

Preface

Readers will find this fourth edition of *Geography of British Columbia* to be a major departure from the third edition. In my research of British Columbia – which has traced overall population, rural versus urban population, employment in the various sectors (goods and services), as well as provincial revenues over time, all of which are in this new edition – it is apparent that the resource sector of the economy is not nearly as important as it once was. It is also apparent that a great deal of the population is located in the larger municipalities. These changes are reflected in this revised edition.

The text begins with an Introduction. Following, there are now two parts to the text: Part 1 contains revisions to the previous edition's Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 7 (now Chapter 4). All other chapters are a deviation from the previous edition, but the content has not been lost. The major focus of Part 2 is on resources and resource development; however, there are no individual chapters on resources. Rather, the discussion is organized in chapters chronologically. In this manner, I believe, it assesses how resources have been used, exploited, managed, and mismanaged

to our present day. “The Tragedy of the Commons” story (see the Introduction) is used throughout a number of the chapters to illustrate attitudes and consequences of resource exploitation. The final “tragedy” may be climate change.

Throughout Part 2, the treatment and mistreatment of First Nations has been assessed, as well as that of Asians; their stories are woven into this historical perspective. Indigenous Peoples and other racialized peoples, as well as the province's resources, were subject to government policies that guided economic, social, and political development. And while provincial and federal policies were influential and often contentious, many other intervening events and conditions, such as technological innovations, wars, recessions, geophysical hazards, and terrorism, were also significant in the transition of the provincial landscape. After Confederation, more and more people moved to the province, more infrastructure was constructed, and new urban patterns were added to the map of British Columbia. These issues are all addressed in this book. This fourth edition concludes with policy directions for a more sustainable future.