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Canadian Mormons: History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Canada

Brian Champion

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Reid L. Nielson and Wayne D. Crosby, eds., *Lengthening Our Stride: Globalization of the Church* (Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2018)

The globalization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has received a great deal of attention recently by news outlets, scholars, and the Church itself. The collection of essays in *Lengthening Our Stride* manages to survey this broad topic in a way that both familiarizes readers with the impact globalization has had on the Church and gives readers glimpses into exciting new areas of exploration within this burgeoning field of study. The book is edited by Reid L. Nielson, Assistant Church Historian, and Wayne D. Crosby, Director of Global Support and Acquisitions in the Church History Department, and features twenty-one addresses delivered between 2006 and 2015 as part of the annual conferences of the LDS International Society—a collaboration of several organizations at Brigham Young University that was founded in 1989. This book will appeal broadly to Church members who are eager to situate themselves within the global Church.

The book is organized into five thematic sections. The essays in “Poverty and Humanitarian Work” focus on the Church’s responses to poverty and its associated challenges for those around the world. “Public Perceptions and Relations” examines the Church’s efforts to position itself in the public eye and how the Church is understood by others in different countries. The essays in “Peacemaking and Diplomacy” detail ways in which the Church has promoted peace while establishing itself globally. The section “Religious Freedom and Oppression” documents challenges to religious freedom from both

within and without the United States. The final section of essays, “Growth and Globalization,” takes a more personal tone, as the authors draw from their own experiences in a variety of countries and tell stories of Church members from around the world.

While a good part of the section on “Religious Freedom and Oppression” focuses on issues within the United States, the essays contained in the other sections are almost entirely oriented toward the Church in other countries. The final section, “Growth and Globalization,” will be of particular interest to those who would like an honest appraisal from Church leaders of the challenges the Church faces in other countries and cultures. As a whole, this book provides a fascinating insider’s view of a truly global Church.

—Jacob Rennaker

Roy A. Prete and Carma T. Prete, eds., *Canadian Mormons: History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Canada* (Provo, Utah: Religious Studies Center, Brigham Young University; Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 2017)

The late Canadian sociologist Brigham Card once mentioned that Canadian Latter-day Saints orient themselves more north-south than they do east-west, which was his way of saying that Canadian Saints may pay more attention to Salt Lake than they do to each other. Were this still true, it would be difficult to assess any notion of nationalism among Canadian Saints, but Roy and Carma Prete have made a significant contribution to galvanizing a Canadian national LDS identity, even among so disparate a people.

First, this book is beautiful; the photographs and charts on clay-coated

paper make this a work of art in addition to a work of history—it may legitimately claim space on any coffee table. And because of such high production values, it is heavy, making this a tome to remember.

The book's 684 pages compose twenty chapters written by Canadian authors, who collectively have a wide breadth of academic and professional credentials. After a few chapters that introduce and give context to the rise of the LDS Church in Canada, the book then moves from west to east, explaining the rise of the Church in each Canadian province, starting with British Columbia and ending with the Atlantic Canadian provinces. While most of the chapters are focused on telling the history of the Church in a single province, Alberta gets three chapters, a *de facto* acknowledgement that the nucleus of the Church in Canada and Canadian Church history is parked on the southern Alberta prairies.

The history of the Church in each province is lovingly crafted, occasionally by the history-makers themselves, reflecting the expansion from inception to maturity. Humble beginnings, irrespective of geography, is the universal starting point, and each chapter traces the trajectory of the Church to its present status. The timelines presented as charts contextualize the growth, while simultaneously making the history seem not so long ago.

There are three intertwined but unacknowledged drivers of post-Manifesto expansion of the Church in Canada, which the Pretes could have analyzed in greater depth. The first is economic—Saints from the Alberta heartland left in search of jobs and greater economic security than rural southern Alberta could provide, seeding the growth of the Church in, first, western cities and then, later, in other urban centers in the

east. The second driver of the Church's expansion is fundamentally tied to the first, and that is the desire to pursue economic success through postsecondary education, which led intrepid souls to large, urban, Canadian universities. Thirdly, a socialized healthcare system, with various provincial augmentations and other safety-net options, made national or regional relocation more appealing for some Mormons—with their larger than average Canadian families—than a move to Utah. How do other markers of Canadian national identity insulate the Church from a Utahan or American influence? For instance, how do LDS Canadians celebrate Canada Day? How many young LDS Canadians play hockey? The ways in which Canada affected Mormons is as important a story as the ways in which Mormons affected Canada—perhaps in the next book.

For any Latter-day Saints who live or have lived in Canada, this will be a book of remembrance and of reacquaintance with familiar things. The chapter authors, the illustrators and the photographers, and the Pretes are to be commended on a stirring story so well and beautifully told.

—Brian Champion

Reid L. Neilson and Matthew J. Grow, eds., *From the Outside Looking In: Essays on Mormon History, Theology, and Culture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016)

The Tanner Lecture series was established by the Mormon History Association in 1980 with the goal of elevating Mormon scholarship. Over the years, eminent scholars whose work “paralleled the Mormon history but . . . never addressed it directly” have been invited to speak and “expand a facet of their