

**CHRIS DOOLEY** is a PhD candidate at York University, Toronto. He lives in Winnipeg where he has taught Canadian History and the history of the Welfare State at the University of Manitoba. His primary research area is the history of mental health workers, with a special focus on the occupational culture of Registered Psychiatric Nurses in postwar Prairie Canada. Chris is attached to the rural working group of the Open Doors project, and he is working on two projects. The first is concerned with the politics of deinstitutionalization, and it is an exploration of the ways in which mental health reforms in postwar Prairie Canada were shaped by factors like changing welfare state policies, the emergence of Medicare, and the social and economic consequences of the closure of old-line institutions for the communities that hosted them. The second is an exploration of how front-line mental health workers, especially psychiatric nurses, negotiated the complex and changing relationships with the people and systems they served through the transformative mental health reforms of the 1960s and 1970s.