

## **Local Mediator joins new online Quarantine Conflict Resolution Service**

Ron Smith, QC will be helping people experiencing conflict as a result of COVID-19 isolation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kelowna mediator [Ronald J. Smith, QC](#) joins more than 25 Mediate BC colleagues in the launch of a new low-cost [Quarantine Conflict Resolution Service](#) (QCRS) to help people deal with conflicts related to quarantine or isolation.

Ron has been a resident of Kelowna for most of his life, and is deeply connected to the community and its citizens. As a long time family lawyer, mediator, and collaborative lawyer, Ron is particularly concerned for families who require resolution of their issues but are unable to access legal services or the courts because of the isolation caused by COVID-19.

Delaying resolution of family issues can cause real problems. At this time many people are forced into close quarters with family due to requirements to socially isolate. This can add stress to existing family issues and increase conflict. Now more than ever people need tools and assistance in resolving their family issues.

Ron has been mediating family conflicts online for years, first as part of Mediate BC's Family Distance Mediation project (2007-2012), and now as part of the new Quarantine Conflict Resolution Service. He knows how effective mediating conflict online can be.

"This is a way for people to still reach out, still get the help they need to resolve concerns. How do you keep the whole family safe and still happy? How can you share parenting time while socially isolating in two households? How should you manage any changes to income that result from COVID-19 employment changes? There are so many changes affecting families right now, and it's important to have a way to resolve them quickly and inexpensively - before they become bigger issues," Ron notes.

### **What kinds of conflict can the Quarantine Conflict Resolution Service help with?**

Conflicts referred to this service must relate directly to issues of COVID-19 quarantine or isolation.

Examples include:

- Conflicts between roommates about the importance of social distancing
- Disagreements with older relatives about how they are keeping themselves safe
- Difficulties in formulating a plan with employers to work from home
- Conflicts over the use of shared spaces in cooperative housing where residents have varied health risks

For information or to find a mediator for a quarantine conflict, contact Mediate BC at [lowbono@mediatebc.com](mailto:lowbono@mediatebc.com) or see the QCRS website: <https://www.mediatebc.com/resolving-other-disputes/quarantine>

## QUOTES

“As a parent of two very active school age kids, adjusting to working with them home and keeping them active enough to stay sane has been quite a challenge. We are grieving cancelled plans and negotiating how we share space.” ~ Amanda Semenoff, Quarantine Conflict Resolution Service Manager

“The stress and life changes happening right now create a whole new set of conflicts for us at a time when we are emotionally exhausted and struggling to handle them well without support.” ~ Amanda Semenoff, Quarantine Conflict Resolution Service Manager

## MEDIA CONTACTS:

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## ATTACHED IMAGEs:

1. Ron Smith
2. Ron Smith, finishing local race