

## Upcoming Events

### 2020 AFCC Alberta Chapter Annual Conference



Save the date and look for future updates for the Alberta Chapter Annual Conference **March 5 & 6** in Edmonton.

The conference focus is: *Family Justice in Alberta: Protecting Children from Conflict*

Keynote Speakers: **Dr. Matthew Sullivan**, clinical psychologist, speaking on *AFCC Guidelines on Parenting Coordination*; **Dr. Harriet MacMillan**, psychiatrist and pediatrician, and **Dr. Lorraine Ferris**, C. Psych, LL.M (ADR), speaking on *Recognizing and Responding Safely to Family Violence: Approaches for the Family Law Setting and Assessment of Child Maltreatment in Parenting Disputes: Principles & Approaches to Good Practice*. In addition, there will be panel presentations with local experts and members of the bench.

**Justice Jerke** will give an update on the Reforming Family Justice Project and **Dr. Larry Fong**, AFCC President-Elect, will also present.

### AFCC Returns to the Big Easy



Mark your calendar for the **AFCC 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** May 27 – 30, 2020 in New Orleans.

The conference focus is:  
*When a Child Rejects a Parent:  
Are we Part of the Problem or  
the Solution?*

### Meet a Board Member

#### Meet Alberta Chapter's Consulting Board Member - Judge Geoffrey Ho - Edmonton



Judge Ho graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Arts in 1973 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1974. He was admitted to the Law Society of Alberta in 1975 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 1996.

"I spent most of my career with Alberta Justice. During that time I was responsible for the development of a number of legislative initiatives, including the Protection Against Family Violence Act. I was also on the steering committee for the development of the Family Law Act, and was Secretary to the Unified Family Court Task Force (2000)".

Judge Ho was:

- Bencher with the Law Society of Alberta from 1996 to 1998.
- Sessional instructor at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law, from 1998 to 2003.
- Secretary to the Alberta Rules of Court Committee from 1996 to 2003
- Appointed a judge of the Provincial Court in 2003.

## Update on Practice Notes 7 and 8

This year there was a revision to Practice Note 7 and Practice Note 8 to better assist the court to keep the focus on children in high conflict parenting situations. In this Newsletter we will outline PN7 changes.

PN7 Interventions are initiated when:

- A family dispute is in litigation / before the court
- State of conflict would warrant the intervention
- Reporting back to the court is deemed helpful

The purpose is to

- Provide information to the court to assist in decision-making
- Identify challenges facing the family and to facilitate a resolution
- Assist in the management of the conflict and to bring about change in the family dynamic
- Bring the parenting expert under the jurisdiction and the protection of the court

What PN7s provide

- Evaluative reporting to assist the court in decision-making
- Therapeutic processes and how to assist in resolving disputes and how to best make changes
- Description of what is happening in the family

Limitations & Restrictions

- No opinions or recommendations regarding parenting time, responsibilities, decision-making, or relocation
- The parenting expert is a court expert
- No multiple roles
- The parties need to fund the service

Who can provide a PN7 Intervention?

- Registered Psychologists or Registered Social Workers with experience and training to qualify as an expert witness
- All interventions can be conducted without court involvement, outside the litigation process
- It is in the best interests of the children to conduct PN7 early in the court process and complete quickly and thoroughly

More information on the process regarding PN7s will be provided in our next issue.

You can also visit [www.albertacourts.com](http://www.albertacourts.com)

### Looking for a Parenting Expert?

If you are looking for a parenting expert to conduct evaluative or therapeutic interventions or parenting time or responsibility assessments, then check out our referral list at:

[www.afccalberta.org/referral-page](http://www.afccalberta.org/referral-page)

### Are You a Parenting Expert?

If you are an AFCC member who provides parenting expert services under the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench Rules of Court Family Law Practice Note 7 (Interventions) or Practice Note 8 (Parenting Time or Parenting Responsibilities Assessments), you can add your name to the referral list by visiting our website at:

[www.afccalberta.org/referral-page](http://www.afccalberta.org/referral-page)

Edmonton Supper Club		
November 19, 2019	Self-Care in High Conflict Work	Jordan Crerar - Crerar Law Greg Pickering - Creek Side Psychology
January 21, 2020	Do lawyers have an obligation to “do no harm” to children and families. What is neutrality and why is it important?	Jim Bateman - Glenora Registered Psychologists Jeffrey Keller - Family Law Office
February 18, 2020	The New Divorce Act	Patricia Hebert - Gordon Zwaenepoel
Email our Edmonton Supper Club Founder, Sharon Smith at <a href="mailto:edirector1@telus.net">edirector1@telus.net</a> to receive email invites & updates.		

## Ten Reasons to Join AFCC

AFCC members cite their top ten reasons for joining:

1. The cutting-edge learning opportunities - National, International, and Local programs
2. Cutting-Edge Research & Knowledge - Access to Family Court Review and first-hand expert presentations on the law and psychology
3. Innovative programs – AFCC is on the leading edge of innovative services and programs. Little need to reinvent the wheel, your membership will provide you with access to the information you require.
4. Discourse & Debate - Healthy debate and disagreement advance our respective areas of practice. AFCC is the best place to hear experts discuss the really difficult questions.
5. Colleagues & Friends - If you are seeking an organization where you meet in an atmosphere of true collegiality, AFCC is your place!
6. Global & Diverse Perspectives - AFCC provides access to international experts and dialogue on emerging trends.
7. A Multidisciplinary Home - AFCC members are professionals who work at the intersection of law, dispute resolution and psychology.
8. Dedication to Excellence - There is just something exciting about being with others who care deeply about their work. The focus on best practices is the uniting thread between the disciplines that comprise AFCC.
9. Discounts and Scholarships - AFCC dues are set at a reasonable level and members enjoy discounts and access to scholarships.
10. Information at your Fingertips - Monthly AFCC e-news keeping you apprised of upcoming trainings and conferences. The AFCC website hosts a plethora of information on best practices as well as back issues of Family Court Review. Dollar for dollar, AFCC is literally worth the price of admission.

## 2019 AFCC Annual Conference - Toronto Takeaways



People were mesmerized by keynote speaker The Honorable Claire L’Heureux-Dubé, hanging on to every word of this international family law icon. In an informal, fireside-chat format, retired Supreme Court of Canada Justice Emile Kruzick interviewed L’Heureux-Dubé, who shared many stories about

her journey to becoming the second woman on the Supreme Court of Canada.

To review the conference offerings, go to:

<https://www.afccnet.org/Portals/0/Conferences/AFCC%202019%20Toronto%20Annual%20Brochure.pdf>

**Your 2019/2021 AFCC Alberta Chapter Board Members**

<b>President:</b> Lorri Yasenik, Calgary Ph.D., RSW	<b>Rhyannon O'Heron,</b> Edmonton Lawyer
<b>Past President:</b> Sharon Smith, Edmonton Psychologist	<b>Jim Bateman,</b> Edmonton Psychologist
<b>Vice President:</b> Judith Lake, Edmonton Mediator	<b>Susan Clark,</b> Calgary Psychologist
<b>Treasurer:</b> Jane Hoffman, Calgary Lawyer	<b>Sonja Lusignan,</b> Calgary Lawyer
<b>Secretary:</b> Traci Bannister, Calgary Lawyer	<b>Christie Callihoo,</b> Edmonton Lawyer
<b>Madam Justice Yungwirth,</b> Edmonton QB Judge	<b>Tracy Brown,</b> Edmonton Lawyer
<b>The Honourable Judge Gay Bennis,</b> Calgary PC Judge	<b>Jim Pender,</b> Calgary Social Worker

<b>MISSION</b>	<b>VISION</b>	<b>VALUES</b>
<p>AFCC is an interdisciplinary, international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.</p> <p>AFCC promotes a collaborative approach to serving the needs of children among those who work in and with family law systems, encouraging education, research and innovation and identifying best practices.</p>	<p>A justice system in which all professionals work collaboratively through education, support, and access to services to achieve the best possible outcome for children and families.</p>	<p>Collaboration and respect among professions and disciplines.</p> <p>Learning through inquiry, discussion and debate.</p> <p>Innovation in addressing the needs of families and children in conflict.</p> <p>Diversity in family structures and cultures.</p> <p>Empowering families to resolve conflict and make decisions about their future.</p>