

Praise for *Before Official Multiculturalism*:

“Combining painstaking archival research with sharp analysis, Franca Iacovetta’s *Before Official Multiculturalism* offers us an important account of English Canada’s particular version of multiculturalism. Studying the work of women associated with Toronto’s International Institute in the 1950s and 60s, Iacovetta’s book offers us new ways of thinking about the possibilities and, perhaps more importantly, the enduring limitations of liberal, plural multiculturalism, both then and now.”

**Adele Perry, Professor of History and Women’s and Gender Studies, and
Director of the Centre for Human Rights Research, University of Manitoba**

“Meticulously researched and accessibly written, this study of Toronto’s International Institute offers a much needed and explicitly gendered intervention into our understandings of mid-century migrant settlement efforts. Emphasizing women’s engagement at and with the Institute, Iacovetta deftly untangles the potential and paradoxes of white settler-based liberal cultural pluralism and efforts at multiculturalism before it was made ‘official’ in Canada.”

Rhonda L. Hinthner, Professor of History, Brandon University

“This magnificent work makes it clear why Franca Iacovetta is one of the leading scholars of gender, labour, and migration history in Canada. In a finely tuned analysis, Iacovetta explores the double-edged nature of pluralism at the International Institute of Metropolitan Toronto from 1956–1974. *Before Official Multiculturalism* offers critical insights that help us better understand the significance of ongoing contestations over culture, community, and belonging in the present.”

Laura Madokoro, Associate Professor of History, Carleton University

STUDIES IN GENDER AND HISTORY

General Editors: Franca Iacovetta and Karen Dubinsky

Before Official Multiculturalism

Women's Pluralism in Toronto, 1950s–1970s

FRANCA IACOVETTA

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

© University of Toronto Press 2022
Toronto Buffalo London
utorontopress.com
Printed in Canada

ISBN 978-1-4875-4563-5 (cloth)
ISBN 978-1-4875-4564-2 (paper)

ISBN 978-1-4875-4565-9 (EPUB)
ISBN 978-1-4875-4566-6 (PDF)
ISBN 978-1-4875-5230-5 (OA)

Studies in Gender and History

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: Before official multiculturalism : women's pluralism in Toronto, 1950s–1970s / Franca Iacovetta.

Names: Iacovetta, Franca, 1957– author.

Series: Studies in gender and history ; 53.

Description: Series statement: Studies in gender and history; 53 | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 20220281815 | Canadiana (ebook) 20220282013 |
ISBN 9781487545642 (paper) | ISBN 9781487545635 (cloth) | ISBN 9781487545659 (EPUB) |
ISBN 9781487545666 (PDF)

Subjects: LCSH: International Institute of Metropolitan Toronto – History – 20th century. |

LCSH: Women social workers – Ontario – Toronto – History – 20th century. |

LCSH: Immigrants – Services for – Ontario – Toronto – History – 20th century. |

LCSH: Cultural pluralism – Ontario – Toronto – History – 20th century. |

LCSH: Community activists – Ontario – Toronto – History – 20th century. |

LCSH: Social integration – Ontario – Toronto – History – 20th century. |

LCSH: Toronto (Ont.) – Ethnic relations – History – 20th century.

Classification: LCC FC3097.9.A1 I23 2022 | DDC 305.8009713/541 – dc23



CC-BY-NC-ND

This work is published subject to a Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial No Derivative License. For permission to publish commercial versions please contact University of Toronto Press. University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial support from the University of Toronto Libraries in making the open access version of this title available.

We wish to acknowledge the land on which the University of Toronto Press operates. This land is the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishnaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Métis, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

This book has been published with the help of a grant from the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, through the Awards to Scholarly Publications Program, using funds provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario, for its publishing activities.



**Canada Council
for the Arts**

**Conseil des Arts
du Canada**



**ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO**
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Financé par le
gouvernement
du Canada

Canada



*To my father, Giovanni Lombardi Iacovetta (1920–1983), for believing
in the power of education and in the potential of his rebellious daughter*

This page intentionally left blank