will also provide some specific trauma informed tools that can assist you in preparing for mediation with high conflict, traumatized parties.

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## **Speaker Bio**



Sharon J. Crooks, LLM, has been a lawyer for 33 years, a mediator for 20 years, an arbitrator for 5 years and the managing partner of Rowanoak Law Office LLP since 2002. Sharon has extensive training and experience in family, child protection and children's law, as well as in mediation/arbitration. She has represented parents, grandparents and children in child protection cases in addition to working as in-house counsel for the Children's Aid Society in Hamilton, Ontario. The foregoing combined with her broad training addressing various forms of trauma and dealing with high conflict personalities, allow Sharon to bring a unique perspective and experience to trauma informed child protection mediation.

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