

- The Ontario Court of Appeal gave formal sanction of the “mediation/arbitration” process in the case of *Marchese v. Marchese* (2007) 35 R.F.L. (6th) 291 where the Court stated that mediation/arbitration is a well recognized legal term of art referring to a hybrid dispute resolution process in which the named individual acts first as a mediator and failing agreement, then proceeds to conduct an arbitration.
- In September 2007 Statistics Canada released their latest figures from the 2006 Census showing a remarkable change in the nature of the Canadian family. The figures show that there is a significant increase in the number of same sex couples, that there are more common-law families, more childless couples, more people living alone and a greater number single parent households in Canada than ever before. The reality reflected by these statistics will, no doubt, have an impact on the practice of family law in the upcoming years as well as on the substantive rights and obligations that govern intimate and familial relationships.
- The Ontario Court of Appeal’s decision in the case of *A.A. v. B.B. and C.C.* released January 2, 2007 also reflects the changing nature of the family in Canadian society and emphasizes the Court’s authority to do what is in the best interests of the children before the Court rather than to engage in technicalities of what ought to be the definition of family. The Court granted a declaration that the same sex partner of a biological mother is a parent thereby recognizing that the child has three legal parents; a biological mother, the same sex partner and the biological father. The Court granted the declaration based its *parens patriae* jurisdiction after deciding that the Children’s Law Reform Act did not contemplate such an order.