# Family Law Update

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# 1. Using the Spousal Support Guidelines: ON C.A.

The Ontario Court of Appeal, in *Fisher v. Fisher*, 2008 ONCA 11 (CanLII) endorsed the use of the spousal support guidelines and provided some guidance in their use and application. The decision is examined in detail in the article, *Spousal Guidelines Accepted as "Litmus Test of Reasonableness"* by Cristin Schmitz in January 25, 2008 issue of *The Lawyers Weekly*.

## 2. QB Rule 70 Amendment

The Court of Queen's Bench Rules were amended effective February 1, 2008. The <u>amendments to</u> <u>Rule 70</u> related to the <u>court's procedural protocol</u> in handling cases pursuant to *the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abuse*.

### **3. First Choice for Families**

<u>Family Conciliation</u> is now offering a free settlement-oriented and accelerated dispute resolution service in Winnipeg called *First Choice*. First Choice is a hybrid of evaluation, mediation and counseling aimed at resolving disputes and helping families move through the court system as quickly and efficiently as possible. For more information, contact Family Conciliation at (204) 945-7236.

### 4. High Conflict Personalities with Bill Eddy

*Understanding High Conflict Personalities and Managing and Resolving Their Disputes* is a full day program with <u>Bill Eddy</u>, co-sponsored by Collaborative Practice Manitoba and The Manitoba Bar Association. The program takes place at The Manitoba Club on Thursday, March 27, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For complete details and to obtain a registration form, visit the <u>Manitoba Bar Association website</u>.

### 5. Essential Reading for Family Lawyers

The February 2008 issue of the CBA's National Family Law Section Newsletter, <u>*The Family Way*</u>, contains a Case Comment on <u>*Hykle v. Hykle*</u> by Michael Williams and an article on collaborative law practice co-authored by Anu Osborne. Also in the same newsletter, Carol Rogerson and Rollie

Thompson provide an Update on the Spousal Support Advisory Guidelines Project.

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