

Thursday, October 16, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONFLICT RESOLUTION DAY **Thursday, October 16, 2014**

The Farmers' Advocate Office (FAO) is pleased to celebrate Alberta's 9th Annual Conflict Resolution Day on Thursday, October 16, 2014. In Alberta we are fortunate to have many governmental and non-governmental organizations that support Albertans by providing mediation, facilitation, and negotiation services. These services help create lasting solutions to conflicts and help minimize the burden on Alberta's court system.

The FAO was established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in 1973 as a resource for Alberta farmers and ranchers. As a liaison between farmers and the provincial government, the FAO helps ensure that the rights and interests of rural Albertans are recognized, understood, and protected. In addition, the FAO helps resolve disputes on various rural issues including land and energy issues, farm machinery purchases, nuisance complaints, and disaster relief claims.

The FAO is a member of Alberta's Dispute Resolution Network (DRN), which is comprised of Government of Alberta employees from various ministries and departments that are engaged in conflict resolution. From September 16-17, 2014, the DRN held its annual conference.

The FAO sponsored the presentation "The Brain, The Mind, and Conflict" by Dr. Bastiaan Heemsbergen, which focused on how our brains function in conflict situations. Our natural survival response to external threats is emotional, which often results in actions that we later regret. He suggests that we should strive not to remove emotions from the equation, but to leverage them to benefit the situation. Conference participants spoke highly of Dr. Heemsbergen's presentation and said that it was beneficial learning, both personally and professionally.

Learning skills to help manage conflict is important for anyone working with people. We were pleased to see that The Ag Industry Training and Extension Branch is offering conflict management workshops for ARD staff this November. We have no doubt these opportunities will continue to enhance the level of service that ARD provides to rural Albertans. Similar opportunities to learn mediation and conflict management skills are available to the general public through the Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute of Alberta (ADRIA). More information is available at www.adralberta.com.

For more information on the conflict resolution support offered by the FAO, please call Research and Communications Specialist, Jeana Les, at 780-310-FARM (3276) or visit our website at www.farmersadvocate.gov.ab.ca.

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LET'S
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Conflict Resolution Day

An Annual International Celebration

October 16, 2014

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www.drn.alberta.ca

check out the website for events in your area

Brought to you by the Government of Alberta and
community based dispute resolution organizations