
From the Editor's Desk

Dr. Robert Shea
Founding Editor

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this special issue of *The Canadian Journal of Career Development / Revue canadienne de développement de carrière*.

Over fifteen years ago when the journal was first launched, it was a belief by many career practitioners, academics and career development leaders in Canada that the time was right to publish and disseminate the amazing and thought-provoking research occurring in Canada. It was a further belief that the journal should be peer reviewed and open access.

This belief that it be peer reviewed was borne from a need to ensure the highest of academic rigour and to ensure that Canadian research that was both prolific and engaging, was held up to those standards which define quality research around the world. It was envisioned that this peer-reviewed research would allow us to understand our practice more clearly and base our professional work on evidence rather than conjecture or hyperbole. Within this vein of thinking it was further believed that research should go beyond the boundaries of traditional journals of the day which were mostly paper based and offered as a value to only members of individual professional associations.

The peer review process and the open access decision are the hallmarks of *The Canadian Journal of Career Development / Revue canadienne de développement de carrière*. The open access decision was not taken lightly as the majority of journals charged a fee for members of the community to access the wealth of literature contained in their own journals. The CJCD, Memorial University of Newfoundland, CERIC, and The Counselling Foundation of Canada strongly believed that to charge people for access to the journal precluded access to those among us who could not afford the membership and fees.

In essence it is these hallmarks which continue to define the journal many years later. All past issues are online and accessible to all around the world which has allowed us to stay true to our vision and also allowed Canadian researchers an opportunity to disseminate their research around the world. The interesting piece about open access is that it has also opened a world of opportunity for international researchers to also publish in the CJCD / RCDC.

With the enhancement of the journal and the future needs of a public focused on cutting-edge research we thought it was timely to launch a special issue of articles, research briefs and the on-going research of graduate students from across the Canada. These are the researchers and practitioners of today and of the future. Our call for contributors was overwhelming.

This issue and the overwhelming positive response from both graduate students, their professors and the career community in Canada indicates a need to continue this concept. I am happy to say that we will be providing a section in all future issues of the CJCD / RCDC dedicated to the thoughts and research of graduate students in Canada. This allows masters and doctoral students an opportunity to disseminate their research and by disseminating their research to learn the art of writing for a journal but most importantly allows us as readers to gain insight into the next generation of writers, scholars and practitioners.



I hope the articles that follow in this special issue engage you as a reader and you find them as thought provoking as I have. Thought provoking in their content but also the students' choice of topic. Many of these articles are works in progress and, as part of that work, dissemination to an international audience is both overwhelming and risky. However, each of the authors has allowed themselves to put their on-going work under scrutiny and for that I say thank you for taking this risk but more importantly for choosing your life work to focus on the importance of career development and the hope of current and future generations.

Prof. Robert Shea

Founding Editor

The Canadian Journal of Career Development / Revue canadienne de développement de carrière