



## On Board February 2012

*(A communiqué from your Board of Directors)*

Greetings AAMS Members

This year AAMS will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. At the Board of Directors meeting on January 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> the many changes from that significant beginning many years ago and the dynamic organization that AAMS has evolved into today was the main topic of conversation.

Many of our long term members know that AAMS was originally (and is still) structured as a charitable organization with charitable objects focused on ADR education. Your Board has become aware that with the expansion of AAMS activities (in both professional membership and education) along with changes to the regulatory framework, our present governance structure is no longer appropriate, creates legal limitations to our activities and must be changed.

Your Board is now working with legal counsel to explore organizational re-structuring options. There are a number of questions we have posed including what tasks and timelines are reasonable for us to incorporate into a transition plan. A Board sub-committee has been struck for this purpose and will bring recommendations for moving forward no later than the next AAMS Board meeting set for March. We will provide you with more information as it becomes available. Once this review is complete, we will propose a revised governance structure to AAMS members for your consideration.

While this course of events will no doubt present some challenges, our Board is excited about the opportunities a review of our structure provides. With the help of Erika and Pete, (and of course AAMS staff, Instructors and Coaches) we are making great strides in expanding and strengthening our educational programs. We are also continuing to enhance our profession through credentialing and promoting new practice opportunities. Our partnering with the ADR Institute of Canada and other organizations and the contributions of volunteers has supported much of this progress. These are indeed strong assets to build upon. The need to change has given us the chance to explore new governance options that may even better grow our organization and deliver services to members and clients.

We will keep you posted, and want you to know we are confident that together, we will create a new foundation that will make us strong for another 30 years and more!

*Chuck Smith ( President )*

*Wendy Hassen ( Secretary )*

*Sheila Newel ( Vice President )*

*Irene Bonifacio ( Treasurer )*

*Alex Paterson*

*Jim Bancroft*

*Joanne Munro*

*Eric McAvity*

*Donald Goodfellow*

*Jim McCartney ( Past President )*