

Michael Brown

FOREWORD

In May 1992, the York University Centre for Jewish Studies in cooperation with the Canadian Centre for Jewish Community Studies of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs convened a conference on the public affairs research agenda of Canadian Jewry. The conference was partially funded by the Government of Canada through the Ministry of Multiculturalism and was chaired by Professor Stuart Schoenfeld of the York Centre, who also undertook to prepare a bibliography of Canadian Jewish Studies focusing on the social sciences. The bibliography appeared as *Contemporary Jewish Life in Canada* by Schoenfeld and Dwight Daigneault in 1993.

A second and more comprehensive Canadian Jewish Studies conference, "A Heritage in Transition," was convened in June 1998 at the Centre for Jewish Studies of York University in cooperation with the Jewish Studies Programme at Concordia University. That conference was chaired by Professors Joe Levy, Irving Abella, and Ira Robinson and sponsored by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage. The conference marked the establishment at York of the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry to which Professor Abella has been appointed and the establishment of a chair in Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University to which Professor Norman Ravvin was subsequently named. Both chairs build upon the endowment for

Canadian Jewish Studies given by the Government of Canada to the two universities some years ago.

The main goal of the second conference was to survey broadly the field of Canadian Jewish Studies at the close of the century. One aspect of that survey is the present bibliography prepared by Professors Richard Menkis, Ben Schlesinger, Stuart Schoenfeld, and myself with the assistance of Ms. Joy Freeman and Mr. Joseph Strutt. This bibliography builds upon Professor Schoenfeld's earlier one, greatly expanding its scope and breadth. It is still, however, very much a working paper, just as the Canadian Jewish community itself is a work in progress. We hope it will be useful not only to professional scholars but to all people with an interest in Canadian Jewish Studies. We expect that, like the earlier bibliography, it will serve as a starting point for further bibliographical research.

The present effort is a joint publication of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University and the Canadian Centre for Jewish Community Studies of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. Unfortunately, my very good friend, Professor Daniel Elazar, the founding president of the Jerusalem Centre and a pioneer of Jewish political studies, has not lived to see the publication of this work, which he encouraged and nurtured. His wise counsel, acute insight, and extraordinary vision will be greatly missed by us, his students, colleagues, and friends.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to this project, most especially: my colleagues, Professors Menkis, Schlesinger, Schoenfeld, and Elazar, Mr. Joseph Strutt, Mrs. Merle Lightman, Ms. Anna Foshay, Ms. Joy Freeman, Ms. Naomi Gold, Mr. Asaf Levitan, and the Government of Canada. Special thanks are due to Professors Sydney Eisen, Irving Abella, and William Whitla and Mr. Randal Schnoor of York University, who made valuable suggestions regarding the manuscript, and to Professor Savitsa Sévigny who translated the introduction into French. The shortcomings of the present endeavour are, of course, the sole responsibility of the four compilers.