Advanced Praise for
“The Lac-Mégantic Rail Disaster: Public Betrayal, Justice Denied”

“Bruce Campbell has carried out meticulous research in many fields to piece together the whole story of a catastrophe-in-the making, and his findings, as reported in this book, will be of interest to readers who value human life, intact communities, and a safe environment. Much more than a research report, the book is a dramatic read, with no letup in the action from start to finish.”

[Harry Gow, retired criminology teacher at University of Ottawa, is President Emeritus of Transport Action Canada and Chair of the Board of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre]

“Bruce Campbell has made a superb contribution. His vivid account of the events at Lac-Mégantic reveal a deep empathy for the victims. He accords them the highest respect possible by avoiding sentiment and explaining why it all happened. He puts the tragedy in its economic and political context. He shows how the internalization of neoliberalism by our political elites has made it too easy easy for predators. Deregulation to satisfy the avaricious heedless of human welfare, is carefully documented. The associated disciplining of bureaucrats and the corruption of corruptible regulators is brought out with precision. Campbell proves that the Lac-Mégantic disaster was a designed event, not an accident. The laws’ failure to punish the truly guilty endorses his point. This is a “must read’ for all, but especially for those of us who want to believe that our political and legal institutions are there to protect us, rather than private profiteers.”

Harry Glasbeek, Professor Emeritus and Senior Scholar, Osgoode Hall Law School. York University

With great policy proficiency and a profound quest for justice, Campbell clearly explains why Transport Canada – along with and railway companies/lobbies and oil companies-- did not want a public inquiry into the tragedy of Lac-Mégantic. This book exposes how these actors sought to shield their actions rather than promote public safety. Corporate greed and narcissism, regulatory capture, political laissez-faire and unaccountability are boldly explained as some of the unwarranted causes of this tragedy. These explanations, as infuriating as they are, tragically comfort after more than five years of impunity and mourning.”

Liette Gilbert is Professor and Graduate Program Director, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University. Professor Gilbert grew up in the adjoining town of Nantes, from where the fateful train ran away. She retains close ties with the Lac-Mégantic community.

“Bruce Campbell has achieved a rare feat. By combining careful and meticulous research with compelling personal narratives, his engaging and highly readable book is both a sobering analysis of the diverse constellation of factors that ultimately led to the Lac-Mégantic tragedy and a moving elegy to those whose lives were forever altered by it. It is also a call to action and a larger reflection on the need to balance prosperity with fundamental values. All Canadians should read this book.”

Professor Jennifer Quaid, Civil Law Section, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa

“Jim Stanford, Former Economist Unifor, and Harold Innis Industry Professor of Economics, McMaster University

"The Lac Mégantic catastrophe was the deadly culmination of several strands of corporate malfeasance and government negligence: privatization, union-busting, cost-cutting, a blind faith in extractivism, and criminal regulatory laxity. Bruce Campbell follows every thread, documenting the ultimate causes of the disaster and identifying what must change. This powerful, impeccably documented book is not just a masterwork of documentary journalism: it's a call to action. Read it. Get angry. Then speak out, before it happens again."