

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.

February 6th & 7th, 2012

Coast Coal Harbour Hotel, Vancouver

AGENDA

Register by January 15, 2012

Day One 8:30am–5:00pm	Day Two * 8:30am–4:00pm
Welcome and Introduction	Welcome Back
Drawing on Indigenous Legal Traditions Today: Citizenship and Child Protection Dr. Val Napoleon	Active Engagement Julie Daum & Sharon Sutherland
NETWORKING BREAK	NETWORKING BREAK
Learning from Other Professional Disciplines - Panel Discussion Dr. Aaron Johnston • Amy Perreault • Dr. Sarah de Leeuw	Taking the Plunge: Immersion in Possibilities Julie Daum & Sharon Sutherland
NETWORKING LUNCH	NETWORKING LUNCH
Current MCFD Approach and Initiatives Brenda Lewis & Audrey Lundquist	Weaving Together: The Craft of Mediation in Today's World Julie Daum • Sharon Sutherland • Joyce Bradley
NETWORKING BREAK	NETWORKING BREAK
Concurrent Breakout Sessions	Weaving Together, Continued Julie Daum • Sharon Sutherland • Joyce Bradley
Cultural Shifts in Child Protection Law Sharon Sutherland & Shelina Neallani	Learnings and Outcomes
Being an Aboriginal Mediator: Successes, Challenges, Discussion Marcel Shepert	Conference Closing
Navigating the Waters of Colliding Worldviews Sally Campbell	
Concluding Remarks	

*this day is designed uniquely for Child Protection Mediators



Child Protection Mediation Conference: Moving Toward Meaningful Engagement

Conference Sessions

Drawing on Indigenous Legal Traditions Today: Citizenship and Child Protection

Speaker: 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.

Learning from Other Professional Disciplines – Panel Discussion

Panel: Dr. Aaron Johnston, Amy Perreault & Dr. Sarah De Leeuw

Child Protection Mediators are not alone in their efforts to seek out ways to engage in a more meaningful way with their clients and communities. Join representatives of the medical, education and human geography professions as they discuss how their own practices, and their professions, are finding ways to respond to similar questions.

Current MCFD Approach and Initiatives

Speakers: 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-claim jurisdiction for their children, families and communities. Audrey will complement preceding presentations in the context of a Gitxsan Hereditary Chief struggling to support her people to re-invigorate Gitxsan 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.

Cultural Shifts in Child Protection Law

Facilitators: Sharon Sutherland & Shelina Neallani

The guiding objective of Child Protection Mediation is to resolve disputes about the care of a child. Should process efficiency be the most

important consideration in mediation or is it 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?

Being an Aboriginal Mediator: Successes, Challenges, Discussion

Facilitator: Marcel Shepert

How do our roles in our communities (and communities of practice) relate to our mediation practices? How do we develop "two-eyed seeing" for our mediation practice, communities and clients we're serving? This session is the beginning of an ongoing dialogue to delve into the questions of what it means to be an Aboriginal mediator today.

Navigating the Waters of Colliding Worldviews*

Facilitator: Sally Campbell

"The water we swim in" may be fundamentally different from that of other participants at the mediation table - be they parents and relatives, social workers or lawyers. This breakout session is intended to be a freewheeling discussion of some of the hurdles that differences create when worldviews collide, and a joint exploration of ways to navigate the challenging rapids of child protection mediation.

*The terminology of "Colliding Worldviews" originates from the work of Jessie Sutherland.

Active Engagement

Facilitators: Julie Daum & Sharon Sutherland

An opportunity to share thoughts, questions and reflections about the learning and ideas and questions raised in Day One sessions of the conference and how they apply to child protection mediation.

Taking the Plunge: Immersion in Possibilities

Facilitators: Julie Daum & Sharon Sutherland

In this facilitated session, participants will identify some barriers and obstacles that exist in practicing mediation in aboriginal communities, and through experiential and creative exercises, identify how to overcome the "yes, buts."

Weaving Together: The Craft of Mediation in Today's Society

Facilitators: Julie Daum, Sharon Sutherland & Joyce Bradley

An opportunity to discuss, develop and explore real life applications that expand the mediation processes to reflect and include community and cultural values within the Child Protection Mediation context. How will you weave these threads into the tapestry of your mediation practice?

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Conference Speakers & Facilitators

Joyce Bradley, Q.C. is a confidential Practice Consultant for Child Protection Roster Mediators and otherwise enjoying retirement. Joyce has acted as a mentor mediator in the Small Claims Mediation Practicum Program, the Family Mediation Practicum Program and the Child Protection Practicum Program (Mediate BC). Joyce received her LL.B. in 1978 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2004.

Sally Campbell is a working mediator who has been facilitating "difficult conversations" with groups of all sizes since 1985. She teaches collaborative/peacemaking approaches across Canada in a broad range of settings. Sally has worked in contexts involving great diversity in culture, subject matter and emotional complexity. She is now on the Retired Lawyers List after 30 years as a member of the B.C. Bar. Sally lives on Hornby Island, B.C. where she sometimes acts as part of a women's comedy theatre troupe.

Julie Daum is a member of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation and Frog Clan. She is a mediator, conflict resolution coach, and instructor. Julie lives with her husband and family in the traditional territory of the Stel-lat'en. She enjoys her work with the dispute resolution professionals in BC and has always been interested in cross-cultural and multi-cultural experiences.

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.

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.

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 Haxbagwootxw 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.

Dr. Val Napoleon is of Cree heritage from Sauleau 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.

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.

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.

Marcel Shepert has recently obtained his status as a professional mediator while working as a facilitator, and negotiator; he was the former executive director of the Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS), and the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance. He has been a Director of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Fisheries Program and co-authored a major provincial report entitled, "Our Place at the Table: First Nations in the BC Fishery". Marcel has been a First Nations negotiator on the Fraser panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission since 2002. Marcel is passionate about preserving our natural resources for future generations.

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.

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 Children and Family Development) with supporting funds 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 second day is designed solely for Child Protection Roster mediators.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RECOGNITION

- 6.25 Law Society of BC CPD Hours (Day One), 6.25 Law Society of BC CPD Hours (Day Two)
- 12.5 CP Roster Professional Development Hours (Both Days)

REGISTRATION FORM

Child Protection Mediation Conference: Moving Toward Meaningful Engagement



Please register me for the Two-Day Child Protection Mediation Conference: Moving Toward Meaningful Engagement

SURNAME		GIVEN NAME		INITIAL
ADDRESS				
CITY	PROVINCE		POSTAL CODE	
PHONE			FAX	
EMAIL				

Thanks to generous funding by the conference sponsors (Child Protection Mediation Program, Mediate BC and the Legal Services Society), we are pleased to announce the conference registration fee is waived for Child Protection Roster Mediators and there are funds to partially support travel for those not in the Lower Mainland area.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity!

TRAVEL SUPPORT

Please select your travel zone (based on attached appendix)

Proof of travel is required (within 30 days of the conference) before support can be paid.

A B C D E F

Thanks to the following for providing their valuable insights, contributions and effort in organizing this conference:
Julie Daum (Child Protection Mediator), Shelina Neallani (Child Protection Mediator, Mediate BC, UBC), Sharon Sutherland (Child Protection Mediator, UBC, Mediate BC), Wendy Lakusta (Child Protection Mediator, CPMP), Margaret Koch (CPMP), Andrea Clarke (CPMP), Oriole Skeene (CPMP), Audrey Lundquist (MCFD), C.D. Saint (Mediate BC), Kyra Hudson (Mediate BC)

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.
www.MediateBC.com

The Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development both lead and administer child protection mediation in BC. MAG's **Child Protection Mediation Program** is responsible for the roster of child protection mediators, contracted from the private sector.
www.ag.gov.bc.ca/child-protection-mediation/

SEND REGISTRATION TO MEDIATE BC CENTRE FOR LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT BY JANUARY 15, 2012

BY PHONE

604-684-1300 x26 Vancouver
1-877-656-1300 x26 Toll-Free

BY EMAIL

training@mediatebc.com

BY FAX

604-684-1306
ATTN: Centre for Learning & Development

BY MAIL

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

ACCOMMODATION

The [Coast Coal Harbour Hotel](#), in addition to hosting the conference, has offered a fantastic room rate for Comfort Rooms at **\$109/night** for conference delegates. When making a booking, please quote reservation code **CCC-GFC2121** or mention the name of the conference.

Call: 1-800-663-1144

Web: <http://www.coastpromos.com/82u>

Note: Should you wish to arrive on an earlier date or depart at a later date you will need to contact the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel directly at 604-697-0202.

Guest room categories are subject to availability.

TRAVEL

Generous travel support is available to help offset the costs of travel, parking, and accommodation. In the attached appendix you will find information regarding your travel support zone.

Please take a careful look at the policy when marking your travel support zone on the registration form.

It is up to each mediator to make their own travel arrangements.

Mediate BC reserves the right to cancel or reschedule events, refuse admission, or change speakers, location, or content.

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APPENDIX: TRAVEL SUPPORT ZONES

This travel support policy has been designed to be equitable for those travelling from different areas of the province to attend the Child Protection Mediation Conference: Moving Toward Meaningful Engagement. It is designed as a supplement, and may not fully cover all travel costs incurred.

To be eligible, proof of travel must be sent to Mediate BC's Centre for Learning & Development within 30 days of the conference.

Travel support amounts are fixed by zone — see below.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Mediate BC Centre for Learning & Development:

training@mediatebc.com

604-684-1300 x26 or 1-877-656-1300 x26

ZONE A: Vancouver	\$30
Communities: Vancouver, Burnaby, Langley, White Rock, Tsawwassen, Delta, North Vancouver, etc.	
ZONE B: Island and Chilliwack	\$230
Communities: Chilliwack, Victoria, Comox, Courtenay	
ZONE C: Thompson—Okanagan	\$330
Communities: Kelowna, Penticton, Kamloops, Barriere, Salmon Arm, Vernon, Oliver, Naramata	
ZONE D: Northern Regional Centres	\$410
Communities: Prince George, Terrace, Williams Lake, Quesnel	
ZONE E: Remote Communities	\$640
Communities: Fraser Lake, Burns Lake, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Nelson, Chetwynd, Bulkley-Nechako Valley	
ZONE F: North Vancouver Island	\$580
Communities: Campbell River	