

Excerpts from:

DEBATES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

(HANSARD)

HOUSE BLUES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015
Afternoon Sitting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

[Madame Speaker in the chair.]

Statements (Standing Order 25B)

...

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MEDIATE B.C. SOCIETY

M. Bernier: In a perfect world you would hope it would never occur, but we all, at some point, experience conflict, whether at work, during labour disputes or in our family lives. How we deal with conflict is the important part, as it can be a destructive force of our lives if not managed properly.

Unfortunately, more often than not people resort to the courts to try and resolve a dispute. But that process is changing, and there are better options for the people in British Columbia. We are very lucky to have a group of dedicated professionals in British Columbia who work hard on conflict resolution.

The Mediate B.C. Society, a not-for-profit organization, works with professionally trained mediators around the province who offer options for people in conflict. In my riding I have a constituent, Wayne Plenert, who is an expert in mediation, and he also has a passion to see this option be more readily available for people around the province.

Last year mediation resolved issues for more than 80 percent of family disputes and 77 percent of workplace disputes. These were all cases that without a mediation process and professionals guiding that process could have ended up in the legal system

instead, costing tens of thousands of dollars per case and tying up valuable and already oversubscribed court time.

Mediation is also shown to resolve disputes more quickly and months quicker than our traditional systems and with, what I would say, better results. When both groups can sit down together and work out a resolution and a solution with the help of a mediator, it saves money, can reduce stress between the groups. It can ultimately end up with a better result for both parties rather than having a decision made by the courts.

Mediate B.C., with the help of my friend Wayne, conduct thousands of sessions per year here in British Columbia, and I want to thank them for all of their efforts in helping the citizens of this province.

...

(Full version of this Hansard can be accessed at:

<http://www.leg.bc.ca/hansard/40th4th/20150225pm-House-Blues.htm>)