School Counsellors Working with Military and Veteran Families:
New Resource for Canadian School Counsellors

On May 18th, 2017, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) in partnership with the Canadian Military and Veteran Families Leadership Circle, proudly announced the launch of a new bilingual publication for school counsellors in Canada. School Counsellors Working with Military and Veteran Families raises awareness of the important roles and unique lifestyles of military and Veteran families that enrich schools, communities, and workplaces. The publication assists school personnel in increasing their military literacy, and enabling increased support and inclusion of children and youth of military and Veteran families in the social, academic and athletic lives of schools across Canada.

In advance of the launch, media materials in both official languages were prepared and distributed across Canada. This press distribution was accompanied by coordinated calls to select journalists in efforts to bring their attention to the new resource. The media interest was impressive, and stories on the resource have appeared across the country online, in newspapers, on the radio and on television. The articles stemming from the resource have already resulted in substantial media impressions, a huge success for the CCPA and for building important awareness on the work of school counsellors in supporting students adapting to change and navigating the realities of a military and Veteran lifestyle.
“Frequent geographical re-location, extensive separation from their loved ones, and the risk of the profession, those three things combined make it a little more difficult for military families.”

-Colonel Dan Harris, Director, Military Family Services

“We wanted to profile the strength and resilience of military families and what they can bring to and how they can enrich schools and communities.”

-Dr. Kim Hollihan, Deputy CEO, CCPA
Schools get new resource to help with students from military families

By Carol Milne, CBC News

School Counsellors With Military and Veteran Families was created by the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association. In partnership with the Canadian Military and Veteran Families Leadership Circle.

The bilingual publication was unveiled Thursday morning at the Sheraton Hotel in St. John’s, Newfoundland, and is supposed to help schools increase their understanding of military and veteran families and help support the well-being of students.

“Unique needs of military children”

The resource is in a series of books related to professions working with military and veteran families, from the first being a resource for educators that was released in November.

Col. Dan Harts, director of Military Family Services with the Canadian Armed Forces, said the resource will be helpful because students from military families have unique circumstances that affect school life.

Frequent geographical moves, long separations from their loved ones and the risk of the profession are often addressed in the book.

“Those things make it more difficult for the military family, and in particular the children, who are often pulled from province to province and out of country,” Harts said.

“Schools is a great way to help the school systems across Canada know what to expect when they receive military children being moved from one province to another.”

The resource is expected to help schools work with military and veteran families. It will be updated every five years.

“Schools is the front line of the military community,” Harts said.

The resource includes information on how students from military families can be identified, what kind of stress they face and how to help.

Col. Dan Harts is the director of Military Family Services with the Canadian Armed Forces. (Image Credit: CBC)

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Col. Dan Harts is the director of Military Family Services with the Canadian Armed Forces. (Image Credit: CBC)
Col (retd) Russell Mann, Special Advisor with The Vanier Institute of the Family and Michel Turcotte, Quebec Director francophone for CCP A, speak on EntreNous.

EntreNous, Ottawa’s top French language daytime talk show, featuring the French version of the resource.

Dr. Hollihan and Nora Spinks, CEO of The Vanier Institute of the Family, appear on Rogers Daytime, one of Ottawa’s most popular talk shows.

Special thanks to Cynthia Waldmeier and Emily Gale from Impact Public Affairs. Impact Public Affairs is the firm that organized CCPA’s media relations efforts for the resource launch.