

Child Protection Mediation Conference: Moving Toward Meaningful Engagement

A provincial forum for child protection dispute resolution professionals focusing on enhancing cross-cultural dialogue regarding the child protection mediation process, particularly within Aboriginal communities.

Monday, February 6, 2012 8:30am–5:00pm

Coast Coal Harbour Hotel, Vancouver

AGENDA

Welcome And Introduction

Drawing On Indigenous Legal Traditions Today: Citizenship And Child Protection

Dr. Val Napoleon

Historically indigenous societies had a social ordering with reasoning, intellectual peoples. This is the starting point for thinking critically about indigenous legal traditions today. Arguably, a focus only on state law renders other forms of law, including informal law and indigenous law, invisible and forever pinned in the past. Consequently, this means that the conversations about indigenous legal practices are generally limited and further, that the available intellectual resources contained in indigenous legal traditions, and which are so desperately needed, are neglected. There are many critical questions such as: do indigenous legal traditions matter today? How might the resources from indigenous legal traditions be identified and applied to today's complex conflicts and social dysfunctions? Dr. Napoleon will explore how rethinking the potential of law and reconceptualizing citizenship and resistance can provide insights for child protection. To do this, she will draw on ancient indigenous stories.

NETWORKING BREAK

Learning From Other Professional Disciplines - Panel Discussion

Dr. Aaron Johnston • Amy Perreault • Dr. Sarah de Leeuw

NETWORKING LUNCH

Current MCFD Approach And Initiatives

Brenda Lewis & Audrey Lundquist

MCFD has made it a priority to support First Nations, Métis, and other Aboriginal people in developing and delivering a service approach based on their culture and traditions. Brenda Lewis will discuss what is informing and transforming MCFD's current approaches, and how a collaborative approach such as child protection mediation is an opportunity to advance a change in service.

Audrey Lundquist will speak to the unique issues Aboriginal people face as they move to re-claiming jurisdiction for their children, families and communities. Audrey will complement preceding presentations in the context of a Gitksan Hereditary Chief struggling to support her people to re-invigorate Gitksan Ayook and on the various initiatives to address the "Aboriginal Agenda" while focusing on the concept of reconciliation and the principles of self-determination, language and culture, holistic approach, non-discrimination and structural intervention and how these relate to child protection mediation.

NETWORKING BREAK

Cultural Shifts In Child Protection Law

Sharon Sutherland & Shelina Neallani

Should the guiding objective of Child Protection Mediation be to resolve legal issues efficiently or to build relationships, strengthen families and communities? Is it possible to work towards both objectives (and more) without the legal framework of the session shaping both process and outcomes – whether intentionally or through the prevalence of unconscious privileging of legal culture in any court-connected process? What is the role of counsel at the table, how is it changing and how can we better serve our clients, both as Director's counsel and parents' counsel during mediation?

Concluding Remarks

Law Society of BC CPD Hours: 6.25 HOURS (a minimum of 1.5 HOURS will involve aspects of professional responsibility and ethics, client care and relations, and/or practice management).

KEY SPEAKERS

Dr. Val Napoleon is of Cree heritage from Sauteau First Nation and an adopted member of the Gitksan Nation. Her doctoral research focused on a substantive articulation of Gitksan law and the development of a Gitksan legal theory. In June 2010, Val was awarded the University of Victoria's Governor General's Gold Medal for her dissertation entitled *Ayook: Gitksan Law, Legal Order, and Legal Theory*. She publishes and teaches in areas of Aboriginal legal issues, indigenous legal traditions, indigenous feminism, oral histories, restorative justice, and governance. Val is currently an associate professor with the University of Alberta teaching in the faculties of native studies and law, and in January 2012, she will join the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria as the Law Foundation Professor in Aboriginal Justice.

Brenda Lewis is the Provincial Director of Aboriginal Transformation and Support for MCFD and has been actively involved in supporting, promoting, and advancing collaborative practice in the province.

Audrey Lundquist is Gitksan and a member of the Fireweed Clan. She belongs to the Huwilp (Houses) of Haxbag-wootxw and Yal and is a Hereditary Chief in Simoget Yals' Wilp. Audrey has worked for MCFD for 18 years in various capacities. Currently she is a Community Services Manager, and Aboriginal Lead for the Northwest. Audrey is also a non-practicing lawyer.

Sharon Sutherland is an assistant professor for the UBC Faculty of Law and she serves as the supervisor for the CoRe Conflict Resolution Society. Sharon is the Manager of Development and a mentor mediator for the Child Protection Mediation Practicum Program (Mediate BC). She has been engaged in a variety of projects to train Aboriginal child protection mediators and to work with Aboriginal communities in developing culturally appropriate models of mediation or related collaborative planning and decision-making processes. Sharon received her LL.M. in ADR from Osgoode Hall in 1997.

Shelina Neallani is a mediator and a lawyer whose former family law practice includes acting as Director's counsel and prior to that as parents' counsel. She has been a member of the child protection mediator roster since May 2010. Shelina graduated from UBC with degrees in Social Work and Law and has been called to the bar of Ontario and BC. Shelina was recently appointed a part time adjunct professor at the Faculty of Law, UBC for the coming academic year.



PANEL DISCUSSION MEMBERS

Dr. Aaron Johnston is an emergency physician currently working in suburban Vancouver. He has previously lived and worked in the Canadian Arctic and is interested in medical ethics and communication.

Amy Perreault comes from Métis heritage out of Thompson, Manitoba. She is the Coordinator of Aboriginal Initiatives at the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology where she works with staff, faculty groups, training programs for teaching assistants, new faculty, and administrators to support the development of a higher standard of professionalism in conducting discussions of Aboriginal and other contentious social issues in curricular settings.

Dr. Sarah de Leeuw, a human geographer and creative writer, is an assistant professor in UNBC's Northern Medical Program, the Faculty of Medicine at UBC and a two-time recipient of a CBC Literary Award in Creative Non-Fiction. She was recently a contributing editor to the book *Health Inequalities in Canada: Intersectional Frameworks and Practices* (UBC Press, 2011). Very broadly, Sarah's creative and academic work considers issues of social justice and relationships between place and people's well-being, particularly in marginalized, northern, or rural geographies.

REGISTRATION FORM

Child Protection Mediation Conference: Moving Toward Meaningful Engagement

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(save on registrations received before December 15, 2011)

\$365+HST= \$408.80

1-DAY CONFERENCE

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GRAND
TOTAL

Mediate BC offers mediation information, services and programs for individuals, families and organizations. We also support mediators and other dispute resolution professionals with training, professional development and resources.

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ABOUT

This conference has been developed through a collaboration between Mediate BC and the Child Protection Mediation Program (a joint program of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Ministry of Child and Family Development) with a supporting grant from the Legal Services Society.

Initially planned as a two-day conference just for child protection mediators, we are pleased to be able to extend an invitation to lawyers practicing in child protection, representatives of MCFD and delegated agencies to join us the first day.

The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia (CLEBC) has been generous in providing advice and promotional support.

ACCOMMODATION

The Coast Coal Harbour Hotel has offered a fantastic room rate of **\$109/night**. When making a booking indicate you are attending this conference to access this special price. Guest room categories are subject to availability. **Call: 1-800-716-6199**

REGISTRATION

BY PHONE

604-684-1300 x28 Vancouver
1-877-656-1300 x28 Toll-Free
Monday - Thursday 9AM - 1PM
Have your credit card ready.

BY FAX

604-684-1306
Credit card information must be provided.

BY MAIL

Mediate BC
Suite 177-800 Hornby St.
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2C5

REFUND & CANCELLATION POLICY

Course fee is refundable (less \$50) if notice is received 5 business days before the event. Mediate BC reserves the right to cancel or reschedule events, refuse admission, or change speakers, location, or content.