John Douglas Belshaw

Becoming British Columbia A Population History



© UBC Press 2009

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without prior written permission of the publisher, or, in Canada, in the case of photocopying or other reprographic copying, a licence from Access Copyright (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency), www.accesscopyright.ca.

17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 09 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Canada on ancient-forest-free paper (100 percent post-consumer recycled) that is processed chlorine- and acid-free, with vegetable-based inks.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Belshaw, John Douglas

Becoming British Columbia: a population history / John Douglas Belshaw.

Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 978-0-7748-1545-1

1. British Columbia – Population – History. 2. British Columbia – History. I. Title.

HB3530.B7B45 2009

304.609711

C2008-906206-X

Canadä

UBC Press gratefully acknowledges the financial support for our publishing program of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP), and of the Canada Council for the Arts, and the British Columbia Arts Council.

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

Printed and bound in Canada by Friesens Set in Stone by Artegraphica Design Co. Ltd.

Copy editor: Deborah Kerr Proofreader: Dianne Tiefensee

Indexer: David Luljak

Cartographer: Dr. Ross Nelson, Thompson Rivers University

UBC Press The University of British Columbia 2029 West Mall Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2 604-822-5959 / Fax: 604-822-6083 www.ubcpress.ca

Contents

List of Illustrations / ix Acknowledgments / xi Acronyms / xiv

- 1 Cradle to Grave: An Introduction / 3
- **2** Weddings, Funerals, Anything: The British Columbian Demographic Narrative / 19
- **3** The West We Have Lost: First Nations Depopulation / 72
- 4 Girl Meets Boys: Sex Ratios and Nuptiality / 91
- **5** Ahead by a Century: Fertility / 113
- 6 Strangers in Paradise: Immigration and the Experience of Diversity / 145
- **7** The Mourning After: Mortality / 162
- **8** The British Columbia Clearances: Some Conclusions / 187

Appendices

- A Leading Settlements/Towns/Cities, BC, 1871-1951 / 195
- B Total Population, BC, 1867-2006 / 201
- C Age and Sex Distributions, BC, 1891-2001 / 202
- D Infant Mortality Rates, BC, 1922-2002 / 211

Notes / 212

Suggested Reading / 256

Index / 263