MILITANT MINORITY

British Columbia Workers and the Rise of a New Left, 1948–1972

Militant Minority tells the compelling story of British Columbia workers who sustained a left tradition during the bleakest days of the Cold War. Through their continuing activism on issues from the politics of timber licences to global questions of war and peace, these workers bridged the transition from an Old to a New Left.

In the late 1950s, half of BC's workers belonged to unions, but the promise of postwar collective bargaining quickly turned into disillusionment as inflation rose and automation steadily displaced workers. A new and increasingly rebellious working class emerged, made more diverse by the growing participation of woman and urban workers from the burgeoning public sector. This New Left, influenced by traditional forms of labour militancy, took part in strikes, occupations, and picketing, visibly challenging the socio-economic status quo and contributing to a change in government, the election of the newly formed New Democratic Party in 1972.

Grounded in archival research and oral history, *Militant Minority* provides a valuable case study of one of the most organized and independent working classes in North America during a period of ideological tension and unprecedented material advance.

BENJAMIN ISITT is an assistant professor of history at the University of British Columbia, specializing in social movements in twentieth-century Canada and the world.

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To Melissa, Aviva, and troublemakers everywhere

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