

Re: Proposed Mediation Pilot Project
Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador - Family Division
St. John's, NL

Dear Law Society Members:

The Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, Family Division in St. John's is attempting to gauge any possible interest amongst members of the Bar, particularly those doing family law, in offering mediation in conjunction with Family Justice Services on certain court files.

The Family Division is working on developing a pilot project wherein members of the Bar would mediate certain family cases. While funding has not been secured to date for what is seen as a short-term pilot project, the hope is to seek funding from government once it can be demonstrated, through the pilot project, that such a service would be beneficial to the public.

One of the first steps is to determine whether there is any interest amongst the Bar to be involved with this initiative. The Family Division wishes to develop a list of lawyers who would agree to provide some mediation, and the intention is that the commitment would be a maximum of four to five hours per month.

It is also the intention to involve members of the Family Law Bar in the planning and development of this pilot project and the subsequent proposal for funding.

As such, any member of the Law Society who is interested in participating in this initiative is asked to please notify Lynn Neary at Supreme Court Family Division (judges' chambers) by contacting her by telephone directly at 729-1728, or by email at LynnNeary@supreme.court.nl.ca.