

Student & Supervisor Team Up for Award-Winning Scholarly Article

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHS Riddell Award presented June 15, 2019 at Tyndale University College and Seminary in Toronto

The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to present the 2018 Riddell Award, which recognizes the best article in Ontario history published in the award year, to Mark Kuhlberg and Scott Miller, for their article “Protection to Sulphite Smoke Tort-feasors’: The Tragedy of Pollution in Sudbury, Ontario, the World’s Nickel Capital, 1884 -1927,” which appeared in *The Canadian Historical Review* in June 2018.

A powerful indictment of the Ontario government a century ago, the article makes several charges. It shows how the government bowed to the will of nickel-mining companies, allowing them to pollute excessively and unnecessarily so that the Sudbury area’s natural environment was destroyed. It demonstrates how the government encouraged farmer-settlers to take up land in the area when officials knew the smelter emissions would prevent success. It reveals how the government, at the bequest of the mining firms, used

the law to shield the companies from claims for damages resulting from emissions. And finally, it explains how the government permitted the mining companies to ignore technology that could have reduced the noxious sulphur-dioxide emissions, improving the health of the people of Sudbury and the quality of the local environment. The irony is that technology was developed in nearby Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

This disturbing history is extensively documented and compellingly told. The authors have identified long-neglected sources and mined them thoroughly to produce a persuasive account of the capture of the provincial state by powerful business interests.

The Honours and Awards Committee is pleased to present the Riddell Award to Mark Kuhlberg and Scott Miller.



Ian Radforth (left) presents Mark Kuhlberg (centre) and Scott Miller (right) with the 2018 OHS Riddell Award.

Founded in 1888, the Ontario Historical Society is a non-profit corporation and registered charity dedicated to the preservation and celebration of Ontario’s history for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. To learn more about the OHS’s Honours and Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit <https://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index.php/categories> or contact the Society’s offices by telephone or e-mail.

-The Ontario Historical Society-

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