## **Preface**

Silicon Valley North: A High-Tech Cluster of Innovation and Entrepreneurship is an edited volume about the Canadian Silicon Valley, that is, Canada's National Capital Region (Ottawa-Gatineau). Although much is written about Silicon Valley in California and other Silicon regions around the world, and high technology entrepreneurial clusters are actively discussed by scholars and policy makers alike, the Silicon Valley North was not a subject of a special book. It was a combination of my interest in this topic with my vision of it as lacking an important component — a comprehensive cover of the Canadian Silicon Valley — that encouraged me to initiate the present project. I came to believe that the time was ripe for such a book, which would further advance the scientific understanding of economic clusters worldwide and fill an apparent niche in the literature on the topic.

I am grateful to many people who helped to bring this book to fruition. Most important are definitely the authors: I thank them for their willingness to undertake the difficult and challenging task of contributing chapters and investing time in this endeavour. I am particularly grateful to Jean Vaillancourt, the Dean of Research at the Université du Québec en Outaouais, who has been very supportive of this project in many ways. I am also grateful to my editors at Elsevier — Catherine Hutchinson and Becky Lewsey — for the right blend of freedom, encouragement, and guidance needed for successful completion of the project.

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