

AAMS Operational Committees



The reason for creating operational committees is threefold. First, AAMS wants to significantly improve the overall value of AAMS membership. Second, AAMS wants to extend member interests into new areas and new markets through new initiatives. Third, the Board and Executive want AAMS members to have more direct input in the management and administration of their society. The invitation extends to all AAMS members in good standing. Provisions will be made for those in rural Alberta to participate through teleconferencing.

Legal Liaison Committee

The objectives of this committee are straightforward. AAMS wants to build stronger ties with the legal and judicial communities, to promote mediation and arbitration services and to break down the resistance of certain stakeholders to using more AAMS member services.

Newsletter Committee

"AAMS CONNECTS" is a communications tool for members, between members and with members. So who better to have direct input on the style, content and direction of the newsletter on a go-forward basis? Members who are skilled writers, editors, photographers or graphic designers might be interested in putting these valuable skills to work on behalf of their society.

Business Development Committee

As the name suggests, this committee's goals will be to develop new business opportunities. Such opportunities may be training or educational opportunities, or mediation/arbitration opportunities for members, or even partnership opportunities for AAMS itself. Defining its own parameters will be this committee's first task.

Special Events Committee

Most current special events are happening in Calgary, highlighted by a very successful monthly luncheon program. AAMS needs more special events...not just luncheons and not just in Calgary. The Special Events Committee will formulate a plan to create a variety of events throughout the province. These events may be educational or networking events. They may be luncheons, meet & greets, fundraising activities, or even lobbying initiatives.

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Technology Committee

AAMS wants to have a state-of-the-art point-to-multipoint videoconferencing center / webinar studio with all the tools to conduct quality long-distance mediations or arbitrations - and the full capability to offer multi-platform webinar training. The committee's responsibility will be to investigate the most comprehensive and cost-effective technologies, explore options, develop contacts with other videoconference users, and to ensure that rural members will be able to offer the same services by accessing our technology center.

The committee will be asked to determine whether such a facility should be used for revenue generation to outside parties, whether it should be made available at cost to members as an additional benefit, to investigate the creation of an Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) program, and to make recommendations on matters of technology services. (By the way, you don't have to be a geek to contribute to this committee!)

Education Action Committee

The Education Action Committee will support, edit, propose revisions to and help improve the quality of courses offered by AAMS. This would include the re-write of some manuals (or portions of manuals) where necessary. Committee members will also help create and design new educational programs for the private sector, or specifically for lawyers, etc. Committee members might also represent AAMS at special events such as Law Days, human resources conferences, etc. AAMS wants to develop high-end webinars and devote more of the website to education and educational initiatives. This committee is one that especially needs experienced arbitrators, mediators and lawyers.

Member Benefits Committee

AAMS is a member-based society. It may be that in the past AAMS hasn't always maximized its opportunities to provide optimum benefits. This committee's responsibility will be to find out what members want and need most, to explore and prioritize possible increased benefits AAMS may be able to offer its members, and to recommend an ongoing and sustainable member benefits program. The committee may choose to examine educational benefits and professional development available only to AAMS members and its experienced practitioners. It may look at additional benefits such as the recently offered health care program, or even increased retail and purchasing benefits offered to other organizations and corporations.

Rural Alberta Committee

The Rural Alberta Committee's function will be to develop recommendations and plans that will benefit AAMS members throughout rural Alberta. These are only example initiatives...but having webinar training or development classes...or having the Executive do more local "firesides" or "open houses" in smaller communities might be activities this committee will likely initiate. It will also look at how to help rural mediators better promote their businesses and attain a higher community profile. Of course we first need to have a better overall understanding of what rural members want most.

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Mobile Community Services Committee

The idea here is to have mediation and arbitration much more in the face of Albertans, helping people with on-the-spot ADR in high profile locations such as empty stores in malls and other high-profile locations. At first, few, if any, people will do more than kick the proverbial tires. So initial activities might seem to be little more than manning a display. But it's a start. We are out there...talking to people about their problems. Major problems would be referred to more formal mediation or arbitration.

For those manning the mobile centers, it is a way to possibly pick up clients in the development of their own practice. The Committee will be asked to look at ethics, potential conflicts or duplications of services offered, recruiting volunteers, determining what credits should be awarded to volunteer mediators/arbitrators, prioritizing locations and communities, etc. This might also tie in nicely with some of the activities of the Rural Alberta Committee.

Social Media Committee

The new website will have social media applications, such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter; but we plan to do much more in this arena. The Social Media Committee will be charged with investigating new and exciting trends, evaluating which are the most appropriate and advantageous for AAMS, and even implementing and maintaining these initiatives. Any "techies" out there?

International Committee

Given the vast international mediation and arbitration experience contained within the AAMS membership, it is also a natural. Committee goals will include learning about mediation and arbitration in other jurisdictions, learning about mediation and arbitration organizations in other countries and establishing relationships that will help AAMS and its members more easily enter the international community of mediation and arbitration.

Terms of Reference

All committees will have the freedom to create themselves as they best see fit. Some will be advisory committees and some will definitely be involved in operations. They will be responsible for achieving certain goals and one of the Executive Directors will be an ad hoc member on each committee. However both Executive Directors have made it clear they don't want to meddle. They will be delighted to assist and attend meetings, but only as requested by the committees themselves.

If you would like further information, please feel free to call Pete Desrochers at 1-800-232-7214 extension 117 or email at pdexecutivedirector@aams.ab.ca