

# Mediation in a Pluralistic Society

**November 22, 2016** Law Society, 130 Queen St W, Toronto, ON 1pm to 5pm

**Mediation has been described as making a “safe place for a difficult conversation.”** As dispute resolution professionals, we know that conflict is a part of life and its resolution is often less about “legal” problems and more about “people” problems.

Join ADRIO (Alternate Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario) and FDRIO (Family Dispute Resolution of Ontario) for an afternoon exploring ADR in the context of the cultural, ethnic and religious diversity of our increasingly pluralistic society.

Our culture, gender, religion and ethnicity lie at the core of our being. Who we are, where we came from, and our world and life views are shaped by these often nebulous factors. Awareness of the cultural

expectations that surround the dispute resolution process is **an essential tool for mediators**, to help parties feel comfortable, trust the process and work towards resolution. Left unrecognized, cultural values and differences can profoundly affect a mediation’s outcome and even sow the seeds for its failure before it begins.

**How do we as professionals grapple with these differences and learn from each other?**

## Topics

- What is the relationship between faith/belief/cultural history and mediation?
- What specific beliefs, traditions and/or principles shape the ways in which different communities mediate and resolve conflict?
- How do these beliefs, traditions and/or principles either challenge or incorporate “western” adversarial systems of conflict resolution?
- What are the main opportunities presented by such processes, and what are the main challenges or risks?
- How does each process work?
- What specific training do mediators receive?
- What is role of the formal court system and other dispute resolution mechanisms?

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Registration opens August 1st.**  
Visit [www.adrio.ca](http://www.adrio.ca) or [www.fdrweek.ca](http://www.fdrweek.ca) for more information.

## Speakers

**Karim Sunderji** CHAIRMAN, ISMAILI  
CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION BOARD

**Dr. Aslam Daud** AHMADIYYA MUSLIM  
JAMAAT CANADA

**Sharon Shore** FAMILY LAWYER

**Baldev Mutta &  
Amandeep Kaur** PUNJABI COMMUNITY  
HEALTH SERVICES

**Ryan Walsh** ABORIGINAL  
LEGAL SERVICES

**Mike Leuty** ACCREDITED FAMILY  
MEDIATOR

**Barbara Benoliel** PREFERRED  
SOLUTIONS INC.

**Hilary Linton** RIVERDALE MEDIATION LTD.

## REGULAR RATE

**\$150**<sup>+HST</sup> Non-Members

## MEMBERS OF ADRIO/FDRIO

**\$125**<sup>+HST</sup> prior to Oct. 21st  
(\$150 after Oct 21st)

**STUDENTS \$50**<sup>+HST</sup>

## GROUP RATE (3 OR MORE)

**\$75**/PERSON <sup>+HST</sup>

Includes mid-afternoon refreshments