



OHS Best Scholarly Book Award Winner: *The Left in Power: Bob Rae's NDP and the Working Class*

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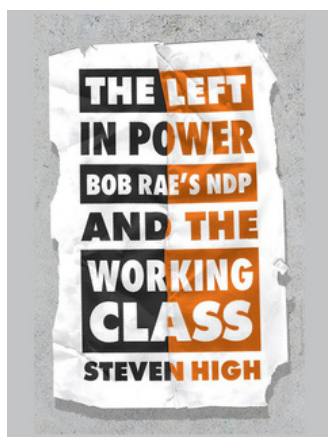
The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) is pleased to recognize the winner of the 2025 Best Scholarly Book Award, Dr. Steven High, for his book, *The Left in Power: Bob Rae's NDP and the Working Class*, published by Between the Lines press.

Based on impressive archival research in addition to High's interviews with many of the key shapers of the Ontario NDP's economic policy in the 1980s and early 1990s, *The Left in Power* frankly assesses what the Rae government got right – and wrong – in its response to the deindustrialization of Ontario's economy amidst an economic recession and the impact of free trade on manufacturing industries in Ontario. High's personal connection to the topic (he was an activist in the Ontario NDP's youth wing in the 1980s who, like many New Democrats, became disillusioned with the party during the Rae years) only adds to the book's urgency. Now Canada's foremost oral historian, High's thorough and riveting account explains how leading figures in the Ontario NDP and the Rae government adopted a "progressive competitive model" in response to free trade and deindustrialization during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Combining sophisticated analysis with engaging storytelling, *The Left in Power* will appeal to students and scholars of Ontario history, Canadian political history, and those interested in the global social democratic left. Congratulations to Dr. Steven High.

The Awards Committee would also like to recognize two outstanding runners-up from the shortlist of nominees:

Dr. Daniel Macfarlane, for *The Lives of Lake Ontario: An Environmental History*
&

Dr. Ian Radforth, for *Deadly Swindle: An 1890 Murder in Backwoods Ontario that Grippped the World*



The OHS Best Scholarly Book Award was presented at the 2025 OHS Awards Ceremony on December 6, 2025 at the Historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale, Toronto, Ontario. Left to right: Co-Chair of the OHS Awards Committee Hans Bathija and Best Scholarly Book Award Winner Dr. Steven High.



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 Awards Program, or to submit a nomination, please visit ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards/ or contact the Society's offices by telephone or e-mail.

-Ontario Historical Society-

Contact: ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca - 416.226.9011

@ontariohistory

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