

The Next 5 Years? Trends in ADR Programming...

Respondents were asked to comment on what they believed the next 5 years of programming in their field would bring.

In 5 years there will be:

- Greater awareness of alternatives to "applied force".
- Enhanced research into conflict resolution and conflict management.
- More people taking Masters level programming as people are recognizing that there is a "science to conflict resolution" and that they need to learn something about the science as well as the art.
- Be likely be nothing new, as "[there] isn't much happening [at the post-secondary level] - most of the 'real' ADR development has been at certificate/add on, level." This respondent was very concerned about what they perceived to be the narrowing of ADR programming - noting that when ADR was in its infancy, most ADR developments were developing in a multi-dimensional/interdisciplinary way outside of the field of law but that over the past several years, law school programming has developed in isolation from the broader ADR community and as a result hasn't had wealth of multidisciplinary knowledge of conflict. This respondent's concern is that the legal side, which s/he believes contains very little knowledge about "human dimension" of conflict will mean a shift towards evaluative model.
- A continuation of the theoretical maturation that is occurring in CR programming, a widening of and drawing upon older philosophical bases to create new insights.
- Move towards providing more practicum opportunities for students in order to help them bridge the gap between theory and practice with a greater emphasis on trying to address the relationship between conflict and culture.
- Greater degree of specialization in the areas of: cross-cultural issues, public policy DR (including, but not limited to environmental), and first nations issues.
- Enhanced integration of courses and expectation that the number of students in the program will expand as university is keen on "more grad students in the same number of programs".
- Greater development of "conflict analysis - country indicators" as a tool of foreign policy. The thrust will be how to take formal models and give them a practical orientation that is useful for policy makers. The trend should not simply be towards skill-specific programming, as such offerings "are taken with a grain of salt" and must contain a research component as without it, it will not be taken as seriously.
- Increasing opportunity for employment in the area. Programs (technical and theoretical) will continue to develop to meet this demand.
- An evolution of ADR/CR programming and practice is in ALL areas of life.
- Emphasis on the following 'groundbreaking issues': forgiveness; chaos theory - systems thought; the emotional component of CR and issues relating to trauma and healing.
- Much greater emphasis placed on peacemaking.
- Jointly offered programming between institutions
- Greater opportunities for taking courses online.