



ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY AND CONCILIATION COURTS,
ONTARIO CHAPTER
10TH AGM & ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THE FUTURE OF YOUTH: MOVING BEYOND RISK TO RESILIENCE



KEYNOTE: DR. MICHAEL UNGAR

Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience

Thursday, October 18, 2018

THE NATIONAL CLUB, TORONTO, ONTARIO

PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

NEW PROFESSIONALS EVENT

4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

EVENING OF EXCELLENCE: 10 IN 10 AWARDS

Cocktails 4:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. - Dinner 6:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday, October 19, 2018

TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT www.cvent.com/d/ttqb83/4W



2018 AGM and Annual Conference The Future of Youth: Moving Beyond Risk to Resilience

PRE-CONFERENCE INSTITUTE

Thursday October 18th, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 pm, National Club, 303 Bay Street, Toronto

Supporting Adopted Youth to Maintain Openness Connections with Birth Family and Communities

Elizabeth McCarty, Counsel, Office of the Children's Lawyer;
Jennifer Gallagher, Counsel, Office of the Children's Lawyer;
Pat Convery, Executive Director, Adoption Council of Ontario;
Maryanne King, Adoption Practitioner, Accredited Family Mediator (OAFM);
Tara Noble, Registered Social Worker & Grief Counsellor

Adopted children and youth benefit when they are able to maintain positive connections with their birth family members and maintain cultural connections. These relationships can be complex and difficult to navigate for youth and their adoptive and birth families. Everyone involved needs education, guidance and support along the way. The best defence is a good offence. This conference will review the benefits and challenges of openness arrangements and the legal framework of openness in Ontario. You will learn how to help families build supportive plans that can address conflict resolution, grief and loss, social media and potential legal issues through an adoption lens. You will also hear directly from adopted youth as they discuss:

- the importance of children's voices in openness planning; and
- the significance of continued connections to family and community for youth as they transition to adoptive homes.

Learn how you can transfer your clinical and legal skills gleaned from working with high conflict families to now assist in planning and providing guidance to families and youth trying to navigate these increasingly complex but important relationships.



This session contains 30 minutes of Professionalism content as certified by the Law Society of Ontario.

NEW PROFESSIONALS EVENT

Thursday October 18th, 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 pm, National Club, 303 Bay Street, Toronto

Parenting Issues in Family Law: Working with Assessors, Mediators and Other Family Professionals

Christine Kim, RSW, Accredited Family Mediator (OAFM);
Dr. Shely Polak, RSW, Accredited Family Mediator (OAFM);
Julie Hannaford, Lawyer;
Justice Wendy Malcolm, Senior Advisory Family Judge of the Ontario Court of Justice

Parenting issues in family law are often best resolved through an interdisciplinary approach. This year, we invite our new professionals (and seasoned veterans) to join us for a special panel discussion on an issue that affects everyone. This unique session will provide attendees with multiple valuable perspectives, designed to provide those working in family law matters with guidance on how to work together to achieve outcomes that reduce conflict and promote the well-being of children.



Law Society Professionalism hours pending



2018 AGM and Annual Conference The Future of Youth: Moving Beyond Risk to Resilience

EVENING OF EXCELLENCE 10 in 10 Awards

Thursday, October 18th, Cocktails 4:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Dinner 6:15 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.,
National Club, 303 Bay Street, Toronto

Join AFCC Ontario Chapter as we celebrate our 10 year anniversary at an elegant dinner at Toronto's historic National Club. Ten Awards of Excellence will be given to the leading Judges, Mediators, Psychologists, Social Workers, Lawyers and Academics who have influenced the sphere of family justice over the past ten years. Dinner will begin with a cocktail hour. Dress is business attire.

10TH ANNUAL AGM & CONFERENCE

Friday, October 19th, Registration 8:00 a.m., AGM 8:30 a.m.
Toronto Reference Library, Bram & Bluma Appel Salon,
789 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor, (Yonge & Bloor), Toronto

KEYNOTE PLENARY SESSION: DR. MICHAEL UNGAR The Future of Youth: Moving Beyond Risk to Resiliency

Friday, October 19th, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



Dr. Michael Ungar is among the best-known writers and researchers on the topic of resilience in the world. His work has changed the way resilience is understood, shifting the focus from individual traits to the interactions between people and their families, schools, workplaces, and communities. As the Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience and Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University, as well as a family therapist, he has helped to determine the most important factors that influence the resilience of children and adults during periods of transition and stress.



Morning Breakout Sessions

Friday, October 19th, 10:50 a.m. - 12:00 Noon *(Participants to choose A or B)*

Session A Reducing Risk and Fostering Resilience in Children and Youth Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence

Dr. Ramona Alaggia, Associate Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto;
Justice Ronald P. Kaufman, Superior Court of Justice (Family Court Branch);
Facilitation by Dr. Michael Ungar

Divorce is well understood to be a life event that children might experience as an adversity. This is further exacerbated when separation and divorce occurs due to intimate partner violence (IPV). Large scale studies in Canada have found that 10%-13% of children have been exposed to IPV which is the most frequently investigated and substantiated form of maltreatment in Ontario. Children from these unions are often exposed to seeing, hearing, and feeling emotional, physical, psychological abuse and/or coercive control of a care-giver. This puts them at potential risk for a host of psychological difficulties, internalizing and externalizing problems, trauma effects, relational issues, and academic difficulties. However, there are significant opportunities for fostering resilience after such adversity. Dr. Alaggia's research on resilience processes with IPV exposed children and youth has identified important opportunities for resilience promotion. Case examples illustrating the complex interactions involving the dynamics of divorce and IPV exposure will be provided and discussed as these apply to practice.



This session contains 15 minutes of Professionalism content as certified by the Law Society of Ontario.

Session B Understanding Risk and Practical Solutions: Youth and Drugs

Loree Hodgson-Harris, Manager of Legal Services, Chatham-Kent Children's Services;
Jodee Anderson, Director of Service, Children's Mental Health, Chatham-Kent Children's Services;
Dr. Tim Baker, Clinical & Developmental Psychologist;
Dr. Balaji Gopidasan, Psychiatrist;
Justice Brian Scully, Ontario Court of Justice

This session will focus on the need to work from an interdisciplinary perspective when dealing with the youth drug crisis. This workshop will explore the impact of the misuse of drugs on youth from a medical, psychological, legal and clinical perspective including the challenges faced by service providers and families both from a perspective of youth misuse and youth exposure to drug addiction. It will provide an enhanced knowledge base regarding various drugs and the impact on youth brain functioning both short term and long term; recognizing the signs and symptoms of intoxication; and recognizing the signs of and symptoms of withdrawal. There will be a focus on the interplay and challenges faced in child welfare, youth justice, psychiatry, and children's mental health including a solution-based approach to address said challenges through panel discussion and collaboration with the group at large. The structure of the workshop will include a presentation by interdisciplinary team and small group discussions.



Luncheon

Friday, October 19th, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (provided)

Luncheon Presentation

Friday, October 19th, 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Path to Strengthening Families: Supporting At-Risk Youth from Conflict Zones

Sahar Atalla, MBBCh, MSc, MPH

Sahar Atalla has over 20 years of experience working with multicultural communities, coordinating community-based projects and promoting integration strategies among newcomer communities. Her current role as the Strengthening Families Program coordinator at the Muslim Resource Centre For Social Support and Integration, London, Ontario, allows her to use her expertise in attaining cultural competency when supporting at-risk youth coming to Canada from conflict zones. The presentation highlights the role of the Strengthening Families Program as a family-based intervention in acknowledging how youth are entangled in a web of multiple challenges that include the unique struggles of becoming a teenager while also dealing with PTSD, adapting to a new and primarily individualist culture, and living with family that may also be struggling with similar challenges. This program emphasizes the importance of family as a cohesive unit when trying to untangle this web of challenges. A family-focused, as opposed to a youth-only focused, prevention and intervention program allows this unique project to enhance resiliency in these at-risk youths, while at the same time maintains their collectivist ideologies. Further, this unique program attempts to fulfill the best interest of the youth by collaborating with different service providers, such as schools, as an attempt to attain a culturally integrative response.



This session contains 15 minutes of Professionalism content as certified by the Law Society of Ontario.

“Changes to children’s social ecologies can have a greater impact on psychological and behavioral outcomes than focused interventions on children themselves, especially for children who face more severe challenges.”

Dr. Michael Ungar



Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Friday, October 19th, 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. *(Participants to choose A or B)*

Session A Trauma and Resilience: Focus on Gender and Diversity

Dr. Christine Wekerle, Ph.D., McMaster University and Savannah Smith

Adolescence is a pivotal developmental period of risk, especially in the area of sexual violence (SV). Longitudinal study from the US points to the roles of prior exposure to parental partner violence and current exposure to violent pornography to be predictive of the emergence of a range of sexual violence perpetration (sexual harassment, sexual assault, coercive sex). Gender differences include current aggression (girls) and psychological dating abuse victimization (boys) in predicting odds of first sexual assault (Ybarra & Thompson, 2018). LGBT youth are three times more likely to be diagnosed with PTSD than their non-LGBT counterparts, and have higher rates of SV experiences. Current toxic stress frameworks - adverse childhood experiences, trauma-informed care - have pointed to the resilience potential of addressing trauma impacts directly. This workshop will discuss issues of trauma and resilience in the context of gender and diversity. Key findings from an Ontario-based child welfare study - the Maltreatment and Adolescent Pathways (MAP) Study - will be integrated with evidence-based practical strategies for galvanizing youth resilience. Based on MAP Study findings, as well as findings from a Canadian team investigating gender and sexual violence victimization (CIHRTeamSV; www.in-car.ca), this workshop will address the "What about the boys?" question in how to support early entry into health and wellness behaviours, particularly in terms of recognizing the under-identified and significant contribution of SV in males to their aggressive and self-destructive behaviours.

- or -

Session B Building Resilience in Indigenous Youth: Cultural and Contextual Understandings

Elaine Toombs and Kristy Kowatch, Lakehead University, with support from Dr. Aislin Mushquash, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Lakehead University and Dr. Christopher Mushquash, Associate Professor, Lakehead University & Northern School of Medicine and Justice Gerri L. Wong, Ontario Court of Justice

Fostering resilience can build strength and support pathways to perseverance with Indigenous youth, such as supporting mechanisms that reduce the likelihood of youth experiences with the criminal justice system. Indigenous models within applied resilience-based research can differ from non-Indigenous models of care. This workshop will explore existing Indigenous models of resilience and relate such models to present day youth mental health outcomes. Strategies to increase resilience with Indigenous youth will be explored. Unique factors pertaining to Indigenous youth have been related to community-based resilience including autonomy and access, as well as support and connectedness. Incorporating Indigenous models of resilience-based research within the criminal justice system should include relational approaches of measurement and collaborative methods that engage Indigenous youth and their communities. Current examples of preliminary strategies to



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foster resilience within Indigenous communities will be explored and future directions of research to promote Indigenous youth outcomes identified within Indigenous communities will be provided. The session will conclude with a discussion about how a cultural gulf between a non-Indigenous lawyer and this client group can compromise the quality of legal service provided, and explore the practical steps that we can – and must – take in our own communities and workplaces to enhance the diversity of our local bar.



This session contains 1 hour and 15 minutes of EDI Professionalism Content as certified by the Law Society of Ontario.



Community Initiatives

After four brief presentations of unique community-based initiatives, Dr. Ungar will facilitate a discussion on best practices for resiliency.

Friday, October 19th, 2:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

1. Vulnerability and Resiliency in Court Involved Youth

Dr. Joyce Radford, C.Psych., Director of Clinical Intervention Services, London Family Court Clinic and Dr. Debbie Chiodo, Ph.D., Evaluator, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Assistant Professor, Western University, will engage participants in a better understanding of risk factors associated with the lives of justice involved youth. For the past three years, the London Family Court Clinic has implemented an innovative intervention in its community known as the Service Coordination Project to help mitigate some of the risk factors in the lives of youth, and improve their trajectory in regards to poverty. This intervention has been developed with the intention to help youth move beyond risk to resilience, and provide them with the skills and opportunities to flourish. Participants will learn about the benefits of service coordination to help youth and their families be resilient as well as how to work collaboratively with the various systems and sectors involved with court involved youth.

2. Resilience In Youth: Presenting an App for Youth Experiencing Challenge

Dr. Christine Wekerle will present on adolescence as a critical developmental period of both risk and resilience. For youth victims of violence, there may be a struggle between disclosing and reaching out for help. Resilience includes successful stress coping ability that reflects functionality across domains for youth, including school, managing their involvement in formal systems, interpersonal relationships, and navigating prevailing gender norms. A CIHR team grant on sexual violence victimization among males has identified several issues in emotion regulation among adolescents and young adults and issues in resilience. An App, JoyPop, has been developed that focuses on enhancing positive affect and engaging in positive activities to promote day-to-day resilience.

3. Crossover Youth: Understanding Mental Health Difficulties

Hailey Kolpin, B.A., M.A. Candidate, Counselling Psychology, at Western University, London, Ontario will introduce the concept of crossover youth and discuss the presence of mental health problems. Focus will be given to the role mental health difficulties play in the trajectory to the youth justice system. This presentation will finish with a few recommendations for working with crossover youth, particularly those with mental health challenges.

4. Bridging Diverse Worldviews: Hearing the Voice of Indigenous Youth through Collaboration

Dr. Kimberly Harris, C. Psych. and Sue Doxtator, M.S.W., Director of FNMI & Diversity Service Coordination, London Family Court Clinic, will note that there is an over-representation of Indigenous youth in the correctional system. In an effort to address the underlying disproportionality, LFCC and Indigenous partners have endeavored to design a culturally responsive framework to assess Indigenous youth who struggle with challenges of mental health, substance abuse, and trauma. This initiative was undertaken as a bridge to mainstream practitioners to appropriately assist in supporting an understanding of Indigenous youth according to their cultural standards, values and customs and is a particularly necessary first step in culturally appropriate preventative approaches that address risk factors, social development, and suicide risk. This collaboration encourages our partners to focus on youth's holistic well-being, strengths; understanding youth at risk, and building the youth's resilience.



This session contains 30 minutes of Professionalism Content as certified by the Law Society of Ontario.



This session contains 15 minutes of EDI Professionalism Content as certified by the Law Society of Ontario.

Final Plenary

Win-Win is an Attitude, Not an Outcome: Family Mediation in Ontario

Presentation on AFCC-Ontario Research

Friday, October 19th, 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Denise Whitehead, Assistant Professor in Sexuality, Marriage and Family Studies at St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo, JD, Ph.D. in Family Relations and Human Development and Dr. Rachel Birnbaum, Ph.D., LL.M, Professor, King's School of Social Work at Western University will share findings from the research taking place on family mediation.

Thank you to our Sponsors

G O L D

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Ontario Court of Justice

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S I L V E R



B R O N Z E





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Sponsorship Information

For information about sponsorship opportunities, please visit

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Member ___ \$20 Non-members ___ \$30

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Tickets (\$100 each) _____ (quantity) or Table of 10 \$1,000 _____

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Conference

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New Rate! Please Circle Category

Presenters or Students or Retirees or New Professionals (under 5 years) ___ \$150

Early Bird by July 15th Member ___ \$250 Non-members ___ \$275

Format In Person ___ Webcast ___ (Webcast only available for Friday Plenary Sessions)

Certificate of Attendance (for psychologists only) ___ \$15

Method of Payment

Payment must be made by cheque payable to AFCC Ontario or credit card (Visa or Mastercard) and must accompany the registration form.

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Cancellation Policy

Registrants can cancel by September 30th with a full refund less \$50 administrative fee. After that date, Registrants will receive a credit for the 2019 annual conference less a \$50 administrative fee