

THE AFRICA SOCIETY

PROFILE OF

LINDA DALE

Cultural Connections

Ms Linda Dale holds a B.Sc. in Biology, a B.A. in English and a B.ED (High school teaching certificate) from Memorial University in Newfoundland. She subsequently went on to complete an M.A. in Education from the University of New Brunswick, and various courses on adult education and participatory education evaluation techniques from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). She is conversant in English and Spanish.

Ms. Dale has been active in various civil society organizations for many years. Her most recent projects include:

- ***Cultural approaches to assist children recovering from the trauma of war.*** This project explores the use of cultural approaches in its work with children who survived the genocide in Rwanda. The project has gone through the initial assessment workshop with youth and is now shifting to a focus on community research and the use of cultural symbols. Ms. Dale's responsibilities included project management and fundraising, as well as design and facilitation of workshops.
- ***Mapping Our World, an international children's rights project.*** This children's rights project provides a forum for children in difficult circumstances to describe the strengths and difficulties of their life situations and to represent these issues to others. *Mapping Our World* combines community consultation/research with youth outside Canada with public education with children in Canada. Ms Dale's responsibilities include project management, fundraising, design and facilitation of workshops, development of an exhibit, educational materials and web site, as well as organization of exhibit tour and community education work.

This project has linked children from Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia, Bangladesh, Colombia, Dominican Republic, India, Nicaragua and the Philippines. This has included former child soldiers, internal refugees, garment factory workers, war orphans, agricultural workers, brick makers and street children. In five day workshops the children are invited to "map their world" using a mixture of painting, drawing, writing, photography and video. In Canada, a public education program on international children's rights has included two national traveling exhibitions (one on children's rights, the other on children and war), education program and a www site. See: <http://www.cpcc.ottawa.on.ca/wgchm1.htm> and <http://www.cpcc.ottawa.ca/wgchm2.htm>

- ***Reading the Signs: definitions of literacy in the Newfoundland / Labrador context.*** This project combined community, archival and artificial definitions of what it means to be literate in the North American context. The exhibit began with a fisherman describing a truly literate person as someone who can "read the water." This exhibit drew on historical as well as present-day examples and represented experiences of the province's aboriginal peoples (four groups) as well as English and French European settlers. The exhibit tour was co-ordinated with local fisher centres and adult literacy programs. Ms. Dale's responsibilities included:

community archival and artifact research; development of the exhibit concept, interpretative plan and text; community outreach and coordination of community involvement; as well as research and writing for the CD.

- ***High Flyers: A history of women's involvement in Canadian aviation.*** This national exhibit was commissioned by the National Museum of Aviation. It chronicled women's participation in aviation from the 1930s to the present day. It focused on gender discrimination of female pilots and flight attendants. Ms. Dale's responsibilities included background research with a high level of involvement from Canada's female aviation community; and the development of the exhibit concept, interpretative plan and text.
- ***A Fierce Light: Living in the Nuclear Age.*** This project was commissioned by the Canadian Physicians for Global Survival. The national exhibit chronicled the social/cultural responses to the presence of the atom bomb and nuclear weapons from the 1940s to the 1980s. Ms. Dale's responsibilities included research and development of the art exhibit on the social/cultural response to the existence of nuclear weapons; and the development and writing of the exhibit text, catalogue and education kit.
- ***Disrupted Lives: Refugee children's drawings from Central America.*** This project focused on the experiences of refugee children as understood and described by them through their drawings and writings. Following workshops and contacts with children in refugee centres in Honduras, Costa Rica and Mexico, a collection of over 2,000 drawings were acquired. This artwork formed the basis for a large national travelling exhibit as well as two smaller mobile displays.

The *Disrupted Lives* exhibit and displays traveled in Canada for two years, visiting 85 communities. A National Film Board Film -- which received an international film award -- was based on the exhibit, and produced in English, French and Spanish. The exhibit and collection were returned to a centre in Central America in the 1990s. Ms. Dale's responsibilities included: liaison with Central American refugee camps to create the collection of drawings and writings on which the exhibit was based; development of a large gallery exhibit (trilingual), two small traveling exhibits and a resource kit for educators; organization of the community animation program (including education workshops) and a national tour for the exhibit and small displays; consultation with the National Film Board in the development of the film based on the exhibit; and fundraising.

Ms. Dale has been a consultant or completed various contract projects. Some of these include: process/participatory evaluation of a community based women's health projects in 60 communities in Newfoundland and Labrador; development of special workshops on children's rights issues conducted with teachers, churches and community groups; education work with special needs children; and interpretative planning of exhibits.

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