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Canada is the fourth most mountainous country in the world; approximately one-quarter of its total surface is covered by mountainous terrain. The authors of *The Canadian Mountain Assessment (CMA)* assume that around 1.3 million permanent residents live in the mountains of Canada, but in general these areas are sparsely populated. The mountain systems extend from the temperate ecosystems of the southern part of the Cordilleras facing the Pacific Ocean to the Laurentian highlands on the Atlantic side of the continent, and north to the Arctic ranges of Inuit Nunangat. Although large parts are regarded by visitors as *wilderness areas* and are classified as such by government agencies, many parts are places of spiritual significance, traditional resource use, and realms of economic and cultural survival for indigenous First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

Since the mountainous areas of Canada are classified as *mountains*, *highlands* and *hills*, and the distinction between these types of landforms can be debated, it would have been helpful if the authors of *CMA* had included definitions of them in a glossary. This, however, is a minor criticism of this landmark publication. It is an outstanding and in many ways innovative project, the first comprehensive presentation and assessment of Canadian mountains. It is the result of three years of research, mutual learning and knowledge sharing, including both *Western* academic expertise and advice, and indigenous wisdom and knowledge. The book is a remarkable piece of scientific work, compiled by a total of 75 authors from different disciplines and backgrounds. Following the Introduction, there are five major chapters: Mountain Environments, Mountains as Homelands, Gifts of the Mountains,

Mountains under Pressure, and Desirable Mountain Futures. Each chapter is co-led by indigenous and non-indigenous authors. A great merit of the work is the way in which a large number of videos are embedded, giving a vivid voice to the oral knowledge and insights of indigenous people in so-called *Learning Circle Contributions*. Many mountain scholars, including the reviewer, have already argued that *listening* to small farmers and endogenous knowledge is a key to environmental, cultural, social and economic sustainability, but never before could we listen directly to the voices, wisdom and oral testimonies of such a myriad of indigenous people. Each chapter is generously illustrated by figures and tables and contains a glossary of terms, as well as an extensive list of references.

In the initial approach of this mountain project, the research team was guided by the five major principles of Service, Inclusivity, Humility, Responsibility and Action, the provision of service to mountain communities being one of the *CMA's* principal mandates. The *CMA* is further guided by the overarching principle of taking into account the diversity of mountain environments and communities through a broad and inclusive approach. The team also pursued its work in a spirit of humility, aware of its own limitations, as well as with a commitment of responsibility towards individuals and communities. The ultimate goal of the *CMA* is to deepen and widen understanding of the importance of mountains, to disseminate the findings of the assessment project, and hopefully to contribute to desirable futures for mountain environments and communities.

This outstanding and in many ways pioneering project and book would certainly merit a deeper and more extensive review than is possible within the limits of this journal. It makes a major contribution to interdisciplinary mountain studies (*Montology*) in general, to the understanding of Canadian mountains specifically, and very importantly points the way towards the collaborative inclusion of indigenous and non-indigenous knowledge.

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