



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

N E W S R E L E A S E

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For Immediate Release

New \$.5 Million Canada Research Chair at UWinnipeg: Spotlight on Culture of Childhood

WINNIPEG— As part of today's \$102.2 Million announcement of 126 Canada Research Chairs (CRC) across the country, Dr. Mavis Reimer was named The University of Winnipeg's *Canada Research Chair in the Culture of Childhood*. The Honourable Jean-C. Lapierre, Minister of Transport and Political Minister for Quebec, made the announcement on behalf of the Honourable David L. Emerson, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for the Canada Research Chairs Program.

"One of Canada's most important national assets is its greatest minds," said Emerson. "By empowering the most talented university researchers, the Chairs Program has become the keystone of the government's strategy to invigorate Canadian research, innovation, and know-how."

Reimer, who organized *Performing Childhood*, the international Children's Literature Association Conference last June in Winnipeg, specializes in the study of children's literature. She is leading cutting-edge research into the idea of "home" in Canadian children's literature—a concept influenced by our country's history as a former colony, a population comprised of both newcomers and Aboriginals, and by our proximity to the United States.

"I'm very pleased to take up the *Canada Research Chair in the Culture of Childhood* at The University of Winnipeg. In accepting this position, I am conscious that I am building on longstanding strengths of this University in research into the cultures and texts of young people, research pioneered in the University's Department of English by Kay Stone and Perry Nodelman," Reimer said. "In the global and globalizing world of the 21st century, this research seems to me of urgent importance. Texts for young people are increasingly traveling across national borders, and must be understood within larger systems of cultural politics."

University of Winnipeg Dean of Arts Neil Besner commented: "We are extremely pleased to have Dr. Reimer's research recognized in this important way. Dr. Reimer's innovative work in the area of Canadian children's literature and, more broadly, in the culture of childhood grows out of one of The University of Winnipeg's longstanding areas of excellence in research and teaching."

"This appointment reflects very well on the quality and significance of research undertaken at The University of Winnipeg," added University President Lloyd Axworthy. "It confirms yet again that the

University engages in excellent research, and we attract some of the world's finest researchers. Our students, and the citizens of Winnipeg and Manitoba, will reap the benefits of Dr. Reimer's groundbreaking work."

A five-year, \$500,000 appointment, this Canada Research Chair is unique in its focus on the culture of childhood. The overall objective of Reimer's research is to account for the cultural work of texts directed to children and youth, to understand how actual children assume the burden of meaning assigned to the metaphorical figure of the child, and to encourage the creation of critical and resisting young readers.

Reimer, associate professor in The University of Winnipeg's English department, is the author of over 40 publications on children's literature, the editor of two books, and co-author of *The Pleasures of Children's Literature* with Perry Nodleman, widely used as a textbook in children's literature courses across North America.

Reimer is the fourth University of Winnipeg professor named as a Canada Research Chair. Dr. Jennifer Brown is *Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Peoples in an Urban and Regional Context*, Dr. Tom Carter is *Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation*, and Dr. Jacques Tardif is *Canada Research Chair in Tree Ring Research*.

The Canada Research Chairs program, part of an overall Government of Canada plan to encourage Canada's innovation, promotes leading-edge research and innovation in universities; provides exciting opportunities for Canadian researchers; and, attracts the best research minds in the world to Canadian universities.

Located in the heart of downtown, The University of Winnipeg is a compact, diverse, multicultural academic community committed to access and excellence. Home to more than 8,900 full- and part-time students, UWinnipeg has been ranked by our graduates in the Top Ten of all Canadian universities when asked about their "Entire Educational Experience" (Maclean's Graduate Survey, November 2004). The Globe & Mail 2005 Report Card gives The University of Winnipeg an overall 'A' grade in the areas of teaching quality, class sizes, faculty-student interaction, and the availability of faculty outside classroom hours. Find out why. Visit www.uwinnipeg.ca

- 30 -

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