PREFACE

TEN YEARS AGO, Halli, Trovato and Driedger invited the top demographers and ethnic scholars in Canada to a study conference in Winnipeg. The participants presented their papers, and many of these appeared in Ethnic Demography, published by Carleton University Press in 1990. As the editors stated in the preface, it was a first “volume combining the two fields of demography and ethnicity.” The purpose was “to make available to students and policy-makers the latest data ... from the 1981 and 1986 censuses and recent surveys.” This work has been widely used, and it went into a second printing.

In October of 1996 two of the same editors invited many of the same scholars, and others who have entered the field since, to again present 40 papers at a second study conference in Winnipeg. Fourteen of the forty papers have been edited, and are made available here in Race and Racism, using the latest census data, and especially the more qualitative research on race which has emerged in the last ten years. Most scholars who attended the conference agreed that discussions, the intellectual ferment, and excitement, spurred them on to greater research efforts in the future. The quality of the papers was high, so that fourteen more papers were edited, and have appeared in another book entitled Immigrant Canada, published by the University of Toronto Press.

American social science scholars have researched race and racism since the beginning of the century. This has not been the case in Canada, because the Canadian population, even as late as 1971, was 95 percent white. Since then, however, other more visible minorities, including aboriginals, have doubled their proportionate weight to 10 percent as of 1991. Estimates are that peoples of colour will again double to 20 percent of Canada’s population by 2016, especially because of more open immigration laws. Thus, it is essential that we present the fourteen papers read at our study conference, which focused on race and racism.
Many have made this publication possible, including Heritage and Multiculturalism Canada; the Metropolis Project; James Gardner, Vice-President (Academic), Joanne Keselman, Vice-President (Research), and Raymond Currie, Dean of Arts, and Emoke Szathmary, President, all of the University of Manitoba; and the Prairie Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration.

Several scholars who are working for federal agencies are concerned that we make it clear that the opinion expressed in their papers are not those of the government but their own. This proviso refers to work done by Sylvia Wargon, Monica Boyd, Gustave Goldman, Pamela White, Ravi B.P. Verma, Kwak Chang, T. John Samuel, and Aly Karam.

Darlene Driedger and Abdolmohammad Kazemipur have both contributed much to the processing of this work, for which we sincerely thank them.

Leo Driedger and Shiva S. Halli