

ATTORNEY GENERAL MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Room 104 Legislative Building Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA R3C 0V8

Dear Stakeholder:

Family Law Modernization: Collaboration Table Invitation

The Government of Manitoba is committed to improving services and responding to the changing needs of Manitobans. Our Premier has tasked me with modernizing Manitoba's family law system. Improving the quality of life for Manitobans experiencing family breakdown is among my top priorities.

The idea that we might expand and improve services to clients through improved coordination and alignment of effort came from you. We agree that focussing on our shared client and harnessing the talent of a wide range of Manitobans will lead to improved outcomes for families.

That is why we have undertaken a three-phase public engagement approach to co-design solutions with and for the people impacted. As a first step, our Government appointed a Family Law Reform Committee to undertake a review and engage Manitobans. Their report: *Modernizing Our Family Law System* (June 2018) along with stakeholder dialogues undertaken by our Justice team informs our Family Law Modernization Strategy and The Family Law Modernization Act recently introduced by our government.

Our Strategy aims to help families resolve disputes in a fair, economical, expeditious and informal manner. It focuses on service innovation and includes a:

- Three-year pilot to test a new family dispute resolution model;
- Family Resolution Service (FRS) to enable family disputes to be resolved outside court;
- Expanded support for those experiencing Domestic Violence; and
- Out of court options that simplify child and spousal support.

With your help, we recently completed phase two of our engagement approach. I was pleased that Manitobans who have gone or are currently going through a separation or divorce, service providers and experts all took the time to share valuable insights. Thanks to those who participated, hundreds of ideas were contributed which will guide the design and operation of new and improved services for reorganizing families.

To continue this dialogue, I would like to invite your participation in a Family Law Modernization Collaboration Table. Members will include Manitobans from the public, private and non-governmental sectors who will be impacted by the three-year Family Resolution Service pilot project. This Table will keep you engaged and up to date as we move forward. Shortly, you will receive further information from our Project Manager, Ms. Leita Kalinowsky.

I know that your collective wisdom will help us achieve lasting positive outcomes for individuals and their children. I thank you in advance for your participation.

Cliff Cullen

Minister of Justice

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Attorney General