

# MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

## RESEARCH - BRIDGING TWO WORLDS

The University of Winnipeg project is a three-year, national research program examining how career development can make school more meaningful for newcomer and refugee children and youth. Led by Dr. Jan Stewart, (Professor in the Faculty of Education at The University of Winnipeg) it involved schools and communities in Calgary, Winnipeg and St John's. It is funded by CERIC\*, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and Mitacs.

In the research, teachers, counsellors and school administrators indicated that refugee and newcomer youth needed more assistance with career choices and that many students were ill-informed about the impact of course choices on their future careers. With complications arising because of psychosocial issues (e.g., trauma from war, loss of parents, forced migration) or language barriers, students experienced further obstacles to career planning. School counsellors reported that they did not feel fully equipped to deal with the diverse needs of children from refugee backgrounds and, that when these needs are not met, children leave the school system. The research findings are intended to help counsellors and teachers create stronger networks between community partners, universities, organizations and schools throughout Canada. *Bridging Two Worlds: Culturally Responsive Career Development Programs and Services to Meet the Needs of Newcomer and Refugee Children in Canada: A Guide to Curriculum Integration and Implementation* (co-authored by Dr. Jan Stewart and Dr. Lorna Martin) is now available to educators across the country for free download at: [ceric.ca/twoworlds](http://ceric.ca/twoworlds) or purchase at [Amazon.ca](http://Amazon.ca) or [Chapters.Indigo.ca](http://Chapters.Indigo.ca)

\*CERIC - Canadian Education and Research Institute for Counselling, "Advancing Career Development in Canada."

## TESTIMONIALS

"*Bridging Two Worlds* brings to bear the power of original research and the insight of its experienced authors on the crucial issue of educating newcomers. With the world witnessing an ever-growing number of refugees – many coming to our shores with expectations of a better life – education is the key. Equally, the new arrivals must learn about their new land and how they can make Canada a better place. Fortunately, this guide creates understanding and provides the tools that will enable the building of bridges to take place."

- Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Chair, World Council on Refugees and Former Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs

"Grounded in solid research and underpinned by values of diversity and inclusivity, this timely publication is brimming with practical lesson plans and instructional resources. This is an absolute must-read for educators and others seeking to welcome and support newcomers and refugee families."

- Sareena Hopkins, Executive Director, Canadian Career Development Foundation

"A well-researched and much-needed resource for educators and school counsellors who support newcomers and refugee youth. A must-have book for the toolkit of those working with newcomer and refugee youth or for those who need to understand this emerging career decision-making area."

- John Driscoll, President, Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association

## **AUTHOR BIOS**

### **Dr. Jan Stewart**

Dr. Jan Stewart is a Professor in the Faculty of Education at The University of Winnipeg and currently the Acting Dean of The Gupta Faculty of Kinesiology and Applied Health. Jan is the lead investigator of a three-year national research program funded by SSHRC, CERIC, and Mitacs to examine best practices for supporting refugee and newcomer youth. She is the lead investigator of a provincially-funded research program exploring the mental health needs and challenges for refugee youth and a SSHRC funded study on the settlement, education and psychosocial needs of Syrian refugees in Canada. Jan just recently completed the Harvard Medical School Certificate in Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery.

With over 30 years of teaching, research, and field experience, Jan has achieved expertise working with children and youth who have been affected by conflict, trauma, violence, abuse, mental health issues, neglect, and human rights violations. She has led international research and teacher development programs in Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Uganda and she has conducted national and international seminars and conferences around the world. Jan has published numerous journal and magazine articles and she appeared on numerous national and international television and radio shows. Jan is the author of *The Anger Workout Book for Teens*, *The Tough Stuff Series*, *The STARS Program* and *Supporting Refugee Children: Strategies for Educators*. Her new book, co-authored with Lorna Martin, *Bridging Two Worlds: Culturally Responsive Programs and Services to Meet the Needs of Newcomer and Refugee Children in Canada*, was released in January 2018.

### **Dr. Lorna Martin**

Dr. Lorna Martin is a President Emerita of the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) and the President of the COMPASS Centre for Examination Development. She has held positions in the Faculty of Education at both the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba and most recently (2017), held a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Faculty of Education at The University of Winnipeg.

She has supported counselling and psychotherapy initiatives for more than 25 years, consulting with health, justice and family services representatives; lobbying Canadian federal government representatives; and liaising with intersectoral groups, organizations and associations around the world and close to home as an advocate for the profession of counselling and psychotherapy. She is an author and editor of multiple books and resources, educational materials and articles focusing on counselling and psychotherapy, supervision, ethics, standards of practice, suicide prevention and postvention, and education. Dr. Martin is known internationally for her presentations on topics related to counselling, educational psychology, youth mental health, ethics, and fair assessment practices. A certified teacher in two provinces, a former certified school counsellor, a Canadian Certified Counsellor (CCC) and a trained arbitrator; Dr. Martin's doctorate in Education (counselling) followed studies at the University of Manitoba and York University.