

Acknowledgements

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Every product is a collaborative effort from many individuals. My trepidation in writing up this acknowledgements section was that I might fail to mention all the dedicated individuals involved in the project and this book. Our Tikkun project focused on healing and reconciliation in communities and was a work of labour, love and commitment on the part of all participants at each of the five sites. Without their dedication we would not have been able to bring this project to fruition. We went through many stages; some where the execution of tasks per the prescribed timelines progressed well, and also stages where the project's trajectory deviated from the planned steps outlined in the grant proposal. These issues led to angst and frustration, but also served as learning opportunities. These experiences allowed everyone to identify and understand that the process was different as each site based on their unique challenges and lived experiences. Nonetheless, the project was completed successfully at each site resulting in the final and culminating symposium where youth researchers and participants, university researchers and community organizers gathered in Windsor for a week of fun, sharing, reflecting, disseminating information and findings, learning with and from each other; and more importantly forging bonds that went beyond the project and symposium. In a congratulatory email message that Dr. Katherine Quinsey (Acting Dean, Faculty of Education) sent to the university she noted, "... they [the youth] have been together in the work of creating world healing and reconciliation through various forms of research and expression both within their communities and as a community."

As the Principal Investigator/Project Director, I still vividly recall the sense of joy and accomplishment I felt on the morning of April 3, 2017 when we welcomed everyone and met some of our partners in person for the very first time. In the various chapters in this book you will read more about the project and the youth symposium, and also the diversity of perspectives on display.

With specific attention to this edited book, I would like to thank all our contributors for their commitment in bringing their chapters to their final drafts. As expected with any publishing project, this edited book has been a long and laborious two-year journey; but it has been worth the effort

to be able to attain the final product. A big thank-you to our contributors who also served as internal reviewers as they supported one another and gave constructive comments and suggestions. I applaud your efforts—Congratulations! A special note of thanks to John Antoniwi who continued to provide support on a voluntary basis even though the project funding had ended. I greatly appreciated his advice as we moved the drafts through their various stages to bring this book project to completion.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to our external reviewers: T. Antoniwi, J. Bayley, S. Ciampa, M.J. Harkins, K. Kusari, K. McCahon, K. Quinsey, S. Singer, and W. Smale. They worked painstakingly on the chapters assigned to them and provided extensive and constructive feedback to our contributors.

I am grateful to Kylie Jamieson for her outstanding and meticulous proof-reading and editing. She worked tirelessly and in a timely manner on each chapter to bring it to its final draft so we could move to the publishing stage. Kylie stepped in and took on the editing task with rigor and gusto! I wish her the very best as she pursues a career in the journalism and publishing fields. It was a pleasure to work with Mita Williams, Scholarly Communications Librarian, Leddy Library who dedicated considerable time and effort in bringing this book to the publication stage. Further, thanks to Dave Johnston, Digital Projects Coordinator, Leddy Library for his support and guidance at all stages of publication. Both Mita and Dave have been exceptionally supportive and patient while dedicating their expertise to this book project.

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I consider it almost a cliché to mention family; but their support, encouragement and understanding made this project possible. They tolerated my absence, absent-mindedness, and neglect of their needs throughout this period. For these and for too many other things that I forgo listing here for the sake of brevity, I am eternally grateful. Lastly, a special shout-out to my incredibly patient husband Joe!