



Stephanie L. Dobson, BA, JD

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EDUCATION

- Juris Doctorate (J.D.)**, University of British Columbia, Faculty of Law (2005)
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)**, Pacific & Asian Studies (Dean's List), University of Victoria, Faculty of Arts (2001)
- Exchange Program**, Doshisha University, Kyoto Japan, Japanese Language Centre (1999-2000, 2001)
- Dogwood Diploma (French Immersion)**, Hugh McRoberts High School (1997)

CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ENDEAVOURS

Henka Divorce Law & Mediation

Main office: Lloydminster, Alberta/Saskatchewan

Branch office: Edmonton, Alberta

Virtually serving clients throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan

<https://henkadivorce.ca> (2020-present)

- Proprietor** of a paperless, innovative family law firm providing Collaborative Family Law and Family Mediation services with a focus on helping families thrive, while staying out of court. Provide a caring, results-focused approach to help growth-minded, coachable parents navigate a family separation (or cohabitation) while they connect with and support their children. Adept at handling complex cases for over 16 years that involve developing parenting plans, dealing with financial separation (child support, spousal support), and division of property, utilizing experienced dispute resolution skills to expand the range of creative solutions, and keep families out of the court system.
- Weekly Feature on Prime Time Local News, Lloydminster** – Creator of Healthy, Thriving Family After Divorce weekly interview with local news anchor to discuss topics relating to separation and divorce, focusing not only on traditional legal topics such as parenting, support, and property division, but also expanding to how to help families to thrive in their life transition. (<https://henkadivorce.ca/media/tv-series/>)
- Business Community Supporter** – Creator of Think Local series of video interviews featuring local businesses to drive awareness to the local business market. (<https://henkadivorce.ca/about-henka/community/>)
- Blog Contributor** – featured in blogs for [Psychology Today](#) and [Our Family Wizard](#). Active blogger on Henka Divorce site (<https://henkadivorce.ca/category/blog/>).
- Licensee of Our Family In Two Homes** – provide innovative legal and mediation services using a variety of workbooks to help families independently work through some of their issues while also receiving live support for the more challenging topics. Families can choose from 3 workbooks: *Our Family In Two Homes* (families with minor children), *Our Family In A Few Homes* (families with adult children), or *Designing Our Future Together* (couples staying together, planning their future). (<https://henkadivorce.ca/divorce-resources/workbooks/>).
- Presenter** – invited to be a speaker at a variety of venues including repeated requests from Collaborative Law practice groups in Canada and the USA (multiple in Florida; St Louis; MyCollaborativeTeam Florida; multiple in Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta Canada; International Academy of Collaborative Professionals; Our Family Wizard global webinar; Lloydminster Community Groups; Legal Education Society of Alberta). Presentation topics are ever-expanding, but to date have ranged from substantive family law topics to Collaborative Practice to use of technology in practice (mind-mapping, paperless office, etc) to promotion of women in business to boot camps for junior family lawyers to mindful self-compassion for the family law professional.

Up A Notch Learning Inc. (Global)

<https://upanotchlearning.com> (2020-present)

- Founder, CEO and content creator** of an e-learning platform with a carefully selected collection of globally-applicable resources to enhance & reinforce the work of divorce professionals by delivering positive and constructive resources to those who want to become a healthy, thriving family after separation or divorce, and to be reassured with the tools to thrive in two homes. With over 2000 minutes of self-published original video content, the platform hosts interviews with divorce professionals and authors around the world who share their expertise on a variety of separation and divorce related subjects. In addition, there are over 80 book recommendations, self-published e-books for instant download, and blogs to read.

Government of Northwest Territories (virtual services)

(2013-present)

- Contract mediator** providing low bono mediation services for the Government of Northwest Territories mediation program servicing residents (parents) of both the NWT and Nunavut who are experiencing family breakdown.



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ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Mediation

- Advanced Parenting Plan Mediation – Developmental Approach to Parenting Plans** (Karen Bonnell, 2021)
- Insight Mediation** (Jacinta Gallant, 2021)
- Mediation of Civil Disputes** (Legal Education Society of Alberta, 2008)
- Mediation of Family and Divorce Conflicts** (40-hour) (Legal Education Society of Alberta, 2007)
- Understanding the Dynamics of Domestic Violence for Family Law Practitioners** (Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan, 2021)
- Board Governance** (Legal Education Society of Alberta, 2014, 2021)
- High Conflict Disputes Training** (Bill Eddy / High Conflict Institute, 2012)
- Parenting Coordination** (Alberta Family Mediation Society, 2018; William James College (Boston) 2015)
- Brain Architecture** (Norlien Foundation, 2015)
- Medical Education Week** (Betty Ford Institute, California, 2014)
- Basic Collaborative Training** (Legal Education Society of Alberta, 2007; Kristen Boldt, 2022)
- Interest-Based Negotiations** (Legal Education Society of Alberta, 2007)
- Powerful Non-Defensive Communication** (Sharon Strand Ellison, 2013, 2020)
- Child View Basic Training** (Child View, 2008, 2018)

Conferences

- International Academy of Collaborative Professionals Annual Forum** – 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2019, 2020, 2022
- National Family Law Conference, Federation of Law Societies (Canada)** – 2014, 2018
- Family Law Refresher, Legal Education Society of Alberta** – 2009, 2013, 2017
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Forum** – 2008, 2021
- Alberta Family Mediation Society Annual Forum** – 2013, 2015

AWARDS

- Business Excellence Awards, Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce** – Business Woman of the Year Award (Nominee, 2023, results Oct 2023)
- Women In Law and Leadership Awards, Canadian Bar Association** - Leadership in the Profession (Private Practice) and Leadership in the Community (Nominee, 2015)
- Today's Woman, Meridian Source Lloydminster** (Featured Woman, 2022)
- Business Excellence Awards, Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce** – Community Spirit Award (Nominee, 2021)
- Business Excellence Awards, Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce** – Integrity Award (Recipient, 2008)
- Paul Harris Fellow, Rotary International** (Two-Time Recipient, 2003)

HISTORICAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Meridian Law Group (Lloydminster, Alberta/Saskatchewan; 2015-2020)

- **Partner** in law firm providing legal, mediation, and arbitration services. Focused on out-of-court separation and divorce negotiation processes, as well as some residential real estate legal services.

Dispute Resolution Office Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan-wide services; 2009-2012)

- **Contract mediator** providing low bono mediation services for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and Attorney General on a wide-range of legal disputes including family law and civil disputes.

Alberta Justice, Family Justice Services (Lloydminster, Alberta/Saskatchewan; 2009-2016)

- **Contract family mediator** providing low bono mediation services for the Alberta Justice family mediation program. This program served income-qualified parents going through separation or divorce.

Alberta Justice, Parenting After Separation Seminar (Lloydminster, Alberta/Saskatchewan, 2009-2016)

- **Contract instructor** through Alberta Justice Ministry to provide in-person instruction for the mandatory Parenting After Separation Seminar 6 times per year. Contract ended when the course switched to virtual learning.

Kindrachuk Dobson, Lawyers & Mediators (Lloydminster, Alberta/Saskatchewan, 2006-2015)

- **Proprietor** in space-sharing arrangement providing legal, mediation, and arbitration services. Focused on out-of-court separation and divorce negotiation processes. In early years of this employment, had a short-lived litigation practice focusing on family and civil litigation services.



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Miller Thomson LLP (Vancouver, British Columbia, 2001-2006)

- **Articled Student (student-at-law)** working in a variety of practice areas conducting legal research, client contact, educational seminars, civil litigation, criminal defence, solicitor work
- **Litigation Database Operator** creating and editing legal databases, working in court electronic transcripts, pre-trial preparation

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (CURRENT)

Regulatory Bodies – Law Society of Alberta and Law Society of Saskatchewan

Collaborative Divorce – Association of Collaborative Family Professionals – Edmonton, Collaborative Divorce Alberta Association, Collaborative Professionals of Canada, International Academy of Collaborative Professionals

Mediation – Alberta Family Mediation Society, Family Mediation Canada, ADR Institute of Canada, ADR Institute of Alberta

Other – Battleford Bar Association, Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Bar Association, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (Alberta Chapter and International Member)

DIRECTORSHIPS & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Current

Alberta Law Foundation – Director (2012-present), Chair (2020-present; ending Jan 31/24)
<https://albertalawfoundation.org/>

International Academy of Collaborative Professionals – Director (2022-present)

Lloydminster Community Legal Clinic (pro bono) – Volunteer & Co-Founder (2015-present)
<https://henkadivorce.ca/media/legal-clinic/>

Historical

Legal Education Society of Alberta – Director (2013-2022), Vice Chair (2020-2022)

Battlefords Bar Association – President (2012-2022)

Collaborative Divorce Alberta Association – Director (2009-2018), Chair (2014-2015)

Lloydminster Interval Home Society – Director (2008-2011), Vice Chair (2009-2011)

Lloydminster Chamber of Commerce – Director (2007-2011)

Rotary Club of Lloydminster – Member (2006-2013)

Rotaract Club of Richmond – Member (2001-2004), President (2002-2003)