

**FMC Conference and AGM 2021**  
**The Power in Valuing all Voices**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021 via Zoom**

All times are Eastern Time Zone

- 10:50am Online Conference opens (log in to Zoom available)
- 11:00am Welcome and Opening Statements – FMC President Judy M. Beranger
- 11:10am Land Acknowledgment and Introduction of Chief Misel Joe
- 11:15am Children’s Choir
- 11:20am **Presentation A:** Families Finding Their Way Forward in Mediation, Child Protection Mediation – Margaret Stewart Sweet (1 hour)
- 12:30pm **Presentation B:** The Elder Mediator’s Role in Combatting Ageism and Elder Abuse – Judy M. Beranger (1 hour)
- 1:30pm Lunch and Self-care break (1 hour) - It’s Time to Hit Pause - Patrick Zakaria
- 2:30pm **Presentation C:** Sponsor [Come to Agreement](#) (30 min)
- 3:00pm **Presentation D:** How to Avoid Practical Pitfalls (and Ethical Quagmires) in Preparing Mediated Agreements – Jennifer Hubbard (30 min)
- 3:30pm Coffee break (30 min)
- 4:00pm **Presentation E:** Discovering What Children Want to Tell Us: A Child Centred Approach for Family Mediators - Jon Graham and Lorri Yassenik, Ph.D. (2 hours)
- 6:00pm Closing Remarks - Professor Gabriel, McGill University
- 6:10pm FMC Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony
- 6:40pm Adjournment of main Conference events – Judy M. Beranger and Jennifer Hubbard
- 6:45pm **Presentation F:** Round Table Discussion – facilitated by Rhoda Dobler

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

### Presentation A

**Families Finding Their Way Forward in Mediation, Child Protection Mediation - Margaret Stewart Sweet** (11:20am Eastern, 1 hour)

The Child Protection Mediation certification program follows the achievements set out by Family Mediation Canada's preceding nationally recognized certifications in family relations, comprehensive family, and elder mediation. The roll out of the program, commencing this year, is informed by research, working child protection mediators, child protection authorities, social workers, provincial protocols, internationally accepted model mediator competencies, principles, and recommendations. The standards of practice from British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec provided ample justification for the advancement of Child Protection Mediation as a designation. Although child protection mediation has been tremendously popular, where supported by provincial protocols, the practice is not yet widely disseminated throughout Canada's provinces and territories. Mediation designates will face safety concerns which may or may not exist within this child and family population. The Registrar will require assurances that program participants have necessary family trauma information in relation to family dynamics, child development, psychological issues, community resources, legal considerations, assessing a family's ability to participate and transfer learned information forward in informed decision making. Culture is central to how the needs of children and young people are interpreted and responded to as a result of experiences of family violence. Child protection mediators must acquire confidence in their internal cultural knowledge of Canada's Indigenous communities, migrant and refugee families, and all other communities of diversity.

The presentation, will address the following:

1. "When Truth is a Secret"- Starting the child protection conversation. Thru trauma, a child's developing brain can navigate physical anomalies, emotions, behaviors, relationships, and loss which are shaped for life. It can also be permanently damaged. In developing an instructive framework for understanding the impact of family violence on Canadian children and youth, FMC's goal is to reconnect children, families, communities, and their place in the world to the greatest extent possible.
2. Knowledge of the criteria defining the principals of the rights of children, youth, families and how community resources network integrated responses to addressing family violence and other matters jeopardizing the health and well being of children and youth, is essential. Child protection mediators must know how social work child protection criteria are met, how criminal and civil procedures apply, how the Family Law Act, Youth Justice Act, Jordan's Principle, protection orders and other citations are fitting in mediation practice.
3. Developing a map for making a difference. Culture and diversity are central to how the needs of children and young people are interpreted and responded to as a result of experiencing family violence. Addressing alternate dispute resolution requirements of rural and remote children, youth, and communities in Canada must be one of inclusion, collaboration, and diplomatic approaches.

#### 4. Program entrance requirements/Prior Learning and Knowledge

**Bio: Margaret Stewart Sweet**, is an FMC director and chair of Child Protection Mediation Certification Committee. As a Lifetime Member of FMC, she has over 25 years in rural private practice as a Family Relations Mediator(Adv.), Elder Mediator (Adv.), Restorative Justice Facilitator, Child Development/Special Needs/ Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Syndrome involvement, Community-based Development, Conflict Resolution Studies, Social Work within First Nations communities, project officer assisting with the development of an inter-disciplinary team protocols, resources supporting fetal alcohol spectrum disorder for children and families. Work experiences with victims of family violence in social work, residential, and support group settings. Margaret is also office manager and co-owner of Sweet Farms Inc. in O'Leary Prince Edward Island.



#### **Presentation B**

**The Elder Mediator's Role in Combatting Ageism and Elder Abuse - Judy M. Beranger**  
(12:30pm Eastern, 1 hour)

The need to support existing national coalitions to promote awareness and share knowledge about how to respond to ageism with the goal of eventual prevention has never been timelier. The *World Health Organization*, the *United Nations* and the *Elder Mediation International Network* all work toward promoting strategies that foster optimal quality of life through reducing ageism and heightening healthy aging. The goal is to promote dignity and respect and the importance of physical, mental and social wellbeing. In this session we will explore society's acceptance of ageism and its many unrecognized faces, along with the ongoing threat it presents to our wellbeing and to our aging. The healthy aging pillars, as related to Elder Mediation, will be discussed along with the rights and responsibilities needed to do our part in this *Decade of Healthy Aging*.

The *Elder Mediation International Network* recently released an essential tool for Elder Mediators: *Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults*. This will be discussed in the context of its importance to learning and recognizing the many aspects and undercurrents that can present when several generations come together. Creating opportunities to promote understanding, while supporting and strengthening communication with all who are present, will gather insight on the importance of including every person in the room. It will further heighten awareness of

the multiple understandings, interpretations, memories, perceptions, and trauma issues that can creep into the discussion from time to time.

Topics will also include:

- Recognizing ageism in the context of the WHO, the UN and the EMIN
- The occurrence of internalised ageism throughout the EM process
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
- 2021-2030 The Decade of Healthy Aging
- Antidotes to ageism.

**Bio: Judy M. Beranger** is an international trainer, bestselling author, guest lecturer and holds FMC certification in both Family Comprehensive Advanced and EMIN Elder Mediator Advanced. She pioneered training for Elder Mediators in 1994; was later hired to lead the development of international certification and the drafting of the Code of Conduct. She continues to be involved in their growth.

Judy is Chair of Summits for the Elder Mediation International Network (EMIN) and is presently leading the 10<sup>th</sup> World Summit on a virtual platform. She is President of Family Mediation Canada and a Past Chair of EMIN. She has been involved in several research initiatives on Elder Mediation and led a community-based research project to inform the practice of Elder Mediation in Atlantic Canada. She was part of the development of the newly released Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults document. Judy is a recipient of several National and International awards. On receiving the EMIN Sherren Award. Ambassador Patrick Binns, on presenting the award to Judy, at the Canadian Embassy in Dublin congratulated her exceptional contributions to the advancement of Elder Mediation globally and remarked on her tenacity, leadership and inspiring work - both in Canada and abroad bringing together some of the greatest minds in the world. "The resultant positive impact on families around the world is to her credit" said Ambassador Binns.



**Lunch and Self-care Break (1:30pm Eastern, 1 hour)**  
**It's Time to Hit Pause - Patrick Zakaria**

As conflict management practitioners, we are trained to focus our attention on our clients need, often (too often) at the expense of our own well-being. Our professional and personal

relationship to ourselves and others is the heart of our success and ability to improve as individuals, and consequently as experts in our field.

This session will be an invitation to pause our busy professional mind and self-reflect on our own needs. It is only by connecting to our very essence that we can provide our clients and colleagues the best we have to offer.

**Bio: Patrick Zakaria** is a member of the Quebec Bar Association since 2007. He has been trained in commercial and family conflict management both in Quebec and the U.S. and provides workshops in Canada and internationally. He contributed with the Quebec Bar Association, the Canadian Bar Association, the Commissioner for Federal Judicial affairs, and serves on the Board of directors of Family mediation Canada since 2021.



### **Presentation C**

#### **Sponsor Come to Agreement - Stephen Rosenfield (2:30pm Eastern, 30 min)**

ComeToAgreement.com is the Go-To Platform for separation and divorce resources for Co-Parents and Family Law Professionals. We have a suite of Separation & Divorce products that are custom-built for the various stages of the Separation Journey.

My2Families is a comprehensive collaboration ecosystem that keeps both sides of the family apprised of what's happening with the children. It links all the necessary co-parenting modules, organizational tools and wanted applications, to address the needs of parents & children.

Our flagship offering is the Rebalancing Beneficiaries Support Insurance product, specifically designed to address the nuances of family law. As support payments are paid out, the insurance coverage declines to match the remaining support payments. The balance is then allocated to someone else such as children or a new partner.

**Bio Stephen Rosenfield:** Stephen has practiced Family Mediation and helped families resolve separation and divorce issues since 1999, in the Greater Toronto Area. Stephen's goal is to help families in conflict, including families struggling with ADHD issues, build better lives. He invests in his clients, treats them honestly, responsibly, and fairly. These are the core values in Come To

Agreement's separation and divorce products. Stephen believes that initiating a strategic online process, with the right Family Law Tools, helps Parents Do Well and Children Do Well. Previously, Stephen worked for twenty years in business and in the financial sector, as a General Manager, Sales Manager, for a Trustee in Bankruptcy and as a Financial Analyst, then returned to his true passion - helping others through conflict resolution.



### **Presentation D**

**How to Avoid Practical Pitfalls (and Ethical Quagmires) in Preparing Mediated Agreements – Jennifer Hubbard (3:00pm Eastern, 30 minutes)**

The presentation will discuss the practical and ethical concerns for mediators in the preparing and signing of mediated agreements. It will explore some of the challenges faced by mediators as they conclude mediated agreements, particularly in light of the obligations imposed by FMC's Members Code of Professional Conduct.

Bio: Jennifer Hubbard was called to the British Columbia bar in 1994. After several years in family litigation, Jennifer moved into mediation and a solicitor's practice and has focused for the last ten years on the multi-generational needs of families. Jennifer regularly mediates separating, blended family and cohabitation issues. Jennifer is a certified comprehensive mediator with Family Mediation Canada and for the last two years has served on the FMC board of directors.



### **Presentation E**

**Discovering What Children Want to Tell Us: A Child Centred Approach for Family Mediators - Lorri Yasenik PhD and Jon Graham (4:00pm Eastern, 2 hours)**

In this webinar, Lorri Yasenik PhD and Jon Graham will explore an approach to eliciting the voice of children in Family Mediation. Lorri and Jon maintain that children can be regarded as parties in the mediation process, and as such should be afforded an appropriate opportunity to have their voices included in discussions.

The *Meeting with Children approach* provides children with an opportunity to safely express their thoughts, views and concerns. The non-directive, non-interpretative framework allows for children to drive and direct what they would like to share rather than being directed by the practitioner. The framework also supports both clinical and non-clinical practitioners in a standard way of meeting with each child. Parents are provided with broad feedback that is of current importance to their child. The workshop will include an introduction to 3 practitioner tools that are part of the *Meeting with Children Approach*. In 2020 Lorri and Jon developed pathways for Meeting with Children in virtual spaces. Not only is this proving to be of great value during the pandemic, it is also providing opportunities for participation for rural and remote families.

**Bio: Lorri Yasenik Ph.D., RSW, RFM** is the Director of Rocky Mountain Play Therapy Institute in Calgary, Alberta Canada and Co-director of the International Centre for Children and Family Law based in Sydney Australia and Calgary. Lorri is a Certified Supervisor of Child Psychotherapy and Play Therapy and delivers certified training programs nationally and internationally in the area of child therapy and child inclusive practice. Lorri is a past President of the Alberta Family Mediation Society and recent past President of AFCC Alberta Chapter. She is a Registered Family Mediator, and Registered Parenting Coordinator-Arbitrator. Her areas of expertise are in the fields of separation and divorce, child centered mediation/parenting coordination, treatment of trauma, family violence, adjustment, and the spectrum of children's mental health problems. Post *Voice of the Child* Research, Lorri co-developed the program *Meeting with Children: A Child Centred Approach* for practitioners working in the family law sector. Lorri recently co-authored the article *The Voice of the Child and Parenting Coordination* (2020 Family Court Review).



**Bio: Jon Graham BCom LLB BA Grad Dip FDR**, is the Director of The Institute for Specialist Dispute Resolution in Sydney and Co-director of the International Centre for Children and Family Law based in Sydney Australia and Calgary Alberta. Jon is a Mediator, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, and Supervisor of FDR practice throughout Australia. Jon has an extensive training calendar in Australia, North America, Asia and the UK, presenting

accreditation programs for Family Mediation, and continuing education in post separation family violence, trauma and dysregulation, alternative models of dispute resolution with families, and new approaches to the inclusion of children in post separation mediation and parenting coordination. In 2014 Jon began a collaboration with Dr Lorri Yassenik and together they launched *The International Centre for Children and Family Law*. In 2016 Jon and Lorri developed the *Meeting with Children: A Child Centred Approach* for family mediation. The program has now been expanded for application by parenting coordinators, and judges. In 2020 Jon was a co-author of *The Voice of the Child and Parenting Coordination* with Lorri Yassenik and Linda Fieldstone (Family Court Review July 2020).



### **Presentation F**

#### **Round Table Discussion (6:45pm Eastern)**

Rhoda will act as moderator for an in-depth conversation with all attendees to allow for further questions and dialogue regarding the earlier presentations on working with children in family mediation and child protection mediation.

**Bio: Rhoda Dobler, Q.C.** is a mediator, arbitrator, and lawyer with WK Family Lawyers LLP in Calgary, AB. She has practicing family law for 28 years with a specific focus on mediation since 1998. She has been instructing the Legal Education Society of Alberta's 40-hour Family Law Mediation course with Dr. Larry Fong since 2012. Rhoda joined the Family Mediation Canada board in March 2021.



**FMC is very grateful for Sponsorship provided by**



## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

<b>First name:</b>			
<b>Last name:</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>Province:</b>	
<b>Postal Code:</b>		<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>			
<b>Detail</b>	<b>FMC MEMBER</b>	<b>NON-MEMBER*</b>	<b>Amount (no GST)</b>
Online (ZOOM) FMC Conference Wednesday, November 10, 2021	\$99	\$129	

**To register, complete this page and email it to us at [admin@fmc.ca](mailto:admin@fmc.ca).**

**FMC Members do NOT need to log in to the site to register.**

There are three methods to pay the conference fees, check one:

- Credit card – when we receive this form we will invoice you via PayPal (you do not need a current PayPal account)
- Send an etransfer to [admin@fmc.ca](mailto:admin@fmc.ca) (it's an automatic deposit, no password required) from your online banking
- Send a cheque by mail (payable to FMC, mail to the address below)

**\*Not an FMC Member? Membership is \$140/year – head to <https://www.fmc.ca/join-us/> to see more info!**

**Important:**

- the times for this event are given in Eastern time. Please make the necessary scheduling arrangements for the time zone where you are located.
- This conference is **ONLY** available live and there will not be a recording available if you have missed it.

**Family Mediation Canada/Médiation Familiale Canada**

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