

Further Reading

COLONIZING BODIES:

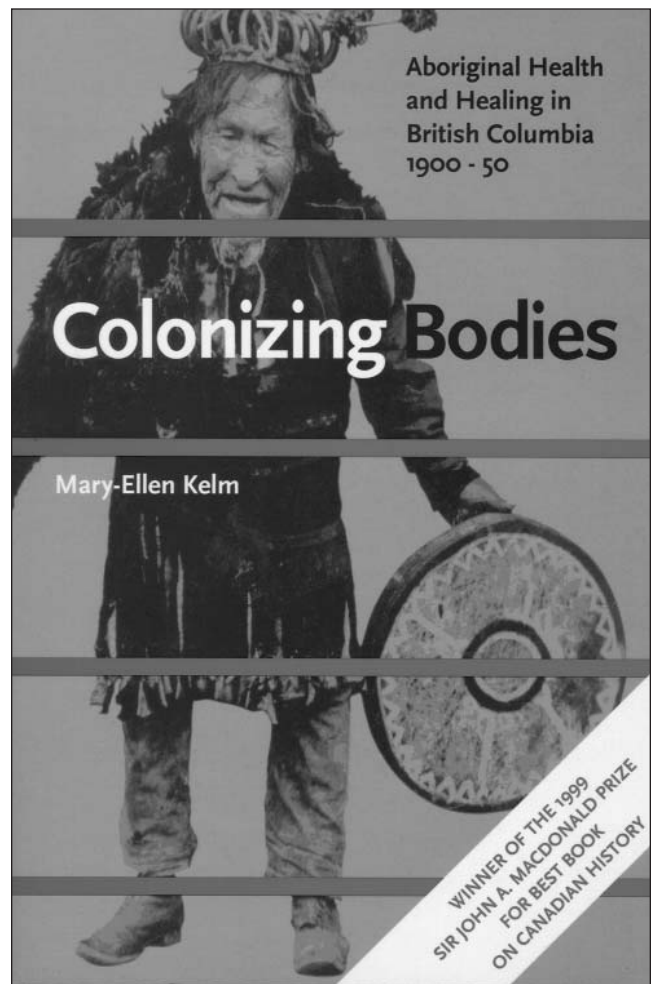
Aboriginal Health and Healing in British Columbia, 1900-50

By Mary-Ellen Kelm
University of British Columbia Press, 1999
ISBN 0774806788
272 pages

Recent debates about the health of First Nations Peoples have drawn a flurry of public attention and controversy, and have placed the relationship between Aboriginal well-being and reserve locations and allotments in the spotlight. Aboriginal access to medical care and the transfer of funds and responsibility for health from the federal government to individual bands and tribal councils are also bones of contention. However, comprehensive discussion of such issues has often been hampered by a lack of historical analysis.

Promising to remedy this is Mary-Ellen Kelm's *Colonizing Bodies*. This book examines the impact of colonization on Aboriginal health in British Columbia during the first half of the 20th century. Using post-modern and post-colonial conceptions of the body and the power relations of colonization, Kelm shows how a pluralistic medical system evolved. The author begins by exploring the ways in which Aboriginal bodies were materially affected by Canadian Indian policy, which placed restrictions on fishing and hunting, allocated inadequate reserves, forced children into unhealthy residential schools, and criminalized Indigenous healing. She goes on to consider how humanitarianism and colonial medicine were used to pathologize Aboriginal bodies and institute a regime of doctors, hospitals and field matrons, all working to encourage assimilation. Finally, Kelm reveals how Aboriginal People were able to resist and alter these forces in order to preserve their own cultural understanding of their bodies, disease and medicine.

This detailed, but highly readable, ethno-history draws on archival sources, archaeological findings, fieldwork, and oral history interviews with First Nations Elders from across British Columbia. Kelm's cross-disciplinary approach results in an important and accessible book that will be of interest, not only to academic historians and medical anthropologists,



but also to those concerned with Aboriginal health and healing today.

Colonizing Bodies won the 1999 Sir John A. Macdonald Prize and the Clio Award for British Columbia and was selected as a Choice Outstanding Title.

AKAK'STIMAN:

A Blackfoot Framework for Decision Making and Mediation Processes

By Reg Crowshoe and Sybille Manneschmidt
University of Calgary Press, March 2002
ISBN 1552380440
104 pages

Today, two health structures exist on the Peigan Reserve. One is based on Blackfoot culture and the other on western European theories of health and healing. Although both methods are used on the reserve, the government only acknowledges the western approach. This book describes in detail Blackfoot healing traditions, their spiritual foundations and their historical development. *Akak'stiman* shows how Blackfoot healing methods can be integrated with western approaches on the Peigan Reserve. Oral evidence from interviews with Elders and historical documents bring varying approaches to this timely topic.

Reg Crowshoe is a well-known Blackfoot ceremonialist who lives on the Peigan Reserve in southern Alberta. He is the director of the Oldman River Cultural Centre and has pioneered and initiated cross-cultural programs for many organizations and institutions across Western Canada. Crowshoe is the son of the revered Native spiritual leader Joe Crowshoe and recently earned an honorary doctorate in law from the University of Calgary.

Sybille Manneschmidt is a psychologist, international health consultant, author, and rancher. She earned her doctorate from the University of Alberta and has worked with the Peigan First Nation for 15 years. She makes her home in southern Alberta where she is a sessional teacher at the University of Lethbridge.

