

Editor's preface to the Special Issue

This edition of *Canadian Studies in Population* contains works of central importance to those interested in the social demographic future of Canada. According to the United Nations' 2017 revision of the *World Population Prospects*, the medium-variant projections indicate that the world's population of 7.6 billion in 2017 would grow by slightly more than one billion people over the following 13 years, reaching 8.6 billion in 2030 and increasing further to 9.8 billion in 2050, possibly peaking at a population size of 11.2 billion by 2100 (United Nations 2017).

Canada's population in 2017 was estimated by the United Nations to have been 36.6 million, projected to increase to nearly 45 million by the middle of this century. Although growth will occur at slower rates compared to earlier times in history, the projected significant rise of population over the rest of the twenty-first century will necessarily imply major socioeconomic changes as well as resource and environmental challenges, demanding careful study today to better plan and prepare for the future.

As part of a thematic program of research on Future Challenges Areas for Canada, in 2013 the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) requested that a group of demographers prepare a report examining the implications of global peak population on Canada's future. SSHRC initially discussed the idea of this report with Professor Roderic Beaujot, Director of the Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Population Change and Lifecourse at Western University. He conferred with Alain Bélanger and Barry Edmonston, who agreed to serve as editors of the report, to be titled *Implications of Global Peak Population for Canada's Future*. Authors were then asked to write sections of the report, dealing with six key topic areas: nurturing the next generation; the well-being of families; life cycle changes; global migration and cities of the future; Arctic, rural, and remote communities; and energy, resource consumption, and climate change.

In the autumn of 2017, *Canadian Studies in Population* received permission from SSHRC to publish the six chapters and Introduction of the *Implications* report in a special issue of the journal. The editor of *CSP* then invited the authors to revise and update their respective sections and incorporate, where appropriate, any new information into their papers. Once received, the manuscripts were carefully reviewed by Professor Rod Beaujot of Western University and the *CSP* editor. *Canadian Studies in Population* is grateful to SSHRC for its approval and support of this project, and to the authors for their willingness to devote valuable time to this initiative.

While this project was being planned, Doug Saunders' book *Maximum Canada: Why 35 Million Canadians Are Not Enough* had just been released. A number of scholars alerted me to this work and to selected reviews which appeared in the national press. After consultation with colleagues, it was felt opportune and appropriate to devote a special review section of *CSP* to this insightful work that is so closely linked to many of the themes covered in the *Implications of Global Peak Population* papers.

Thus, this issue of the *CSP* journal also contains a Review Forum with five expert reviews of *Maximum Canada*, approached from the perspectives of scholars in population history, demography, sociology, environmental economics, and ecology. In corresponding with me about this idea, Doug Saunders called it an "exciting endeavour" and is "happy

to let the reviews, and the book they discuss, speak for themselves.” I am grateful to the reviewers for their important contributions, and also to Sharon Klein of Penguin Random House Canada for generously providing five review copies of *Maximum Canada*.

It has been for me a pleasurable and rewarding experience in helping to bring to fruition a new volume of *Studies*. I hope that readers will also find this a memorable issue, which is dedicated to crucial questions facing the future of our country.

Best wishes for a safe and pleasant summer.

Frank Trovato
Editor
14 May 2018

References

- Bélanger, A., and B. Edmonston (eds.). 2013. *Implications of Global Peak Population for Canada's Future*. Ottawa: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
- United Nations. 2017. *World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, Key Findings and Advance, Tables*. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division Working Paper No. ESA/P/WP/248. New York: United Nations.