



May 2, 2016

## PROVINCIAL COURT RECOGNIZES COURT MEDIATION PROGRAM'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The Provincial Court of British Columbia recognizes the contributions made by the Mediate BC Society and mediators in the Court Mediation Program from 1998 to 2016. The Program required people with certain types of disputes in designated Small Claims Registries to engage in out-of-court mediation as a first step. Mediate BC administered the program, providing skilled mediators to help people resolve their civil disputes. It also offered a practicum program in which trainees gained practical, supervised experience as they worked with supportive mentors.

Conducting more than 25,000 mediations and training more than 700 mediators over the last 18 years, the Court Mediation Program made a huge contribution to the collaborative resolution of disputes in British Columbia. It diverted disputes from courtrooms, allowing judges to adjudicate other cases and thereby increasing access to justice for the public. Its training boosted the number of skilled mediators available to help resolve civil, family and child protection cases in the province.

The Court is grateful to Mediate BC and to all the mediators who contributed their time and skills to this worthwhile endeavour.

Thomas J. Crabtree  
Chief Judge  
Provincial Court of British Columbia