

FIELD TRIP



From left to right: NCM skeleton, Laura Buckingham and Jennifer Mancini

Every once in a while, it is rewarding to have a fun day for no particular reason other than to relax and enjoy each other's company. Besides, such a day helps to build esprits de corps among staff. Consequently, the Northern community Mediation (NCM) staff makes occasional "field trips." So, on Tuesday, October 21, the NCM went over to the Harbor Springs Museum, where there was an exhibition of quill boxes. But there was more than merely all shapes and sizes of quill boxes. There was a quilled canoe, a cradle and more. After our museum experience, we had lunch and then walked around town looking at the display of skeletons. We could not resist taking a picture with the NCM skeleton. Fun afternoon.

STAFF RETREAT

On Wednesday, February 12, NCM will hold its annual staff retreat. During this all-day meeting, the staff will evaluate NCM's various programs, review the Office Procedures Manual and other such documents, establish the calendar of events for 2026, arrange for additional trainings & workshops as well as mediator roundtables, inventory equipment and supplies, take into consideration recommendations made by mediators and board members, and address any other issues that arise during the retreat.

If any of you have any suggestions or recommendations, please contact Executive Director Dr. Jane Millar or Case Managers Laura Buckingham or Jennifer Mancini with your ideas.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

As an FYI, NCM will be closed from noon on Wednesday, November 26 through Sunday, November 30.

PARENTING TIME WORKSHOP

As you may be aware, we have had to re-schedule the Advanced Mediator Training scheduled for October 17

In the first session, Amanda focused on alternative dispute vs. mediation, ingredients of a successful session, and components of mediation agreements. This second session is the result of the participants in that first session requesting a follow-up session that would address agreement writing, particularly including those issues that are unique to parenting time. Having said that, however, the information will be valuable relating to agreement writing for all types of mediations and disputes.

The workshop is limited to 20 participants and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Participation in the first session is not a prerequisite for the second session. To register, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/>

SECOND MEDIATIONS

As many of you have experienced, there are times when a second mediation is necessary. As the mediator, before solidifying the date and time at the mediation with the involved parties, check with the case manager to be certain that there is not a conflict with other NCM scheduled events. This holds true for both in-person as well as Zoom mediations. For your protection as mediators, we do not want you to rely upon using your personal Zoom account

WE WILL MISS YOU

Unfortunately, Rob MacKenzie has resigned as a mediator. Although he will miss mediating for NCM, he has gotten himself into a situation where he has volunteered for too many things. NCM gives a huge thank you to Rob for all of his years as a mediator. Not only was Rob always available for doing mediations, he was an excellent mediator as well.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."
John F. Kennedy.

USELESS FACTS

Jingle Bells was originally a Thanksgiving song, but the holiday's first feast didn't include turkey or pumpkin pie. Sarah Josepha Hale, the "Mother of Thanksgiving," was the one who pushed for the holiday to become a national one, and Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird, not the bald eagle. The modern TV dinner was also created as a way to sell surplus turkey one year.