

JUNE 2015

Hard to tell from the grey skies and chilly evenings but summer is here! And while many of us are gearing down for the summer, many of us are working hard behind the scenes to gear up for the fall.

- The **Family Lawyers Association (FLA)** continues to lobby the government and **LAO** for improvements to LAO. This month LAO announced the expansion of services in some areas of family law. The Sub-Committee of the FLA has had a number of meetings with LAO over the last several months on how the new funding to LAO should be spent. LAO has accepted many of the FLA recommendations with respect to the expansion of services. The LAO literature on this is attached.
 - Although the FLA is pleased with the changes to LAO, the FLA is not satisfied with the current number of hours under the **existing family law tariff** and will be working on this issue over the summer. We all know that for the complex case or difficult client, those hours are quickly used. For FLA members, look over the next while for a survey from the FLA on the number of hours used to complete various tasks. The survey will be much like the survey the FLA distributed on the Child Protection Tariff. Many thanks from the FLA (and your child protection colleagues!) for those of you who took the time to complete the survey. The survey was instrumental to the FLA's lobbying efforts.
 - In the last newsletter, I reported that the scope of the **Motherisk Review** had been widened to include testing beyond 2010 to present. The report is now expected to be completed by mid-December 2015. Submissions are due mid-August. The FLA will be spending its "summer vacation" working on this as well. The FLA will be further consulting child protection lawyers to obtain their views. If you would like to provide your input, please contact the FLA chair at kjanczaruk@sympatico.ca.
 - The **311 Jarvis Open Bar committee** has been hard at work putting together exciting and useful programs for the 2015/2016 year. The next session is on October 5, 2015 from 4:45 pm to 6:30 pm. (Remember: it is always the first Monday of the month unless it's a holiday.) The topic is "Understanding Domestic Violence" and will be chaired by Justice Ellen Murray. You do not need to register in advance. Members of the Family Lawyers Association pay the reduced rate of \$20 per event. Non-members of the FLA pay \$25. The cost includes materials and snacks. The flyer with all the dates and topics for the 2015/2016 season is attached.
 - And remember to note down the dates for the **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Ontario Chapter (AFCC-O) Conference and AGM**. Set aside the afternoon of October 22, 2015 for sessions on the law of evidence for mental health professionals and family lawyers and then in the evening attend the networking and social event. On October 23, 2015 attend the AGM and the annual conference. This year's topic is "From Risk to Resilience: Exploring Better Outcomes for Children". The AFCC-O brochure is attached.
 - The **Family Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario (FDRIO)** holds its inaugural conference and AGM on November 23, 2015. For a complete list of programs for the fall, see the FDRIO website: <https://fdrio.wordpress.com>
 - **Let me know what you want!** If there are events or issues which you feel should be included in this newsletter, please contact Katharina Janczaruk at kjanczaruk@sympatico.ca. (Remember the newsletter goes out in the middle of the month so try to get your news to me by the 10th of the month to be sure it is included.) Your feedback is always welcome!
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