

BC COLLABORATIVE ROSTER SOCIETY (the “Roster”)

DIRECTORS REPORT 2016:

The purposes of the Roster, as set out in the Constitution, are:

- To administer a roster of collaborative professionals who have met a minimum standard of training and experience and who will abide by an established code of conduct
- To provide educational opportunities to build skills for collaborative professionals to assist in providing access to collaborative practice throughout the province
- To facilitate public access to collaborative professionals
- To promote the expanded use of collaborative practice in dispute resolution
- To enhance the profile and credibility of collaborative practice in the province.

The “Vision” of the Roster is to transform how conflict is resolved in British Columbia through Collaborative Practice.

The “Mission” of the Roster is to maintain and support a roster of qualified professionals in British Columbia dedicated to excellence and respect in the healthy resolution of disputes in our communities.

In 2013 the board developed a 3 year Strategic Plan. The 3 key objectives of the Strategic Plan are:

- supporting professional excellence
- increasing public awareness and use of collaborative practice, and
- strengthening organizational capacity.

We continue to be guided by the Strategic Plan throughout 2016.

Supporting Professional Excellence:

We held a training on the “Peace of the Circle” with Evelyn Zellerer and learned about using the circle as a dispute resolution process for conflict. This training expanded our understanding of and options for dispute resolution.

We held a training for collaborative professionals with Cathy Daigle – “Increasing the Use of Financial Professionals: Embracing the Neutral Role”. The Roster has committed to doing what we can to advance the role of the financial neutrals in our community. Further to this meeting a committee has been struck to achieve our objective.

We facilitated a session with the Lower Mainland Collaborative Group introducing them to the resources that the Roster has (for example, a standardized Participation Agreement) and helping their group to clarify their objectives and create a strategic plan. The Lower Mainland Collaborative Group then made a donation to the Roster Society.

The Roster has committed to hosting the basic collaborative practice training in our province for professionals wanting to do collaborative work (instead of our continuing legal education program). Our plan is to have professionals apply to the Roster to be accepted as collaborative trainers and to maintain a bank of trainers in the Roster to conduct trainings throughout the

province as needed using the IACP basic training materials. The training committee is presently reviewing the applications for trainers and we are moving forward with a basic collaborative training in Vancouver in early 2017.

We developed and implemented for our members a Complaints Process and Standards of Conduct. These are uploaded on our website.

We successfully defended a court application for one of our child specialists who, contrary to the terms of her retainer agreement, was subpoenaed to attend court in a contested family matter.

We are updating the Parenting Plan used by the coaches in our collaborative files.

We provided a written submission to the Civil Policy and Legislation Office, Justice Services Branch, Ministry of Justice with respect to the uncertainty in our legislation and court decisions facing our members regarding excluded property, the presumption of advancement and spousal transfers.

We will be organizing additional trainings for our members in 2017 to further support our collaborative professionals to achieve excellence in the work that they do.

Strengthening Organizational Capacity:

Finances:

Our membership presently stands at 34 members. We have had, and expect to continue to have, new members applying to the Roster upon reaching the required minimum number of completed collaborative cases and meeting the training requirement. We are committed to growing our membership.

We received a grant from IACP of \$2,500 to be used to extend our pro bono model beyond the Vancouver area and to develop a fixed fee model of collaborative practice.

We generated income from our trainings throughout the year.

Board Health and Capacity:

Mark Smith and Lindsey MacInnes are reappointed as directors for an additional 2 year term. The board will remain stable as there are no directors retiring or resigning and no new directors appointed.

The following committee's operated throughout the year:

- Public Education – Justine Mercer, Deirdre Severide, Nikki Charlton, Stephanie Fabbro and Mark Smith
- Website - Deirdre Severide, Bev Churchill, Lindsey MacInnes
- Membership Committee – Bev Churchill, Marge Thompson, Justine Mercer, Mark Smith

- Training and Qualified Trainings Committee – Nancy Cameron, Nikki Charlton, Stephanie Fabbro, Mark Smith, Lindsey MacInnes
- Practice Group Outreach – Bev Churchill, Nancy Cameron, Marge Thompson
- Executive Search Committee – Nancy Cameron, Deirdre Severide, Nikki Charlton, Bev Churchill, Mark Smith

We have a retreat on November 24, 2016 and will be focusing on updating our Strategic Plan.

Increasing Public Awareness and Use of CP:

We continue our efforts at reaching out provincially with the collaborative process and have met with interested professionals in Nanaimo, New Westminster, Sechelt and the Okanagan.

We continued our work on the Collaborative Pro Bono Pilot Project. To date we have received approximately 133 applications and have successfully completed 9 files. We are reaching out to Victoria and the Okanagan with our Pilot Project. We have another training for collaborative professionals wanting to participate in the pro bono project on November 25, 2016. As a senior collaborative lawyer is paired with a new collaborative lawyer on these files, it provides mentoring opportunities.

We are committed to exploring a Fixed Fee model of collaborative practice and are looking at ways to modify our pro bono program to a fixed fee model. A workshop was held with the Sunshine Coast group of collaborative professionals to further their exploration of a fixed fee model for their area and to develop protocols for a fixed fee interdisciplinary model that can be adapted for use by other collaborative professionals. We are organizing a training in Victoria for the pro bono and fixed fee protocols.

Our past president, Nancy Cameron, and our administrator of the Pro-Bono Pilot Project, Merilee Miller, presented at the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Conference at a forum called “Access to Collaboration” and shared the Roster’s Pilot Project protocols and the new fixed fee model protocols. Merilee has set up a drop box to share these protocols with dozens of participants that attended the IACP workshop and are excited about adopting the protocols for local use.

We expect to further our work with the evaluator of our pilot project in the upcoming months to adapt the pro bono project as needed and to assist in transitioning to a fixed fee model.