



Association of Collaborative Professionals (Calgary)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE – Fall 2021

October 7, 2021
Virtual

[Collaborativepractice.com](https://collaborativepractice.com)

A Message From the Chair ACP (Calgary)



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to invite you to attend a leading edge conference focussed on domestic violence. This is ACP Calgary's first virtual conference and we are inviting all Canadian lawyers and professionals who work with separating families to attend. We encourage you to join us as we hear about leading edge Canadian academic research and practice management relating to domestic violence. Collaborative Professionals will be pleased to see that we have Canadian collaborative professionals presenting on their experience with domestic violence screening and the unique opportunities and challenges that collaboration presents.

Through this program, participants will:

- Gain insight into judicial decisions in the context of domestic violence and family law and discuss the implications for collaborative professionals
- Recognize domestic violence and understand its impact on individuals, family, and community
- Address personal bias around domestic violence
- Develop comfort in responding to disclosure of domestic violence and learn how to build appropriate support and referral services
- Utilize tools to assess and determine mitigation strategies for personal and professional risks associated with taking a file where domestic violence is a factor
- Learn to navigate the lawyer's professional and ethical obligations in Collaborative Practice where there is Family Violence
- Develop best practices for screening for domestic violence and creating a safe space for collaboration

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Beryl McNeill
Collaborative Family Lawyer & Mediator
Chair of the Association of Collaborative Professionals (Calgary)

Schedule

Thursday, October 7

9:00 a.m. MT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants & Guest log in 	
9:05 a.m. MT	Welcome & Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and session overview 	Beryl McNeill
9:15 a.m. MT	Domestic Violence Law in Canada: A Comparative Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparing the recognition of domestic violence in family law and policy in select Canadian jurisdictions Assessing the impact of allegations of domestic violence on judicial decisions on parenting Implications for Collaborative law practitioners 	Jennifer Koshan
10:00 a.m.	Break		
10:15 a.m.	REAL Talk: Understanding Domestic Violence and Coercive Control and how to provide Empathic Responses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizing domestic violence and understand its impact on an individual, family and community Addressing personal bias around domestic violence Develop comfort in responding to domestic violence disclosures Building appropriate support and referrals to services 	Carrie McManus
11:30 p.m.	Break		
12:00 p.m.	Lawyer's Assessment Wheel – Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools to assess and determination mitigation strategies for personal and professional risks associated with taking on a file where domestic violence is a factor. 	Jonathan Griffith
12:45 p.m.	Role of the Lawyer in Collaborative Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigating the lawyer's professional and ethical obligations in Collaborative Practice where there is Family Violence 	Deanne Sowter
1:30 p.m.	Break		
1:45 p.m.	Addressing and Dealing with Domestic Violence in Collaborative Negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best Practice for screening for domestic violence Creating a safe space for collaboration 	Connie den Hollander Bev Churchill
3:00 p.m. MT	Wrap Up & Closing Remarks		

Speakers



Jennifer Koshan (she/her)

Jennifer Koshan is a Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Calgary. Her research and teaching focus on equality, human rights, and legal responses to interpersonal violence. She is Primary Investigator on a cross-Canada research project on domestic violence and access to justice funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the Law Foundation of Ontario's Access to Justice Fund. She was also a witness before the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights hearings on Coercive Controlling Violence, focusing on the importance of avoiding adverse consequences for survivors and members of marginalized groups if coercive control is criminalized.



Carrie McManus (she/her)

Carrie McManus breaks down barriers and embraces change as the Director of Programs and Innovation at Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society. Through Carrie's leadership, Sagesse programs have broadened to include informal supporters, taken a closer look at the unique needs of rural and remote survivors of domestic violence, and extended their reach across Alberta to support over 50 communities. She also advocated for an agency wide evaluation framework and is committed to measuring the individual, organizational and community impact of all Sagesse programs and activities. Carrie holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University in Halifax and a Diploma of Social Work from Mount Royal University in Calgary.



Jonathan Griffith (he/him)

Jonathan received his LL. B. from the University of New Brunswick and his LL. M. (specialization in family law) from Osgood Hall. He primarily focused on family law for the 11 years he spent in private practice before transitioning to his current role as Early Intervention Counsel with the Law Society of Alberta. Jonathan teaches family law at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Law and frequently presents on family law topics at professional conferences across Canada.



Deanne Sowter

Deanne Sowter is a doctoral candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School, and a Research Fellow with the Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution. She is an Adjunct Professor at Western Law, where she teaches Family Law, and at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Law, where she teaches Negotiations. Deanne's research focuses on legal ethics and family law. She is a two-time recipient of the OBA Foundation Chief Justice of Ontario Fellowship in Legal Ethics and Professionalism Studies (2015/16 and 2019/20). Previously, she was a full-time Instructor at the University of Calgary where she taught Legal Ethics, Family Law, Advanced Family Law, Negotiations, and Legislation.



Connie den Hollander (she/her)

Connie has been practicing in Saskatoon in the area of family law for 30 years. She has been practicing as a Collaborative lawyer for 18 years. She has served on the board of Collaborative Lawyers of Saskatchewan Inc., including several terms as President. She is a founding board member of Collaborative Professionals of Canada Inc., a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, was a past Chair of the CBA Saskatchewan ADR North Section, a member of the national CBA ADR executive and a member of the collaborative subcommittee of the CBA national Family Law section. She has led training workshops on collaborative practice and is a sought after speaker in the legal profession and in the community on Collaborative practice. She is recognized by Canada's Lexpert peer surveys as one of Canada's Leading Practitioners in the area of Family Law. For tens years she has Chaired and served on the board of Family Service Saskatoon, a social service agency that provides counselling and support for individuals and families experiencing intimate partner violence. She has experience dealing with domestic violence inside collaborative negotiations as well as in the traditional litigation process.



Bev Churchill

Bev Churchill is a Consensual Dispute Professional who has been practicing family law for over 34 years. She is a Collaborative lawyer, Mediator, Parenting Coordinator, Child Interviewer, Arbitrator and Trainer. She lives, works and plays on the traditional territory of the Okanagan Nation. Bev is on the Roster of the BC Collaborative Roster Society, Mediate BC-Family Roster, as well as the Parenting Coordination Society and the Hear the Child Society. She is Chair of the Hear the Child Society and Collaborative Professionals of Canada. Bev is Past Chair of the BC Collaborative Roster Society and the Okanagan Collaborative Family Law Group. Bev is co-founder of the BC Roadmap Trainers, offering training in Collaborative Practice and Hear the Child topics throughout the province of British Columbia. She is also a Trainer through the BC Collaborative Roster Society. Bev can be contacted through: www.BevChurchillFamilyLawyer.com or www.Okanagan-SettlementCentre.com