



AFCC Alberta Chapter **2019** Conference

March 14 – 15, 2019 Calgary, Alberta

Hilton Garden Inn – Downtown



Putting the Children First in High Conflict Separation & Divorce

Parenting Assessments, Parenting Plans & Parenting Coordination The Good, the Bad and the In-Between

March 14

8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (pre-conference, morning, lunch, and afternoon breaks with food and refreshments)

Welcome: Sharon Smith, Chair, Board of Directors, AFCC (AB Chapter)

Evidence-Informed Practice Considerations for Parenting Plans & Parenting Assessments

A great opportunity for legal and mental health professionals, mediators and Family Court workers! Hear about evidence-based strategies that will help us to review and assess the effectiveness of some of our most frequently used practices on behalf of children!

Proposed changes in federal divorce law place emphasis on our belief that “putting the children first” must be the priority when parents are separating. This conference is an opportunity to learn more about what lawyers, mental health professionals, and others must consider when developing, evaluating and using parenting assessments and parenting plans - especially for high conflict parents and in light of potential review by the Court.

Philip Epstein, LL.B

Philip is a senior partner at Epstein Cole, Toronto. He is the Editor in Chief of the Reports of Family Law and the author of "Epstein, This Week in Family Law". He has been involved in many significant cases in the family law field in the Superior Court of Ontario, the Court of Appeal, and the Supreme Court of Canada.



Michael A. Saini, PhD

Michael is an Associate Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto and holds the endowed Factor-Inwentash Chair of Law and Social Work. He is the Co-Director of the Combined J.D. and M.S.W. program with the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and the Course Director of the Foundations to Custody Evaluations at the University of Toronto. Michael also assists children’s counsel for the Office of the Children’s Lawyer, Ministry of the Attorney General in Ontario.

In the afternoon Mr. Epstein and Dr. Saini will be joined by:

The Honourable Madam Justice Debbie A. Yungwirth, Court of Queen’s Bench of Alberta
Deputy Chief Judge, The Honourable L. K. McLellan, Provincial Court of Alberta
Terry Pezzot-Pearce, PhD., Registered Psychologist, Calgary

4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. AFCC Alberta Wine and Cheese

March 15

8:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon (pre-conference coffee and snacks with a 15-minute mid-morning break)

Welcome: Sharon Smith, Chair, Board of Directors, AFCC (AB Chapter)

PARENTING COORDINATION: DOES IT REALLY PUT THE CHILDREN FIRST?

Is it really working here in Alberta?

Michael A. Saini, PhD

Dr. Saini, a member of the AFCC Task Force on Parenting Coordination (PC), will present information that was recently collected across all states and provinces where Parenting Coordination is used.

This is a great opportunity to address questions that are frequently raised about the process and effectiveness of PC and to have input into future planning in this area.

Dr. Saini will also be joined by:

Sonja Lusignan - Family Law Lawyer

Greg Pickering, PhD. - Registered Psychologist, Edmonton

Your input will make a difference! Audience discussion and response is an opportunity to provide input to future planning for PC in Alberta.

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. (with a 15-minute break)



REVISED GUIDELINES & PRACTICE NOTES 7 & 8

CAN THEY HELP US KEEP THE FOCUS ON CHILDREN IN HIGH CONFLICT PARENTING?

Guidelines help us to be better practitioners. The Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta and the College of Alberta Psychologists have both revised guidelines that are pertinent to separation and divorce. There is an expectation that mental health professionals and lawyers will work together in the implementation of these guidelines. The speakers will clarify the guideline revisions and highlight changes. This session will also include a component of audience discussion and problem-solving to explore the issues involved in the legal-mental health professional collaboration as we continue to attempt to put children first.

Speakers:

Troy Janzen, PhD., Deputy Registrar & Complaints Director, College of Alberta Psychologists

Steve Carter, PhD., Member of PN 7 & 8 Revision Committee of Alberta

Dale Hensley, QC, Member of PN 7 & 8 Revision Committee of Alberta

Summary & Wrap-up - Audience feedback regarding topics to plan for future conferences.

Payment Instructions

Register online at www.afccalberta.com

Scholarships are available – see forms and eligibility at www.afccalberta.com

Earlybird by Jan 14, 2019 - AFCC Alberta Chapter Members both days \$450 - non-members \$550

Earlybird by Jan 19, 2019 - AFCC Alberta Chapter Members either day \$250 - non-members \$275

Conference Host Hotel – [Hilton Garden Inn](#) – **Calgary Downtown**

Click [here](#) to book or phone the hotel directly at (1-877-782-9444)

If you experience any problems with registration contact afccalberta@gmail.com or 403-875-5565