

Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge the generous support and participation of all the institutions and individuals who made this project possible, supported the organization and running of the events, participated in the ongoing discussions, and then helped with the writing and publication phases.

Institutions at Dalhousie University: MacKay Lecture Series 2012–13 “Reconciliation: The Responsibility for Shared Futures,” Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dalhousie University College of Sustainability, Office of the Vice President, Research, University of King’s College, Schulich School of Law, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Department of Political Science, Royal Society of Canada, Open Academy Grants program, and Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.

People at or supportive of events at Dalhousie University: Elder Kerry Prosper, Paqtnkek First Nation, Dr Sherry Pictou, L’stkuk First Nation, Professor Naomi Metallic, Listuguj First Nation, the many individual graduate and honours students who supported and participated in the events, and in particular, Amy Donovan, Eric Smith, Julia Howell, Chloe Westlake, Roberta Watt, Katie McLeod, Rachelle McKay, Shannon Ramsay, Janelle Young, Paul Hilborn, Caitlin Krause, Dru Morrison, Shawn Martin, students of SOSA 4005/5005 “Issues in Social Justice & Inequality,” led by Dr Brian Noble, Fall 2012, and all the support staff and volunteers who made the events such a success.

Institutions at the University of Victoria: Department of Political Science, Political Science Indigenous Speaker Series, Faculty of Law, Office of the Dean of Social Science, Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies, Centre for Aboriginal Health Research (now called Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-led Engagement), Office of Indigenous

Affairs, Department of Women's Studies, Department of Environmental Studies, Department of Anthropology, Department of History, John Lutz, James H. Tully Fellowship, First Peoples House, and Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation.

People at or supportive of events at the University of Victoria and after: Elders May Sam and Kip Sam, Tsartlip First Nation, Richard Atleo Senior (Umeek), Joy Austin, Rosemary Barlow, Lindsay Borrows, Keith Cherry, Joanne Denton, Avigail Eisenberg, Ginger Gibson, Rob Hancock, Debra Higgins, Basil Johnston, Dennis Jones, Deanne LeBlanc, Constance MacIntosh, Johnny Mack, Warren Magnusson, Aaron Mills, Tamaya Moreton, Gina Starblanket, Heidi Stark, Carl Urion, Jeremy Webber, all the undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members, and visitors who participated in the events, and the support staff and volunteers who made the events such a success.

We editors also would like to thank all the contributors for their initial presentations, their collective and cooperative engagement in designing the edited volume, and for writing, and often rewriting, their outstanding chapters.

We would also like to acknowledge Douglas Hildebrand, Daniel Quinlan, and Wayne Herrington, at the University of Toronto Press, for all their support and assistance in moving the edited volume from its draft form through to its publication, and to the anonymous reviewers for their constructive comments. Our gratitude goes to Keith Cherry for his efficient and tireless work of editing and bringing together all the chapters into successive versions of the manuscript. Our wholehearted thanks goes to Judy Dunlop for creating an outstanding index.

A special debt of gratitude from all of us to Arthur Manuel (1951–2017) for his support and inspiration for this project and over many years of exemplary work for resurgence and transformative reconciliation.

About the cover

In the cover to this book, painted by Anishinaabekwe artist Estrella Whetung from the Alderville First Nation, Anishinaabe reconciliation and resurgence are represented by sky and water beings in creative relationship and tension. In Anishinaabe stories, *adizookaanag*, the encounters between reconciliation and resurgence are part of the world's continual recreation. These characters and colours represent the earth's teachings. They represent the land waking up. These characters encourage relationships, and their interactions and tensions help

us understand ourselves as human beings in deeper ways. Thunderbird, *animikii*, is a dream visitor who brings gifts. The underwater being, *mishibizhew*, is a protector of the natural world and a mediator between the water, land, and sky beings. As guardians of resources, *animikii* and *mishibizhew* are immortal and watch over the balance of eco-social relations, including climate change. The sun behind the thunderbird is also a nod to the “phoenix” story which is a reconciliation/resurgence figure in some parts of the world.

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