



AFCC Alberta Chapter 2020 Conference
Matrix Hotel, Edmonton March 5-6, 2020

Protecting Children from Conflict: Family Justice in Alberta

Thursday, March 5, 2020 (DAY 1)

(food and refreshments - pre-conference light breakfast, lunch, morning, and afternoon breaks)

8:30 to 8:45 **Welcome** Dr. Lorri Yassenik and intro to Dr. Fong

8:45 to 9:15 **Dr. Larry Fong:** President-Elect, AFCC Parent Organization
Professionals and Hope in Resolving Conflict

9:15 to 10:15 **Dr. Matthew Sullivan**
What Alberta can Learn from Parenting Coordination Policies & Practices across North America

Dr. Sullivan is currently President of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts International Organization the Board of Directors and has been in private practice in Palo Alto for over 30 years, specializing in Forensic Family work.

10:15 to 10:30 NETWORKING BREAK



10:30 to 12:00 **Continued Keynote by Dr. Matthew Sullivan**

12:00 to 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 to 2:00 **Continued Keynote by Dr. Matthew Sullivan**



2:00 to 2:15 NETWORKING BREAK

2:15 to 4:25 **PANEL *Parenting Coordination in Alberta: Approaches & Best Practices (Is the Arbitration Act Enough?)***

- ❖ The Honourable Justice Debbie A. Yungwirth
- ❖ Matthew Sullivan Ph.D.
- ❖ Pat Petrie Ph.D.
- ❖ Greg Pickering PhD
- ❖ JP Boyd MA. LLB



4:15 to 4:45 *Reforming Family Justice Project*
The Honourable Justice Rodney A. Jerke

Closing Remarks for Day 1

4:45 to 7:30 **AFCC Alberta Chapter AGM**
Sponsored Wine & Cheese to follow

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOS:

Dr. Matthew Sullivan

Dr. Matt Sullivan is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Palo Alto, California. He has been in practice for over 30 years and specializes in forensic child and family.



Dr. Sullivan is currently President of the AFCC International Organization, and he was a member of the Board of Directors of the California Chapter of AFCC from 2012 to 2016.

His experience regarding Parenting Coordination is extensive – in 2001 he was commissioned to be on the AFCC Task Force on practice guidelines for Parenting Coordination. He was reappointed to the Task Force in 2003 and again in 2017 to the most recent Task Force on Parenting Coordination. From 2008 to 2011 Dr. Sullivan was a consultant to the American Psychological Association (APA) Parenting Coordination Program in Washington, DC.

In 2007 Dr. Sullivan was appointed to represent the APA on the APA/ American Bar Association Collaborative Working Group on Psychological and Legal Interventions with Parents, Children and Families. From 2017 to 2019 he was an Associate Member of the APA Ethics Committee.

Dr. Sullivan serves in numerous court appointed roles – custody evaluator, mediator and co-parent counselor in courts across California and he also provides expert testimony in custody situations in jurisdictions across the United States. Dr. Sullivan provides consultation services to the Courts, forensic professionals, Family Law attorneys and parents in the context of child custody issues. He has written articles and done training and presentations nationally and internationally on topics related to high conflict co-parenting, Parenting Coordination, Forensic Consultation Court-involved therapy and Child Alienation.

Friday, March 6, 2020 (DAY 2)

(food and refreshments - pre-conference light breakfast, lunch, morning, and afternoon breaks)

8:30 to 8:45 Welcome: Dr. Lorri Yasenik Chair, Board of Directors, AFCC (AB Chapter)
Dr. Pat Petrie to introduce Dr. MacMillan and Dr. Ferris

8:45 to 10:30 Harriet MacMillan, C.M., M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.C.
Lorraine Ferris, Ph.D., C.Psych., LL.M (ADR); LLM (Admin Law)

***Recognizing and Responding Safely to Family Violence:
Approaches for the Family Law Setting***

Family violence includes various forms of abuse, mistreatment or neglect that adults or children may experience in their intimate, family or dependent relationships. Separation and divorce can exacerbate such abuse including escalation in intimidation and coercion. This presentation will discuss approaches to recognize and respond safely to child maltreatment and intimate partner violence in the context of family law settings. It will introduce **VEGA** (Violence Evidence Guidance Action) online educational resources and discuss how they can be useful to lawyers and mental health clinicians involved in Family Law matters.

10:30 to 10:45 NETWORKING BREAK



12:00 to 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 to 2:15 Harriet MacMillan, C.M., M.D., M.Sc., F.R.C.P.C.
Lorraine Ferris, Ph.D., C.Psych., LL.M (ADR); LLM (Admin Law)

***Assessment of Child Maltreatment in Parenting Disputes: Principles
and Approaches to Good Practice***

Parenting disputes represent a significant portion of all child protection investigations. This presentation will discuss how clinicians can collaborate with child protection professionals in the assessment of child maltreatment and determine approaches to reducing impairment in children and families. It will discuss principles for conducting such assessments and approaches to good practice, including involvement of a multidisciplinary team and the application of these principles within the Family Law context.

2:15 to 2:30 NETWORKING BREAK



2:30 to 4:25 **Panel Discussion on previous topic**

Moderator: Dr. Pat Petrie

- ❖ Dr. MacMillan and Dr. Ferris will be joined by Panel members:
- ❖ The Honourable Justice Debbie A. Yungwirth
- ❖ Ladene Keith, Manager, Alberta Children's Services
- ❖ Andrea Doyle, Senior Advisory Counsel, Legal Aid Alberta
- ❖ Denise Harwardt, Assistant Director, Family & Surrogate Litigation, Dept. of Justice & Solicitor General (AB)

4:25 to 4:30 THANK YOUs and CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Harriet MacMillan

Harriet MacMillan is a psychiatrist and pediatrician conducting family violence research. She is a Distinguished University Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, and Pediatrics at McMaster University with associate membership in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact. Harriet holds the Chedoke Health Chair in Child Psychiatry.



Harriet's research focuses on the epidemiology of violence against children and women; she has led randomized controlled trials evaluating the effectiveness of approaches to preventing child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. Funding for this work has been provided by organizations such as the WT Grant Foundation, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Harriet is a co-principal investigator of the PreVAiL (Preventing Violence Across the Lifespan) Network, initially funded by CIHR and currently funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada. Through PreVAiL, Harriet works closely with organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

From 1993 until 2004, Harriet was the founding Director of the Child Advocacy and Assessment Program (CAAP) at McMaster Children's Hospital, a multidisciplinary program committed to reducing the burden of suffering associated with family violence. She continues to see patients as an active staff member of CAAP and provides consultations to child protection agencies. Harriet was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada in 2016.

Dr. Lorraine Ferris - Associate Vice-President, Research Oversight and Compliance

Dr. Ferris is a tenured Full Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto and a Senior Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. She holds a PhD in psychology and two LL.M degrees (Alternative Dispute Resolution and Administrative Law). Her research interests include public health, medico-legal policy, women's health and health services research. She has served as President for the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), serves as the Chair of the WAME Ethics and Policy Committee, and is on the editorial boards of *Medicine and Law*, *Research Integrity and Peer Review* and *International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*.



Dr. Ferris is the University's delegated authority for the review and management of significant conflict of interest declarations for NIH-funded research.

Dr. Ferris oversees the Research Oversight and Compliance Office (ROCO). The role of ROCO is to ensure that the University adheres to all research-related ethical, legal and financial reporting requirements so that the University's world class researchers and trainees can conduct their work in an ethical, safe and responsible environment.

Payment Instructions

Register online at <https://www.afccalberta.org/>

Scholarships are available – see forms and eligibility online

Choose your days and Member or Non-Member and add your name and email
If you want to pay by cheque then email us and make cheque payable to AFCC Alberta Chapter and mail cheque to AFCC Alberta c/o Hoffman Law 109 14 Ave SE Calgary AB T2G 1C6 and give us your Name and Contact info and let us know that the cheque is in the mail!

You are not registered until paid!!!

AFCC Alberta Chapter Members both days \$550 - non-members \$650

AFCC Alberta Chapter Members either day \$300 - non-members \$325

STUDENT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION RATE \$300 for both days

Matrix Hotel - Downtown Edmonton 10640 - 100th Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3N8

Group Name: AFCC Alberta Chapter Conference 2020
Click [here](#) to book or phone the hotel directly at 780-429-2861

If you experience any problems with registration contact

afccalberta@gmail.com

Conference Registration Cancellation Policy

Payments are non-refundable after February 5, 2020
Requests for refunds must be made in writing to the AFCC Admin at afccalberta@gmail.com.

A \$50 cancellation fee plus applicable taxes, may be deducted from the refund



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