

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780572603321
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Titolo	Making good : law and moral regulation in Canada, 1867-1939 / / Carolyn Strange and Tina Loo
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1997 ©1997
ISBN	1-282-00842-0 9786612008429 1-4426-7690-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (181 p.)
Collana	Themes in Canadian History
Disciplina	340/.112/0971
Soggetti	Law - Canada - History Law and ethics - History Livres numeriques. History e-books. Electronic books. Canada Moral conditions History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- Introduction -- Part I: Framing the Nation, 1867a€?1896 -- 1 Building the Moral Dominion -- 2 Instituting Morality -- Part II: Envisioning Morality, 1896a€?1919 -- 3 Recruiting the State -- 4 Incorporating Moral Visions -- Part III: Widening the Net, 1919a€?1939 -- 5 Returning to Normalcy -- 6 The Moral Crises of Capital -- Conclusion -- REFERENCES -- INDEX -- A -- B -- C -- D -- F -- H -- I -- J -- K -- L -- M -- N -- O -- P -- Q -- R -- S -- T -- U -- V -- W -- Y
Sommario/riassunto	"Young Canada was often portrayed as a virginal woman or as a healthy frontiersman, and the ideals of purity, industry, and self-discipline were celebrated as essential features of the Canadian identity. To ensure that Canadians lived up to this image, different levels of government passed a variety of laws and created an expanding range

of institutions to enforce them. Making Good looks at the changing relationship between law and morality in Canada during a critical phase of nation-building, from Confederation to the onset of the Second World War. The authors argue that, though the law played a significant role in giving Canada a moral cast, its homogenizing tendencies did not always meet with anticipated success, as values deemed 'good' by the government were constantly repudiated by those on whom they were imposed." "Strange and Loo examine both the major institutions which patrolled morality - the Department of Indian Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the North-West Mounted Police - and the agencies that worked at local levels, such as police forces, schools, correctional facilities, juvenile and family courts, and morality squads. They also look at many fascinating acts of resistance to moral ordinances, showing that not all Canadians shared the same vision of goodness. Among the themes that run throughout the book are the concept of the internal threat to the foundations of national decency, the influence of the United States on Canada's moral order, and the regional discrepancies in the success of moral governance." "Through topics as diverse as gambling, marriage and divorce, and sexual deviance, Making Good shows that character-building was critical to the broader project of nation-building. The book will be a welcome addition to undergraduate courses in Canadian history, and will interest social historians; historians of Native peoples, the working class, and women; criminologists; and political scientists."--Jacket.
