



Megan McKay

PEACE BUILDING

PERSONAL OVERVIEW/ PROFESSIONAL PHILOSOPHY

With over two decades of experience, Megan (Métis/Polish) believes that peace is a right and a choice available to everyone. Practical and efficient, she shows up with a robust peacebuilding toolkit which allows her to create a mediation process that is complex, but not complicated.

While being firmly planted in her small town Albertan roots, her first experience with mediation was in Ireland at a peace centre with paramilitaries who wanted to learn to represent the public as politicians. The magic she witnessed there sparked a passion for peacebuilding that has persevered through a range of activities, whether mediation, designing programs and processes, teaching, or research.

Megan is a proud citizen of the Métis Nation of Alberta, whose lineage can be traced back to the McKay, Sinclair, Favel, Cook, Mason, and D'Aoust family names. Megan's ancestors took Métis scrip at Fort Pitt in 1886. Megan follows in the footsteps of her family in designing processes between Indigenous and settler peoples that balance peacebuilding and advocacy. Megan also managed the court mediation program and worked with Municipal Affairs in Alberta, participated in facilitation processes in South Africa, and is exploring new avenues for building peace between separated parents through a funded PhD in Sociology with the University of Alberta.

Megan's Master's thesis applied the learning from Ireland to mediation in Canada. Her goal was to better understand why deep-rooted conflict is so difficult to address and what are the best skills and process designs to do so. Her graduate research was funded by the Department of National Defence, and Megan has received a number of awards throughout her career, as well as having the opportunity to speak nationally at conferences, trainings, and lectures.

MEDIATION EXPERIENCE

- Over 20 years of experience in: conflict analysis, process design, convening multi-party processes, facilitation, mediation, conducting skill-based training, conflict coaching.
- Worked in Canada, Ireland, and South Africa with: politicians, municipal administrators, separated parents, youth, victims/survivors of sectarian violence, ex-combatants, environmental activists, lawyers, university students.
- Completed 175 mediations to date including co and solo mediations in the areas of municipalities, family law, civil law, and community disputes.