

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The invitation from William Cross to join a team of fellow political scientists in an audit of Canadian democracy was too good to turn down. I am grateful to Bill for having asked me to become a part of this project and for having guided all of us through several collective meetings and various iterations of our respective tasks. Like students with an essay deadline looming, we were reminded with great tact (and a quiet forcefulness that Bill has mastered) that we had commitments to meet. It was a superb group to work with. I am thankful for our regular meetings over a two-year period, the helpful assessments we offered one another, and the friendships that were formed. Political science in Canada is a strong and proud profession which, as the Democratic Audit project bears witness, has a great deal to offer students, policy makers, and the general public. Bill Cross and the Canadian Studies Centre at Mount Allison University deserve full credit for having undertaken this initiative, the first of its kind in Canada.

Bill Cross, as it turned out, was only one-half of the team issuing directives, suggestions, and advice. The other half was Emily Andrew who, as senior editor at UBC Press, kept us fully informed about her views on the content of our individual undertakings and about the Press's standards and requirements. All who contributed to this series found Emily an absolute gem to work with. We are thankful for her contribution. I wish also to acknowledge my debt to Camilla Jenkins, who saw the manuscript through its final stages with the Press, and to Geri Rowlatt, for her preparation of the index.

I am grateful to my colleague Duff Spafford and to two anonymous readers for UBC Press for the suggestions they offered on an earlier draft of this book. I wish to acknowledge as well the support for the research stage of this book provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and, through a grant from the Crabtree Foundation, Mount Allison's Canadian Studies centre.

I am indebted, once again, to the University of Saskatchewan. Since 1965, when I first joined its faculty, the university has been my home.

Students there, as elsewhere, are largely unaware of how their questions and interventions in lectures or seminars help to get the wheels turning in a professor's head. But the subjects I have set out to explore in *Elections* are in most cases those I have explored with students, often in response to questions they have raised in class. This book is aimed, as least in my mind, at answering some fundamental questions for future students in Canada who, like many others before them, are keen to learn about their electoral system.

If students have played a role in focusing my attention on the subjects canvassed in this book, so too have several of them contributed to the book's completion. I am grateful to Jim Farney, Megan Furi, William MacKinnon, Jenny Morton, and Jordan Valestuk for their research assistance. They proved, once again, that students whose interest has been whetted by a subject can often gather far more information on their assigned topic than can ever be used in a relatively short book! I trust they benefited from the experience nonetheless.

My greatest debt is to Dan Macfarlane, my principal assistant throughout the preparation of this book. Dan's willingness to tackle, sometimes on very short notice, a variety of questions demonstrated that he has a natural gift for research in the social sciences. A friendship formed, as was ours, in the course of academic research stands as one of the many rewards of life in a university.

Finally, to Helen, my thanks for the support and encouragement she has given throughout this project as well as earlier ones. Like her, that remains very special.