



Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Ontario Chapter, Kingston Group

Save the Date, to Thursday Oct. 29, 5pm -6:30pm
Faculty of Law, Queen's University (MacCorry B201)

“Objectively” Identifying and Substantiating Coercive Control

For Lawyers, Mediators, Social Workers, Psychologists, interested professionals & students

Dr. Robert Rowe, Kingston Family Court Clinic
Prof. Nicholas Bala, Faculty of Law, Queen's University

Moderator – Karla McGrath, Assistant Dean, J.D. Program, Faculty of Law

Questions and Comments from the audience

The Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Ahluwalia v Ahluwalia*, 2026 SCC 16 has recognized the tort of intimate partner violence, in cases where “on an objective measure” coercive control has occurred in an intimate partner relationship. Bill C-16, amendments to the *Criminal Code*, enacts s. 264.01 which will make it an offence for anyone to engage in a “pattern of coercive or controlling conduct” with intent to cause their intimate partner to “believe that the intimate partner’s safety” is threatened. Coercive control is already a factor in parenting decisions under the *Divorce Act* or *CLRA*. These legal developments all raise the challenging question of how to identify and substantiate coercive control.

Prof. Bala will review key parts of the *Ahluwalia* decision and more recent caselaw helping to define coercive control and its implications. Dr. Rowe will review psychological literature on coercive control and discuss instruments and techniques that are being developed to assess its presence. Together they will discuss data based on their analysis over 200 cases from the Kingston Family Court that can help to identify coercive control, substantiate its presence and assess its severity.

- Attendance is free, but those who wish to attend must register by contacting the Kingston Committee of the AFCC-O kingstonafcco@gmail.com
- **For lawyers, this program is eligible for 1.5 hours Substantive CPD**

Social Event: Immediately after the program there will be a social gathering at a local pub with munchies provided, and food and beverages available for purchase. Everyone is welcome to attend.

AFCC Vision: A justice system in which all professionals work collaboratively through education, support & access to services to achieve the best possible outcome for children.