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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Edmonton Professors publish environmental books

Edmonton – Two Edmonton professors have just published books on the environment and society. Randolph Haluza-DeLay has co-edited a book on ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE in Canada entitled, Speaking for Ourselves. He is a sociologist at The King's University College in Edmonton. Laurie Adkins, a political scientist at the University of Alberta, has edited a book on ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT and democracy. Both books are groundbreaking.

Haluza-DeLay's is the first collection about environmental justice in Canada. Environmental Justice combines environmental sustainability and social equality. The research in the book shows that some groups in society face more than their fair share of environmental hazards like pollution, poor drinking water, or toxins in their surroundings.

"Social equality has to be a building block of sustainability," Haluza-DeLay said. "You can't have an environmentally sustainable society if some people are worse off than others. But you can't work for social justice without paying attention to the fact that our society relies on the environment for resources, energy, health, and space to live."

Chapters in the book touch on Aboriginal issues, women, health, media, rural land management, urban issues, hazardous working conditions and labour, the North, and multiculturalism.

Both books are published by the University of British Columbia Press. More information is available on the publisher's website, at <http://www.ubcpublishing.com>

"Environmental conflicts are always about our rights and responsibilities as citizens," says Adkin. "I worked on this book because I wanted to know what people working on environmental issues can tell us about the health of our democracy. There's some serious conflicts, that we have to pay attention to."

Adkin's book, entitled, Environmental Conflict and Democracy in Canada, includes 16 case studies. The case studies come from across Canada and range from First Nations resistance to the coastal fisheries crisis, to regulatory battles over genetically modified crops, to the implications of suburban sprawl.

Both Haluza-DeLay and Adkin say they are happy that the books are available before Edmonton hosts several major environmental events beginning next week.

A conference on local governments and sustainability will draw hundreds from across the world from June 14-18. Just before that, the Canadian Environmental Network will hold its Annual Meeting in Edmonton June 12-14. A discount is available for conference attendees.

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