In this nicely crafted, insightful, and probing history, Friesen masterfully presents the complex history of Manitoba's Mennonite community. Not since the writings of E. K. Francis and John Warkentin at mid-century has such a comprehensive study of this important North American group been written.

Royden Loewen, Chair in Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg

This is unequivocally the finest book on Mennonites in Manitoba ever written. Set within the context of Aboriginal, Metis, and Canadian history, readers will quickly understand who these diverse Russian Mennonite groups are and their place within Manitoba's colourful history. Easily read with many fine pictures, illustrations, and fascinating sidebars, this is one book I highly recommend to both non-Mennonite and Mennonite readers. Friesen has written one of the best ethno-religious histories that I have ever read.

Ken Reddig, Director, Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Canada

John J. Friesen, professor emeritus of history and theology at Canadian Mennonite University, has provided a fine addition to the regional Mennonite history library....Building Communities is a standard work that will not be superseded for a long time.

Sam Steiner, Mennonite Quarterly Review