DEDICATION

Robert Young, 1950–2017

This *State of the Federation* is dedicated to one of the volume’s co-editors, Dr. Robert Young. Bob passed away in August 2017, while the volume was being prepared for publication.

As a professor of political science at Western University, Bob was one of the country’s leading authorities on federalism and multilevel governance, a status affirmed by his Canada Research Chair in that field and by his election to the presidency of the Canadian Political Science Association. He was also a long-time friend and contributor to the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations (IIGR). Bob was a visiting fellow at the IIGR from 1992 to 1993, when he worked closely with then director Doug Brown to develop one of the institute’s most successful research programs, and he sat on the IIGR’s advisory council after his fellowship until his death.

Bob’s research will be long remembered not only for its depth and breadth but also its interdisciplinary and comparative reach. He published on a number of topics, including the political economy of New Brunswick, free trade, municipal politics, and secession, and he did so from an impressively diverse range of intellectual perspectives. Nowhere was this more evident, perhaps, than in his most widely cited book, *Secession of Quebec and the Future of Canada* (first published by the
IIGR and McGill-Queen’s University Press in 1995). In it, Bob spelled out, with his characteristic insight and learning, the economic and political implications of a “Yes” vote and the form that negotiations between Canada and Quebec would likely take. Not only was the book widely read among political scientists, but it also won the Canadian Economics Association’s 1996 Douglas Purvis Memorial Prize for the best work on Canadian economic policy.

Bob remained a devout student and contributor to Canadian federalism till the very end. He volunteered, just months before his death, to help the IIGR open a dialogue with the Quebec government over its recent affirmation policy. It is unfortunate that the resulting debate will not benefit from Bob’s insight. But it is our great fortune to have learned from him on so many other occasions. His generosity, wisdom, and insight will be sorely missed.