Elizabeth Furniss

The Burden of History: Colonialism and the Frontier Myth in a Rural Canadian Community



© UBC Press 1999

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 CANCOPY (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency), 900 – 6 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, ON M5C 1H6.

Printed in Canada on acid-free paper ∞

ISBN 0-7748-0710-5

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Furniss, Elizabeth, 1959-The burden of history

Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 0-7748-0710-5

1. Williams Lake (B.C.) – Colonial influence. Indians, Treatment of – British Columbia – Williams Lake. 3. Indians of North America – Cultural assimilation – British Columbia – Williams Lake. 4. Williams Lake (B.C.) – Race relations. 5. British Columbia – Colonization, I. Title.

E78.B9F87 1999

971.1′7500497

C99-910160-9

This book has been published with a grant from the Social Sciences Federation of Canada, using funds provided by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

UBC Press gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support to its publishing program from the Canada Council for the Arts, the British Columbia Arts Council, and the Department of Canadian Heritage of the Government of Canada.

UBC Press
University of British Columbia
6344 Memorial Road
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2
(604) 822-5959
Fax: 1-800-668-0821
E-mail: orders@ubcpress.ubc.ca

www.ubcpress.ubc.ca

Contents

Preface / vii

- 1 Culture and Colonialism in Rural British Columbia / 3
- 2 The Burden of History / 27
- **3** The Landscape of Public History: Pioneers, Progress, and the Myth of the Frontier / 53
- 4 Mobilizing History: Regional Identities, Pioneer Traditions, and the Frontier Myth in Political Discourse / 79
- 5 Indians, Whites, and Common-Sense Racism / 104
- **6** Encountering Histories: The Land Claims Public Forum / 138
- **7** Re-creating the Wild West: Negotiating Indianness in the Williams Lake Stampede / 164
- 8 The Frontier Complex: Conclusions and Comments / 186

Notes / 205

References / 221

Index / 233