



**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON COUPLE AND
FAMILY RELATIONS**

56th International Conference

In collaboration with

North American Family Organisation (NAFO)

**POLICY AND PRACTICE – DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING
TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR ALL WHO WORK
WITH COUPLES AND FAMILIES.**

Québec, Canada 17- 19 June 2009



To compare existing training programmes in Québec, in Canada and around the globe, to research results and effectiveness, to consider how they can be improved in the best interest of families.

There is great concern throughout the world about the problems that couples and families have to contend with. This concern is shared between Governments and those whose task it is to provide the levels of support for those who need help.

This conference will therefore have a focus on those who provide that help. The training and continuing professional development that workers in this field require has become more complex over the decades. It is our hope that the Conference will provide a forum for sharing best practice and new initiatives so that workers are well equipped to deal with the complex matters they face.

A range of keynote presentations from different parts of the world, backed up by workshops that will allow participants to discuss, learn and share experience and skills.

Training cannot be an end in itself, but ignoring it as part of the solution in family support is short-sighted and unhelpful.

POLICY AND PRACTICE – DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMMES FOR ALL WHO WORK WITH COUPLES AND FAMILIES.

The International Commission on Couple and Family Relations, in collaboration with **North American Family Organisation (NAFO)**, extends an invitation to participate in its 2009 International Conference to members of all those professions concerned with the welfare of people in their family settings.

Once again, the Commission will offer a unique forum in which legislators, policy makers, legal experts, researchers, and those responsible for the delivery of front-line services to couples and families, from countries throughout the world, can join in an examination of influences affecting couples and family life today.

The research findings and practice developments of leading specialists will be presented. International networking between members of participants' own professions will be enriched by opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogues and collaboration, and the chance to understand more about approaches being adopted in other cultural settings.

Individuals and organisations involved in couple and family counselling and therapy, family organisations, research, social policy, family-related legislation and legal processes, relationship education, and the provision of welfare services are invited to participate in this important conference.

PRE-CONFERENCE SCIENTIFIC DAY

“Training and family intervention”

Introduction to the scientific day

The 56th International Conference will be preceded by a scientific day organised in co-operation with Sherbrooke University.

The purpose of that day is to present a state-of-the-art report on the research work and interventions made in Quebec that carry some hope for families. The scientific Committee made a selection among the proposed presentations on the basis of the possibility to generalize these experiences in a wider context than in North America.

Workshops are divided into five sub-topics

1. Working with families in multisocieties.
2. Working with families with children suffering from behavioural disorders.
3. Interventions on family problems of abuse and neglect.
4. Interventions on families in situation of crisis.
5. The problem of unbalanced couples.

It will be possible to attend 3 workshops on the same theme. The aspects studied will be the state of research works on the subject, various original intervention experiences and the possibility to train actors.

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FAMILIES.

56th International Conference, Québec

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 17th June

08.00 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 10.15	Conference Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Welcome by Chair of ICCFR○ Opening by the Dean of the University○ Welcome by a representative of the Government of Québec○ Presentation by host organisation: Jacques Lizée, President of NAFO
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee Break
10.30 – 12.30	1st Keynote Presentation ‘Family as a filiation crucible and springboard for a affiliation to community life’ Dr Michel Lemay (Canada) <i>Chaired by: Benoît Clotteau, Secretary General NAFO (Canada)</i>
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch
13.45 – 15.15	1st Group of Workshops (Choice of 6)
15.15 – 15.45	Tea Break
15.45 – 17.15	Discussion Groups, Session 1
19.00	Civic Reception

Thursday 18th June

09.00 – 10.30	2nd Keynote Presentation ‘How to get prepared for family interventions in an ever-moving Mexican society.’ Professor Arturo Ornelas (Canada) <i>Chaired by: M. Mario Laforest, vice-rector associated with the University of Sherbrooke and director of the international relations (Canada)</i>
10.30 – 10.45	Coffee Break
10.45 – 12.00	Discussion Groups, Session 2
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	2nd Group of Workshops (Choice of 6)
15.00 – 15.30	Tea Break
15.30 – 17.00	Discussion Groups, Session 3
19.00	Social and Cultural Evening

Friday 19th June

08.30 – 09.45	3rd Keynote Presentation: ‘A diversified training of all those who work with and for families : the case of Cameroon.’ Professor Rose Zoe-Obianga (Cameroon) <i>Chaired by: Marc Morris, ICCFR Board (Belgium)</i>
10.00 – 10.45	Round Table Discussions: Feedback from Groups
10.45 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 13.00	Conference Closing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Closing by Chair○ Official invitation for 2010 Conference to Malta
13.00	Lunch and end of Conference

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS AND SPEAKERS

Wednesday 17 June 2009

‘The Family as a filiation crucible and springboard for an affiliation to community life.’

The family has a double function. Through its continuous, stable and empathic care, it gives a child the possibility to attach himself to significant persons and thus to develop a sense of security, self confidence and confidence in others, acquiring a feeling of belonging and affiliation. Therefore, the family becomes a springboard enabling each of its members to become affiliated to a community of life which presupposes the adhesion to rules and values leading to the harmonization and cohesion of testimonies.

Speaker: Dr Michel Lemay, Ph. D in Literature, Psychiatrist at the University Hospital Mother-Child (Hôpital Ste-Justine) and titular professor of Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine, Montreal University.

Thursday 18 June 2009

‘How to get prepared for a family intervention in an ever-moving Mexican society.’

- 1- The family in Central America before Christopher Columbus**
The Maya Family
The Aztec Family
The formation of Pre-Columbian marriage
- 2- Cross-breeding**
The Mexican Family during the Colonial period,
Independence and Revolution
- 3- The ethical dimension.**

Speaker: Dr. Arturo Ornelas. Now assistant to the President of the State University of Morelos, Mexico (UAEM), has a life story worthy of a great script, and from it he is able to draw stories, experiences and inspiration enough to keep a group of people enthralled for hours. He is very committed to working with Mexicans at a community level.

Friday 19th June

"Diversified Training of all those who work for or with Families: the case of Cameroon"

Considering the multiplicity of structures and institutions whose actions are not sufficiently coordinated, our perspective is based on two equally important axes.

- **the taking into account of positive traditional values**
- **the adjustment to modern life (gender approach)**

Therefore, the form of training we wish to diversify is multidisciplinary. We shall endeavour to show its pertinence for a population which is still trying to find its identity according to the principles cultural of offering and acceptance.

Its does no matter if this training is formal or informal as long as it endeavours to distribute knowledge through case-discussions, an interaction between participants, role playing, etc.

The anthropological sociology of Africans has the following philosophical principle "I PARTICIPATE THEREFORE I EXIST".

**Speaker: Rose Zoé-Obianga. PhD in Phonetics (Language Studies), Coordinator of the Technical Department (D.T.) of the Christian Association of Women (ACF) of the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon (E.P.C). Rose was member of the Core-Group of the Women Department of C.E.P.C.A. Vice-President of C.E.T.A. (A.A.C.C.). Member of the Unit Education, Cultural Diversity (Human Rights Advisory Group (1975-1983); Unit of Peace, Justice and Integrity of the Creation of the world Council of Churches (C.O.E. = W.C.C.) Member of A.R.M. (W.A.R.C.); E.A.T.W.O.T.; I.C.P.C.C.; I.C.C.F.R.; W.A.C.C.
I am a retired Senior Lecturer of the University of Yaoundé I.**

WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTERS

Wednesday, 17 June 2009

Workshop 1: “Effects of ‘professionalization’ of lay foster families.”

Presenters: Bruno Hildenbrand, Head of Department of Socialization Theory and Micro Sociology at the Institute of Sociology at Friedrich-Schiller-University, Jena (Germany)

In this workshop qualitative data are presented which help to discuss the following hypotheses: 1) Training destroys everyday life competences and substitutes them for technocratic knowledge irrelevant to individual life practice. 2) Training strengthens life practice because it furthers development of practical knowledge about coping with crises.

Workshop 2: “The training of municipal actors in the field of family policies”

Presenters: Jacques Lizée, Director of the Carrefour of municipal action (CAMF) and President of ONAF (Canada)

The Carrefour Municipal action and families (CAMF) is mandated by the Government of Quebec in order to accompany municipalities in the development of their municipal family policy (PFM). Training process and some of the accomplishments made by municipal actors pertaining to various disciplines with the purpose of being qualified to take into account the reality of families in their daily work.

Workshop 3: “Family mediation: a humanistic approach in order to struggle against the challenges of marital rupture”

Presenter: Justin Lévesque, PhD, social worker, author, trainer and family intermediator (Canada)

In Quebec, family mediation has evolved very quickly from the status of an informal practice to that of an officially recognized activity financed by the State. In this workshop, we shall describe the development of that practice, the structured intermediation process as well as the characteristics and results of that practice.

Workshop 4: The Impact of Separation on Couples and Families

Presenter: Marie Daly, MRCS Supervisor and Trainer (Ireland)
Francesca McGuinn, Teen Between Co-ordinator and Trainer, MRCS (Ireland)

MRCS Counselling and Teen Between have developed a specific training and education programme for counsellors working with the emotional impact of separation and also run *Life After Separation* and *Post-Separation Parenting* courses for members of the public. This presentation will provide an overview of these programmes including time for questions and answers.

Workshop 5: Nigeria, Impact of parenting for a successful marital life.

Presenter: Rev. Chidi O.Igwe - Clergy from Nigeria and Barrister
Mrs Juliet Ngozi Ukpabi - Attorney at Law from Nigeria (Nigeria)

The paper is to help give orientation to parents on the upbringing of the child, help restore the values and norms of marriage in a changing world for a better marital life. The presentation shall be in PowerPoint slides and shall be partly interactive.

Workshop 6: “Parenting Support by the Gezinsbond”

Presenter: Luk De Smet is director general of the Gezinsbond (League of Families in Flanders (Belgium). The Gezinsbond is a family association defending families and children at each policy level, offering services to its members and supporting parents in the education of their children. (Belgium)

We will focus in this workshop on the different offerings/initiatives of the Gezinsbond in the area of parenting support: publications, thematic evening sessions, training schools for parents, the project “parenting support @ home” and participation in the “parenting shops”.

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Workshop 7: “Supporting Parenting Support in Belgium”

Presenters: Nele Travers, Educational Psychologist, Child and Family Agency (Belgium)
Steven Strynckx, Criminologist, Youth Welfare Agency (Belgium)

We will focus in this workshop on how to provide parenting support in Flanders with the engagement of the local authorities, the creation of ‘parenting shops’ in the 14 largest cities and extra support for families at risk. We will end the workshop by outlining the opportunities and difficulties in supporting these programmes.

Workshop 8: You Can’t Train Marriage and Relationship Educators Fast Enough!

Presenters: Bill Coffin, Special Assistant for Marriage Education, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services (USA)

Does the training of program leaders take a day, a week, a month, or a year? You be the judge as you experience snippets of the popular US programs.

Workshop 9: "Seminars on coparentality: the expression of a family reality"

Presenters: **Alain Fredet, Msc. (social services), social worker and family mediator at the psychological mediation and expertise Service of the Youth Centers of Montreal (Canada)**

Seminars on co-parentality are first of all a meeting platform for parents who are concerned by the consequences of a separation on the well being of their family. Presentation of the characteristics of these seminars and objective of the meetings, with parents who in the presence of a moderator, provoke a reflection on the possibility of looking at their situation from a different perspective more favourable to the discovery of still unknown solutions.

Workshop 10: " Parental Alienation"

Presenters: **Benoit Clotteau, couple and family therapist, Director of "the institut de Formation d'Aide à l'enfant et à la Famille".
Francine Cyr, professor-researcher, psychologist and family mediator.
Chantal Cormier, lawyer (Canada)**

Does parental alienation exist? Is this a child disorder or the pathological expression on an ill-functioning dynamic as regards family relations? Presentation of the conceptual controversy and description of the manifestations of that phenomenon inside family dynamics and practical recommendations in order to facilitate the co-ordination of the various systems involved in the care provided to such families.

Workshop 11: "Overhand knots in relationship – a course for couples in crisis"

Presenters: **Raija Alhosaari, Head of Kataja–The Relationship Center (Relationship educator, Church social worker), Finland
Arja Seppänen, Family-work educator of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (Physical education teacher, Sexual therapist), Finland**

Overhand knots in relationship is a model consisting of a professionally counselled peer support group structure for couples in crisis (e.g. infidelity), an instructor education and written material. In this workshop participants will learn how the model has been applied in Finland and will gain experience in some of the key elements of the model.

Workshop 12: PARENTS FORUM: a new resource for families and communities

Presenter: **Eve Sullivan, Founder, PARENTS FORUM, (USA)**

This fully interactive workshop will present the program's 'tools of the trade' and agenda of eight questions on family life issues. The presentation will show how these help participants assess and improve their parenting skills.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference will be held at Sherbrooke University, Sherbrooke, Québec

Languages

The Working Language of the conference will be French. English translation will be available in the keynotes. Each workshop session will include a French presentation, English presentation and bi-lingual presentation. Discussion Groups will be in English, French or bi-lingual.

Keynote papers

These will address the central issues raised by the conference's subject and provide input for plenary discussion and groupwork.

Workshops

Specialists working in different countries and disciplines focus on specific aspects of the conference subject and facilitate international comparisons and debates.

Discussion Groups

The 2008 Conference Programme includes a series of three Discussion Group sessions.

Similar series of sessions have been a highly appreciated feature of ICCFR Conferences for many years. The sessions offer conference participants the opportunity to give detailed consideration to the themes and issues raised by Keynote speakers and Workshop presenters. This will happen with people from other countries and other professions.

To be successful, the groups need participants to commit themselves to regular attendance. Participants will be allocated to specific groups in order to ensure a good mix of nationalities and professions. Because groups will be of mixed nationality we ask all to be sensitive to the needs of colleagues whose first language is not the working language of the conference.

Each group will have a Facilitator. Facilitators will help to ensure that everyone's experiences and viewpoints are heard while helping the members to deal with the conference's main themes. Groups can submit recommendations if they wish. There will be a chance for individual group members to state their points of view on conference themes during a final plenary session. However, the detail of groups' discussions will be confidential to their members.

Visa Information

If you require a visa to attend the conference, you can obtain further information from the following webpage: www.cic.ca/english/visit/index.asp

The following information is required for visa application: Full Name; ID number; Passport number; Country of Citizenship; Full address; Dates of arrival and departure (i.e. flight details). For assistance with visa applications please contact:

Paul- André Tremblay. Email: tremblaypa@yahoo.fr

Bursaries and financial support

A small number of travel grants and bursaries are available for participation in this conference. For details and criteria, please apply to the ICCFR Chair, Terry Prendergast. Email: terry@marriagecare.org.uk

Participants' list

This will be available to participants at the conference. Please specify on your Registration Form if you do **not** wish your address to be included.

A **Certificate of Attendance** at the conference can be issued for those who require it

Book Shop

A Book Shop will be open during breaks at the conference. If you would like further information regarding this please contact:

Mme Lyne Felteau by email: libraireB@usherbrooke.coop

Or Paul-André Tremblay by email: tremblaypa@yahoo.fr

Accommodation Options

*** Please note: breakfast costs are NOT included in the accommodation prices.
Breakfast will be available at the Conference Centre for all participants**

Student Room at Sherbrooke University

M. Denis Lemieux

Residence Co-ordinator

Telephone: 001 819-821-8000 ext 62670 Fax: 001 819-821-7616

Email: denis.lemieux@usherbrooke.ca

Cost per room per night: 30.00\$CAD, taxes included

Use the following link to view the student room accommodation

<http://www.usherbrooke.ca/hegerbement/hebergement-sur-les-campus/chambres-campus-principal/>

Other information:

located on the campus.

Each room has a hand-basin, single bed, phone with local call free, computer connection, fridge and bedding. No bedding change during your stay.

No own bathroom: 8 common bathrooms with showers or baths on each floor.

One wing of 2 floors is reserved for the Conference.

Deposit of 15% is required when registering.

This accommodation will be arranged for participants when registering.

Hôtel/Motel l'Ermitage

1888, rue King West

Sherbrooke (Québec) J1J 2 E2

Telephone : 001 819-569-5551 Fax: 001 819-569-1446

www.motelermitage.com

Costs: 85\$ CAD plus taxes or 95\$ CAD plus taxes per person per night

Other information:

Transport from hotel to University: by public bus – about 5 minutes.

80 units with pool, breakfast, bar, kitchenettes, whirlpool baths available, computer connections & meeting rooms.

Close to downtown, shopping center and movie theatres.

Please make reservations directly with the hotel:

www.motelermitage.com

Please contact the hotel to discuss the deposit required and the cancellation terms.

Other Hotels:

Please note that taxis will be needed for transport to the University.

Delta Sherbrooke**** www.deltasherbrooke.com

Hotel Le Président*** www.hotel-le-president.com

Hotel Le Baron www.hotellebaron.com

Please make any reservations directly with the hotel.

CONFERENCE FEES & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Conference Registration:

Please complete the registration form and email it to the following address:

conference 2009@cofaq.qc.ca

For Conference Information, please contact:

- Paul-André Tremblay
e-mail: tremblaypa@yahoo.fr
- Jacques Lizée
e-mail: jacques.lizee@carrefourmunicipal.qc.ca
- Terry Prendergast, ICCFR
e-mail: terry@marriagecare.org.uk
- Claire Missen, ICCFR
e-mail: cmissen@eircom.net

PARTICIPATION COST

1. Conference Fees (includes participation at the Scientific Pre Conference Day)

Registration before the 30 April 2009

- ICCFR and NAFO members: 600.00 \$CAD
- Non Members: 650.00 \$CAD

Registration after 30 April 2009

- ICCFR and NAFO members: 650.00 \$CAD
- Non Members: 700.00 \$CAD

Note: These prices include the Pre Conference Day. There will be no refund for the Pre Conference Day if you are unable to attend.

2. One Day Conference Fee

Wednesday 17 June 2009: **150.00 \$CAD** (inclu lunch and dinner)

Thursday 18 June 2009: **150.00 \$CAD** (inclu lunch and dinner)

Friday 19 June 2009: **150.00 \$CAD** (inclu lunch)

PLEASE NOTE: Accommodation Options and costs are explained in the “Details about the Conference” section

PAYMENT METHODS:

Only payment by bank transfer is accepted.

Bank details for payment

Beneficiary's Bank: CAISSE CENTRALE DESJARDINS, Montréal, Canada

SWIFT: CCDQCAMM

Beneficiary's Branch ID: CC081530397

Beneficiary's Account Number: 081530397817908

Beneficiary's Complete Name: Organisation nord-américaine de la famille

Beneficiary's Complete Address : 5525, Av. Auteuil, Bureau 103

Brossard, QC, J4Z 1M3

Bank drafts as well as personal, travellers' or company cheques cannot be accepted.

Cancellation terms regarding conference and accommodation

Registration:

There will be no refunds for no-shows.

Participation cancelled by April 30th, 2009: fees refundable with a deduction of 100\$CAD for administrative expenses.

Participation cancelled between April 30th and May 30th 2009, there will be a 50% of refund.

No refund for cancellations received after May 30th, 2009

Hotel: Check with the hotel

Student's rooms: Deposit of 15% non refundable.

No refund for cancellations received after May 30th 2009.

Cancellation of any kind has to be made in writing to ONAF-Conference 2009.

(Address: 5525, Av. Auteuil, Bureau 103 Brossard, QC, J4Z 1M3)

All refunds will be made after the Conference at the exchange rate of that date.

TRANSPORT – LOCAL INFORMATION – TOURISM

Sherbrooke University
2500, boulevard de
l'Université
Sherbrooke (Québec) Canada
J1K 2 R1

City of Sherbrooke
www.ville.sherbrooke.qc.ca

Travel information to and from Montreal-Pierre Trudeau International Airport to Sherbrooke University:

Shuttle buses will be arranged to transport participants to and from the airport to Sherbrooke. *The travel time by bus is approximately 2 hours. Please take this into account when booking flight times.* There is an option of car hire at Pierre Trudeau Airport, or the normal bus service from Montreal itself.

Note: In order to arrange the Shuttle Buses, please include your flight details (Airline, flight number, date of flight, time of arrival and time of departure) on your registration form or if you have any queries please contact Paul-André Tremblay. Email: tremblaypa@yahoo.fr

Cost of arranged transport from Montreal to Sherbrooke (on Sunday 14/06/09 or Monday 15/06/09)

or from Sherbrooke to Montreal (on Friday pm19/06/09)

One way: 70.00\$CAD

Two ways: 130.00\$ CAD

Tourism Information

Useful websites for participants

Canada: canada.gc.ca

Québec Province: www.bonjourquebec.com - www.quebecregion.com

Eastern Townships: www.easterntownships.org

City of Sherbrooke: tourismesherbrooke.com

City of Montreal: www.tourisme-montreal.org