

OFF THE VANIER BOOKSHELF

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Fatherhood is a subject of growing interest in Canada, fuelled by a shifting social, economic and demographic landscape. In this context, many teachers, researchers, theorists and policy-makers have been calling for more information about Canadian fathers. *Father Involvement in Canada: Diversity, Renewal, and Transformation* is a response to this call; it presents a collection of essays that provides an up-to-date overview of knowledge about paternal involvement in Canada.

The push for greater research into fatherhood in Canada has been driven by a number of factors. These include the rise of lone-parent fathers, the growing number of men who share full child-raising responsibilities with their partners and a greater need to understand the unique situational challenges of fathers who are young, Aboriginal, divorced, separated or living in same-sex relationships. Canadian fathers, in short, are more diverse than ever, and research into fatherhood needs to take this into account.

Collaborative and interdisciplinary, this book tackles the need for the recognition of diversity by bringing together research from a variety of fields, including population studies, social work, sociology, child and youth care, psychology, family studies and family therapy. *Father Involvement in Canada* is the first collection of its kind to summarize knowledge on such a broad range of topics while also challenging mainstream notions about masculinity, discussing what fatherhood means to men, exploring how men conceptualize their role in healthy child development and looking at how children contribute to their fathers' development as adult men.

Father Involvement in Canada also gives attention to the context of fathering in Canada as this affects how boys learn parenting skills and perceive their role in child development. Contributors examine the portrayal of fathers and fatherhood in the media, parenting programs, policy discussions and society as a whole. This contextual approach provides

Father Involvement in Canada: Diversity, Renewal, and Transformation

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readers with a more thorough understanding of how ideas about fatherhood are created, disseminated and reinforced in society.

By highlighting research, theory and practice models that address fathering trends and issues, *Father Involvement in Canada* is an ideal handbook for students, instructors, scholars and decision makers involved in social science, social services and social development policies.

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