

# The Memorial Society of Edmonton and District

*A non-profit, non-denominational organization for those who believe in preplanning simple, dignified final arrangements at a reasonable cost.*

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## 2011 Newsletter

### Notice of 54th Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday May 1st, 2011

Place: Stanley Milner Library  
Edmonton Room, Lower Level  
Sir Winston Churchill Square



Time: 2:00 pm

Guest Speaker: Roland Fotty, LLB

Topic: Wills, Personal Directives,  
and Enduring Power of Attorney

Refreshments will be served during the meeting.

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### The Memorial Society of Edmonton and District



**MSED**

*Dignity, Propriety, Economy*

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

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## An Invitation

You are invited to attend the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Society of Edmonton and District (MSED) on May 1, 2011, at the Stanley Milner Library, on Churchill Square. MSED By-laws require that members be apprised of the status of the society, and approve the budget for the upcoming year. Also, there are a few by-law changes to be made and these require the approval of the membership.

Another item we will be discussing at the AGM is whether it is time to raise the membership fees to \$30.00 from \$25.00. This will be a discussion only to get a sense of how the membership at large would feel about raising the fee for future members.

In addition to the business of the meeting there will be a speaker to bring us information relevant to society membership. Refreshments will be served, and the meeting provides an opportunity for those in attendance to meet the board members and office staff. Our office coordinator for three years, Jamie Lee, left us in November. Jamie did a great job and helped bring our office procedures into the 21st century! We were very fortunate to find Laura Hannett to fill the position, and Laura has proved to be well up to the task of keeping the office running smoothly. This is very important as membership numbers are increasing every month, which means more work to be done.

The Memorial Society is a non-profit organization, run by volunteers. Funds are raised through the one-time fee for new members, and much appreciated donations from members. We have been fortunate to apply for and get funding from the Alberta Community Spirit funding program, but this will not be available after this year. This funding allowed us to acquire office furniture and equipment.

MSED is your organization and we need your help. There are jobs that need doing, some of which are ongoing, some intermittent. Just getting this newsletter out to about 5,000 members requires many volunteers! We cannot function without them. Please consider volunteering to lend a hand to keep your society running smoothly!

I look forward to meeting you at the AGM and reporting on the past year at MSED.

Thank you.



President

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## About Our Speaker: Roland Fotty, LLB

Roland was born and raised in Edmonton, and obtained his LLB. at the University of Alberta in 1980. He and his family live in Edmonton, but he has conducted his practice in general law from his firm in Fort Saskatchewan since 1983.

Roland will be discussing Wills, Personal Directives, and Enduring Power of Attorney.



*Death is not the end, there remains the litigation over the estate.*

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## Proposed By-Law Changes

The following changes to our by-laws will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting May 1, 2011.

### Section 4 MEMBERSHIP

- (1) (ii) Whose application has been approved by the Board.  
*Change: Delete*
- (4) (ii) b) A member is entitled to inspect the register of members during any business day.  
*Change: Delete*
- (4) (iv) c) To submit written nominations for Board positions which must be received by the secretary at least 45 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.  
*Change: 45 days to 10 days.*
- (5) A member may resign from the Society by notifying the Board in writing of his or her decision to do so.  
*Change to: A member may resign by notifying the office of the Memorial Society.*

### Section 5 MEETINGS

- (4) (i) Mailing a copy of the notice to each member at least 21 days before the meeting.  
*Change: insert "or e-mailing" after mailing.*

### Section 7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- (2) The Board of Directors will consist of 9 members of the Society  
*Change: insert "normally" after will.*
- (5) Any two Officers may be signing officers.  
*Change to: Signing officers will consist of at least one Officer of the Society plus one Director at Large as designated by the Board.*

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## Gratitude to our Volunteers

As a volunteer run organization we are always grateful for the help we get in completing the tasks at hand.

A heartfelt thanks to all those who have given so generously of their time and energy again this year in serving on the board, delivering booklets, helping in the office and with the newsletter.

If you would like to help out please give Laura a call at 780-944-0196.

## Donation Appreciations

Just as we need volunteers to run this organization, we also depend on the generosity of those who give money to support our cause.

With gratitude we acknowledge all those who have supported us financially and we also give thanks for the funds we are going to receive.

Your support is always appreciated.

We are also grateful for the grants received from the Alberta Community Spirit Grant Program which will be ending this year.



# The Basics about Wills, Personal Directives & Power of Attorney

## What is a Will?

A will is one or more written legal document(s) that determines how a testator's property will be divided when the testator dies. All wills must be in writing and must follow the formal requirements specified in the Wills Act to be valid.

A will is important because it can ensure that your property will pass to those you want it to pass to after your death. Any property that is not dealt with in your will, will be distributed in accordance with the *Intestate Succession Act*.

There are a few interests that can override a person's will. Provisions in the Dependents Relief Act can allow a Court to alter a person's will to provide for the proper care and support of dependants. Also, creditors (people that a testator owes money to) are paid off before any beneficiary receives a gift from a will. So, if an estate has substantial debt, gifts under the will can be impacted.

To be sure that formal wills comply with all the requirements of the Wills Act, they are generally written by lawyers, however, this is not required by law.

## What is a Personal Directive (Living Will)?

A personal directive is a written document that gives authority to a person to make non-financial decisions on behalf of another person (i.e. decisions regarding the health and medical treatment of the maker). These are usually created in contemplation of death or when quality of life is greatly lessened.

Personal directives are like wills, but are designed to take effect when the person making the personal directive becomes incapable of making certain personal decisions.

A personal directive may include information and instructions on personal matters like who will act as the maker's agent and make decisions on his/her behalf, who will determine his/her capacity, who is to be notified that the personal directive has come into effect, and who may access confidential information about the maker. A personal directive can give a person authority to make all decisions, excluding financial decisions, on behalf of another.

Alberta Seniors and Community Supports has information kits and can register Personal Directives.

## What is Power of Attorney?

Power of attorney is a legal document that gives one person the power to make financial decisions on someone else's behalf. Any competent adult or financial institution can be appointed power of attorney.

A properly drafted power of attorney must:

Be in writing,

- Be dated,
- Be signed by the donor in the presence of a witness, and
- Be signed by witness in the presence of the donor

A donor can revoke or alter his/her power of attorney in writing. However, in order to alter the document the donor must have capacity to make the changes, and the abovementioned formalities must be followed.

Although it is possible to create a power of attorney without the help of a lawyer, it is highly recommended that you retain a lawyer when creating one.

## What is an MSED Designation Form?

Members of MSED are invited to fill out a Designation Form which includes information such as:

- Vital Statistics required by District Registrar of Death (excluding Social Insurance Number, Alberta Health Care Number and Driver's License. These should be included in the information you keep at home or give to the person looking after your final arrangements)
- Choice of Funeral Home (optional)
- Method of disposal of remains
- Type of farewell service
- Memorial gifts
- Notices
- Donation of body or organs

The form should be returned to the MSED office for filing and photocopies kept in your files or given to the individual who will be responsible for final arrangements.

This is not a legal document but rather a statement of desires giving guidance to loved ones thus reducing the amount of stressful decision making at the time of your passing.

*"On New Year's Day, I made a resolution to live every day like it was my last. It worked well, until I realized that I was flat broke and the owner of 253 pre-paid funeral plans." — Kevin Kee.*

## Funeral Providers

We've had some changes in contracted funeral providers this year. The four providers listed below are currently contracted with The Memorial Society of Edmonton & District (MSED) to provide funeral services to our members. We greatly appreciate these partners for the wonderful service they provide.

For the costs of their services, please contact the specific funeral provider either via their website or by phone/fax. A current price list is also available from the MSED office.

### Appel Funeral Home

10530-116 St. NW  
Edmonton, AB T5H 3L7  
Phone: 780-454-8088  
Fax: 780-454-8130  
[www.appelfuneralhome.com](http://www.appelfuneralhome.com)

### Foster and McGarvey Funeral Homes, Reception Centers & Crematorium.

10011-114 St. NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 1R5  
Phone: 780-428-6666  
Fax: 780-425-5678  
Three locations : Downtown, Sherwood Park-Millwoods, St. Albert.  
[www.fostermcgarvey.com](http://www.fostermcgarvey.com)

### First Memorial Funeral Services

**Harmony Chapel**  
10541-81 Avenue NW,  
Edmonton, AB T6E 1X7  
Phone: 780-433-7335  
Fax: 780-439-3786  
Also **Riverview Chapel**  
**Fort Saskatchewan**  
[www.firstmemorialfuneral.com](http://www.firstmemorialfuneral.com)

### Serenity Funeral Service (Serenity Family Service Society)

5311-91 St. NW  
Edmonton, AB T6E 6E2  
Phone: 780-450-0101  
Fax: 780-450-9248  
Four locations : Leduc, Spruce Grove, Southside and Kingsway.  
[www.serenity.ca](http://www.serenity.ca)

Did You know?  
Body donations to science must be pre-arranged with the UofA and there is a cost of approx. \$300.

### Thank you for Spreading the Word

If you appreciate the value of this Society please be sure to let others know about us. We have monthly information sessions at the office and are happy to present information to community groups as well.

Contact the office for more info.

Did you know?  
Personal Directives are not always recognized in the US? 'Snowbirds' may want to check it out with local authorities.

## Coping with Loss

Grief is a natural experience whenever there is a loss. If you would like support in coping with grief following are a some of the Bereavement Support Groups available in the area:

Edmonton Bereavement Centre (780) 454-1231 Ext. 224  
 Pilgrim's Hospice (780) 413-9801  
 Catholic Social Services - The Journey of Grief (780) 420-6081  
 Support Network Suicide Bereavement Program (780) 482-0198  
 Parent Care Society of Alberta - 8770 - 165 St. (780) 988-3747  
 SIDS Support group, Alberta Lung Association - (800) 363-7437  
 St. Albert Bereavement Fellowship (780) 459-3135  
 Compassionate Friends of St. Albert (780) 451-5381



*Did you know?*

*You can now buy membership  
online!*

[www.memorialsocietyedmonton.ca](http://www.memorialsocietyedmonton.ca)

### Does Your Family Know You're a Member?

It's important. As you plan your final arrangements include your family as much as possible; at least let them know you are a member so there are no regrets over finding out too late.

## Moving?

We don't want to loose track of you so please send us your new address.

## Email or Snail Mail?

If you have an email address we would really appreciate you letting us know so that we can save trees, time and money in sending our newsletters and other communications. You can email the information to [info@memorialsocietyedmonton.ca](mailto:info@memorialsocietyedmonton.ca).



*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless,  
but because they're priceless.*

~ Sherry Anderson

## Volunteer Opportunities

As a non-profit society we always have numerous opportunities for members to participate through volunteering.

Our **Board of Directors** consists of 9 members of which an average of 3 or 4 terms are completed every year. The board meets once a month and board members are asked to serve approximately 2 to 3 hours per month for meetings and/or special projects. If you have an interest in becoming involved as a board member we are interested in hearing from you. No previous board experience is necessary.

If you prefer once a year volunteering, **office assistance** for 5 or 6 hours in the production of newsletters or other communication projects is also appreciated.

If you have **other skills** such as **accounting, marketing** and **websites** we would also like to hear from you.

If you are interested in any kind of volunteer position with MSED please return the enclosed "*I Want to Help*" slip to the office or phone 780-944-0196 Monday to Friday between 10 am and 2 pm.