



CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES REFUGEE

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BRIDGING SOLITUDES: PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES IN CANADIAN REFUGEE SERVICE DELIVERY

Introduction

Claudia María Vargas

Although it would be wonderful to get to the point where we would not have to consider service provision to refugees, the reality is that there is a continuous and escalating need to do so as conflicts around the world continue to displace thousands of people.¹ While the number of people encountering dislocation swell, countries seem to be responding by restrictive asylum policies and by limiting services, a phenomenon occurring in the first country of entry and in

asylum granting countries. (For a thorough discussion on the legal restrictions adopted by Canada, the United States, and the European Union, see Cooper, forthcoming; and the article by the same author in this issue). In spite of these and other obstacles, nonprofit organizations strive to deliver a variety of services to refugees. This challenge has intensified with the shift from a welfare state framework to a market oriented state. Thus, nonprofit organiza-

tions have had to step in to fill a void left by a slashing of government services (Welsch 1999; Salamon 1994).

In such a setting, key questions emerge. How do non-governmental organizations (NGOs) deliver much needed services in a time of shrinking budgets and restricted policies? What strategies do NGOs use to meet these obstacles within an ethic of service? In other words, what challenges do service providers encounter in delivering serv-

CONTENTS

Introduction <i>Claudia María Vargas</i>	1
Creating a Partnership Conducive Environment: A Collaborative Approach To Service Delivery <i>Lucila Spigelblatt</i>	8
Canadian Refugee Services: The Challenges of Network Operations <i>Phillip J. Cooper</i>	14
Creating a "Community of Learners" Through Cultural Mediation: A School's Perspective <i>Patricia Irving & Claudia María Vargas</i>	27
The Community Youth Outreach Programme in Delta, British Columbia, Canada: "The Personal Touch That Works" <i>Sherman Chan, Hardeep Thind & Lesley Lim</i>	34
Supporting Refugee and Immigrant Children: Building Bridges Programme of the International Children's Institute in Canada and Overseas <i>Ester Cole</i>	41
The Multicultural Liaison Officers' Perspective in Assessing Refugee Children in the Schools <i>Afarin Beglari & Huong Thai</i>	46
The Vitality of Interconnectedness: Vast's Service Delivery Programme, First Alone, Then Together <i>Mahshid Esfandiari & Frances MacQueen</i>	50



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For further information and registration, please contact:

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