



CANADIAN COUNSELLING AND
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE
COUNSELING ET DE PSYCHOTHÉRAPIE

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.



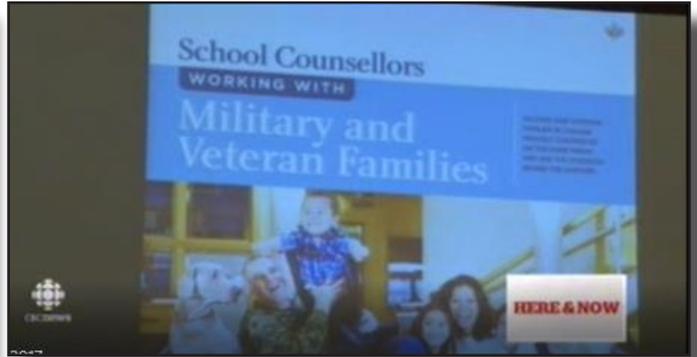


CBC

“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



Colonel Dan Harris speaks with CBC following the official resource launch.



CBC features an in-depth interview on the new resource for school counsellors.



Dr. Kim Hollihan, Deputy CEO for the CCPA, speaks on NTV.

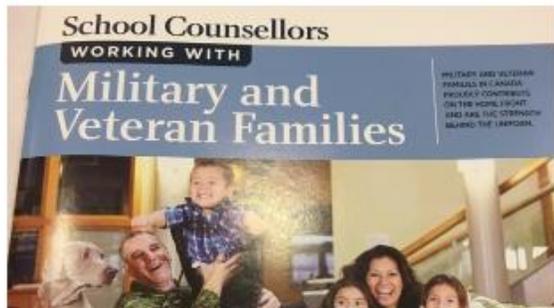


Dr. Hollihan discusses the value of the new resource on live television.

“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

Geographical moves, separation from loved ones and risk of military jobs all addressed
By Geoff Barlett, CBC News | Posted: May 19, 2017 8:00 AM NT | Last Updated: May 19, 2017 8:10 AM NT



A resource called School Counsellors Working with Military and Veteran Families was launched in St. John's on Thursday. The manual is meant to help schools better integrate children of military families into their school. (Twitter/HQ76news)

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A new resource is available to schools to help educators better understand what life is like for military members and veterans and their families.

School Counsellors Working with Military and Veteran Families was created by the Canadian Counseling and Psychotherapy Association, in partnership with the Canadian Military and Veteran Families Leadership Circle.

"This is a great way to help the school systems across Canada know what to expect when they receive military children."

- Col. Dan Harris

The bilingual publication was unveiled Thursday morning at the Sheraton Hotel in St. John's, Newfoundland, and is supposed to help schools increase their military literacy and help support and better include students of military families in the social, academic and athletic life of the school.

Unique needs of military children

It's the second in a series of books related to professions working with military and veteran families, with the first being a resource for doctors that was released in November.



Col. Dan Harris is the director of Military Family Services with the Canadian Armed Forces and was in St. John's on Thursday to help launch the School Counsellors Working with Military and Veteran Families resource. (Sherry Viviani/CBC)

Col. Dan Harris, 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 their school life.

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

"Those things make it a little more difficult for the military family, and in particular the children, who are often posted from province to province and out of country," Harris said.

"So this is a great way to help the school systems across Canada know what to expect when they receive military children being posted from one province to another."

With files from Sherry Vivian

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10°C

More Weather

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- More weather for Moncton
- More weather for Fredericton
- More weather for Saint John
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The Telegram

Military literacy resource launched for school counsellors



Military Family MAGAZINE

For The Whole Military Family
Independent • Informed • Inspired

- Home
- Military 411
- HomeBase
- Keeping The Balance
- Waypoints
- Line Of Duty

Home / New resource launched to increase military literacy with school counsellors regarding military children

56,000 children under the age of 18 have a parent in the Regular Force

and 8% have one or more children with special needs

Designed specifically for Canadian school counsellors, a new bilingual resource that will bring awareness to the lifestyle of military families was launched by the Canadian Counseling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) in partnership with the Canadian Military and Veteran Families Leadership Circle.

"We know that the whole family is affected, including children, when a parent serves or has served in the military. Resources such as the Working with Military and Veteran Families series support military literacy and contribute to an understanding of the unique lifestyles of military and veteran families. The collaborative efforts behind this resource highlight the commitment of caring community providers such as CCPA and the Canadian Military and Veteran Families Leadership Circle," said Nora Sprink, CEO of the Veteran Institute of the Family and Co-Founder of the Canadian Military and Veteran Families Leadership Circle.

The publication, School Counsellors Working with Military and Veteran Families, is aimed at increasing the military literacy of school personnel with the hope of enabling them to better support and include military children and youth in the social, academic and athletic lives of schools.

The resource was developed by a panel of experts from the CCPA and others including family members, researchers and academics, Military Family Services, National Defence Health Services Group, Veterans Affairs Canada, Canadian Institute for Military and Veterans Health Research, and the Veteran Institute of the Family.

"Military Family Services is honoured to be working with CCPA in the development of this publication and in building awareness amongst school counsellors. School counsellors have an incredible ability to have a real impact on facilitating transitions for military children. The more we can educate and provide information about the uniqueness of military life to civilian professionals and service providers, the more we support military families," stated Colonel Ian Harris, Director of Military Family Services.

The resource has four main components. First and foremost it aims to raise the awareness of school counsellors on military life and the stresses that affect military families such as postings, and deployments.

"It's really beneficial for the guidance counsellors across Canada to know what these unique experiences that military children are experiencing are: moving from province to province or out of country and back into the country. So, they know the specific requirements of adapting into the school environment. Not to mention, the school circumstances across all of the provinces of Canada differs in some way, especially at the high school level."

"It's an incredible resource that we're hoping will get into the hands of all school counsellors across Canada," said Harris.

The publication also seeks to give school counsellors practical tips on how to welcome military children into the community and makes counsellors aware of key resources.

"We thought it was really important that school counsellors and school personnel be aware of these different resources so they can access them to support and promote the health and wellbeing of the students they're serving," said Kim Holliday, Deputy CEO, CCPA.

Above all, the resource was aimed at highlighting how military families are resilient, strong and diverse Canadian families.

"Even though they do have some of these very unique circumstances that they're dealing with, they certainly have the competency and support to deal with that. So, really it was more about school counsellors, looking at the strengths, and building upon those to help families and military and veteran child and youth. In particular, really be the most they could be in terms of contributing to that school community," noted Holliday.

The resource was officially launched on May 18 at the CCPA national conference in St. John's Newfoundland. The document will be disseminated to the 450 members of the school counsellor chapter of the CCPA.

The next step will be to work with provinces across the country to disseminate the resource to all Canadian school counsellors.



Col (ret'd) Russell Mann, Special Advisor with The Vanier Institute of the Family, speaks with Radio-Canada in St. John's, NL.



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.

Entre nous



Col (ret'd) Russell Mann, Special Advisor with The Vanier Institute of the Family and Michel Turcotte, Quebec Director francophone for CCPA, speak on EntreNous.



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