

## **Mediate BC Society**

### **ANNUAL REPORT September 30, 2011**

I am very pleased to provide a summary of the highlights of Mediate BC Society's 2010/11 year. We have accomplished a tremendous amount over the last 12 months through the very dedicated efforts of our Board, staff and colleagues.

I start with a list of some of the key accomplishments:

- We have completed a full year as an integrated society with a strengthening brand featuring the new name and logo and a new website.
- We have a new set of Bylaws.
- Our Board has continued to strengthen the society's governance through the development of a Strategic Plan, various governance policies and a new Complaint Policy.
- Financial management policies and procedures were further enhanced and implemented.
- We were approved by the Law Foundation of BC to become one of its continuing core programs.
- We successfully negotiated a new services agreement with the Ministry of AG for the Court Mediation Program and the Roster Program. Unfortunately, as a result of this new relationship we were forced to say farewell to long-time Board member David Merner. We are so grateful for his support.
- We were successful in obtaining funding from the Law Foundation of BC for the Child Support Eligibility Mediation Project.
- The Child Protection Mediation Practicum Program has almost completed its mandate. 67 mediators participated in the practicum, 47 of whom were aboriginal.
- The Court Mediation Program continues to offer first-rate mediation services to the public and, at the same time, provide mediators with unparalleled practical experience co-mediating with a mentor and excellent professional development opportunities.
- The CMP mediated 1261 cases and provided practicum training to 47 individuals.
- The Distance Mediation Project, Phase 3, continues to explore the use of technology in family mediation and its creative use of social media has increased the profile of the society worldwide.
- We have made significant progress towards integrating the society's family mediation initiatives which supports the larger goal of a workable family justice system in the province
- We made a significant contribution to the planning and implementation of the Vancouver Justice Access Centre and are involved in mediation referrals in both civil and family matters.

- Our involvement in administering the mediation program for the Office of the Police Complaints Commissioner has expanded to providing conflict resolution training for policy agency staff.
- We have provided helpful support to the Aboriginal Human Rights Project which issued its Interim Report in July and continues to work with the Tsleil Waututh First Nation as it creates a dispute resolution process consistent with its customary laws and legal traditions.
- All three Rosters continue to grow.
- Our Roster Program office and staff moved successfully from Victoria to Vancouver.
- Our involvement in mediator training and professional development continues to expand.
- Our management and staff team are working well together.
- We are being approached to participate in a wide variety of initiatives – more than we are able to accept within our existing resources.
- Last, but definitely not least, we are committed to continuing to work to improve access to justice and effective conflict resolution for BC citizens

Even though this is a very long list, I am sure that I have neglected to include a number of very significant accomplishments!

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to so many people who have supported this organization including our dedicated Board, our talented and devoted staff, the very professional mediators and mentors who are members of the three Rosters, those who provide services for our programs and those who participate in our practicum programs, our supportive funding agencies (most notably the Ministry of Attorney General and the Law Foundation of BC), the Provincial Court Judiciary and Court Services staff, our bankers at VanCity, our lawyers at Bull Housser, our auditors (Nemeth Thody), and a myriad of other wonderful colleagues, service providers and supporters.

We honour our heritage, we are proud of our progress and we are very excited about what lies ahead for Mediate BC.

Sincerely,



Kari D. Boyle  
Executive Director, Mediate BC Society