

LINDA GRAFF AND ASSOCIATES INC.

LINDA L. GRAFF *Author, Trainer, Consultant*

Linda L. Graff has been in the business of not-for-profit management since 1980. She has delivered workshops and keynote addresses over more than twenty-five years to tens of thousands of participants throughout North America and the United Kingdom, and more recently into Europe, Asia, New Zealand, and Australia.



A mix of humour and informality characterize Linda's dynamic presentation style. Linda currently focuses her keynote and workshop presentations on new trends and advanced topics in volunteerism, and in particular, on the "tough" areas of policy development, risk management, screening, and discipline and dismissal. Well-known for her innovative thinking and large-picture vision, she is one of Canada's foremost authorities on volunteerism.

Linda has produced more than a dozen books and audio resources, and countless manuals and articles in the field of volunteer program management. *By Definition* (1992), her book on policy writing for volunteer services is a best-seller, and her manual on screening employees and volunteers for positions of trust, *Beyond Police Checks* (1999), has received international acclaim as the essential source book on this high stakes topic. In 2003, Linda released her long-awaited book on risk management. Called *Better Safe ... Risk Management for Volunteer Programs & Community Service*, this rich and comprehensive resource has become another indispensable tool for managers of volunteers everywhere. *BEST OF ALL: A Quick Reference Guide To Volunteer Involvement* was published in 2005 as a compilation of best practices in volunteer program management. It too has become a best-seller in the field.

In 2007, Linda collaborated with Dr. Paul Reed, Carleton University professor and Senior Social Scientist at Statistics Canada to launch the *Canada Who Cares?* initiative. This thoughtful and challenging set of "conversations" between Graff and Reed set out key shifts in Canada which suggest volunteering may be weakening or perhaps in decline. They offer a "way-of-life wake-up call" to community leaders everywhere to tend carefully to the precious resource volunteers and volunteering represent.

Ms. Graff earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from McMaster University. In 1989, after nearly ten years as the Director of the Volunteer Centre in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Linda established her management consulting firm, LINDA GRAFF AND ASSOCIATES INC., located in Dundas, Ontario. Along with her associates, she works exclusively with nonprofit organizations and public agencies. She currently divides her time among research, writing, and consulting projects, and the delivery of workshops around the world.