



THE CANADIAN ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED NEUTRALS

National Executive Committee 2020-2021

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OPEN LETTER TO OTLA MEMBERS

Dear Counsel,

It's my great pleasure to announce the launch this month of our new association, the Canadian Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, an invite-only collegial organization whose membership includes a majority of Canada's most respected civil-trial mediators and arbitrators.

Over the last year, hundreds of litigation lawyers across Canada - including many Society members - kindly responded to inquiries from my paralegal team, providing feedback on their preferred ADR professionals. This research allowed us to ensure that only neutrals that are widely-acceptable to the plaintiff and defence bar were put before our Committee for peer votes. As a result of extensive due diligence, over 130 mediators & arbitrators have been inducted, including 77 charter members of our new Ontario Chapter.

"That's all very exciting, but why should I care?" you might reasonably ask!

Please take a moment to visit our new websites - our national database is at www.Mediators.ca, or, if you're in Ontario and generally hire local neutrals, visit www.OntarioMediators.org. If you've a preferred neutral, simply visit their personal page to view their live **Available Dates calendar**, where you or your staff can reserve an appointment online in seconds. Or, if you've an agreed date that works well for opposing counsel/attendees, you can instantly cross-reference which Academy Members are available for your "must have" date, via our **Calendar Search** tool.

Our Academy websites are entirely free to use - no administration or referral fees of any kind - CADN is entirely funded by our members' dues. If you schedule an appointment through our website(s), you're still dealing directly with that mediator or arbitrator's office. We're simply providing the means for the scheduling process to now move online, helping legal staff across Canada eliminate phone and email 'tag', just as we've done for more than 30,000 law offices across the United States over the last decade (See www.Mediators.ca/about for our history.)

Finally, a request - we'd be most grateful if you'd share news of our free Academy websites with relevant lawyers, paralegals and secretaries within your own organization, as this is certain to make their jobs a little easier (at a time when most everyone could do with less stress!)

We look forward to working with the OTLA and its esteemed membership in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Darren A. Lee
Executive Director, CADN

The Canadian Academy of Distinguished Neutrals