



International Academy of Mediators

Montreal Conference Report

Jay Rudolph, Conference Chair

I want to summarize what transpired at the meeting of the Planning Committee held on May 19th at 12pm EST. In attendance at the meeting were Andrea Morrison, Michael Dickstein, Barb Cornish, Paul Van Osselaer, Steve Paul as well as Richard Rejino and Carol Wilbur.

I am very grateful to the entire Planning Committee as well as to Michel Kallipetis and Steve Paul (from the IAM Executive) as well as to Barb Cornish and Paul Van Osselaer (from the IAM Conference Committee) and to Richard Rejino and Carol Wilbur (on the administrative side) for everyone's hard work and unwavering support in planning the Montreal Conference. We are going to have an excellent conference where the camaraderie of the members of the IAM community will be front and center. Please [click here](#) for the Conference Brochure.

Individual emails were sent on May 6th to each speaker, panel, focus group discussion facilitator and Pepp Talk speaker encouraging them to prepare for the conference and advising them of certain conference logistics and the deadlines for providing power point presentations to Richard Rejino. Follow up emails will be sent as the conference approaches.

An comprehensive email was sent out to all attendees regarding COVID protocols and testing.

Key Issues Discussed at the Meeting

1. Paul Iacono has contacted Justice Suzanne Cote of the Supreme Court of Canada to find out if she is available to deliver a keynote address in place of Justice Rosalie Abella. Paul is hoping to have a response one way or the other by Friday May 20th. If Justice Cote is available, we can slot her into the Thursday morning spot that was reserved for Justice Abella or we can see if we can move John Beaucage to the morning time slot and put Justice Cote into the Thursday afternoon time slot when John Beaucage was to speak.
2. If Justice Cote is not available, we will see if we can move John Beaucage into the time slot reserved for Justice Abella and we will spread the extra hour and a quarter of free time by extending the morning and afternoon 15 minute breaks, the lunch hour and the free time at the end of the day (45 minutes) into longer segments where there will be more opportunity for members to socialize. We will not look for another potential keynote speaker.
3. There was unanimous agreement by those in attendance that in order to respect the principle of "do no harm", it would not be advisable to invite either the Ukrainian mediator or the Russian mediator to speak at the Montreal Conference.

4. At the opening of the conference, there will be an acknowledgment of the indigenous lands upon which the conference is situated. Andrea has provided me with the necessary wording.
5. Andrea will contact IAM member Thierry Beriault from Quebec to see if he can give very brief introductory remarks in French. His remarks would be 5 minutes or less. If Mr. Beriault is not available, Andrea will try to get someone else who is from Quebec to do so. The people in attendance appreciate the importance of recognizing Quebec's unique society.