Table of Contents

1 Introduction 1

Overview of the Book 3
Recurring Themes in Toxic Tort 5

2 The Science of Toxic Torts 9

Introduction 9
Relevant Disciplines 10
- Epidemiology 11
- Toxicology 13
- Medicine 15
- Pharmacology 16
- Environmental Fate & Transport 16

The Problem of Scientific Uncertainty 17
- The Dearth of Data 18
- Methodological Problems in Chemicals Assessment 21
- The Complexity of Toxic Harms 23
- Manufactured Ignorance 24
- Shades of Grey: Degrees of Uncertainty in Law and Science 25

The Scientific Paradigm 26
- Open-Ended Timelines 26
- The Preference for False Negatives 27
- "Hedging" 29
- Weight of Evidence 30

Science Policy in the Regulatory Context 32
Admissibility of Contested Science 33
Conclusion 37

3 Toxic Tort in Historical Perspective 39

Non-Industrial Toxic Torts 39

Early Industrial Toxic Torts 41
The Birth of Products Liability 45
The Emergence of "Toxic Tort" 47
Conclusion 50

4 The Property Torts 51

Introduction 51
Public Nuisance 52
Private Nuisance 56
Interference with Amenity 61
Material Physical Damage 64
Trespass 70
Rylands v. Fletcher 74
Breach of Riparian Rights 79
Interference with *Profits à Prendre* 80
Conversion 81
Conclusion 81

5 Intentional Interference with the Person 83

Battery 83
Chemical Violence 85
Involuntary Experimentation 87
Chemical Spraying 90
Provision of Toxic Products 91
Workplace Exposures 92
Environmental Pollution 93
Assault 96
Intentional Infliction of Nervous Shock 97
Conclusion 99

6 Negligence 101

Foreseeability 101
Duty of Care 102
General 102
Standard of Care 103
Manufacturers 104
Polluters 109
Historical Wrongs 110
Causation 111
Legal Causation/Remoteness 111

General Principles 111
Nervous Shock 112
Actual Loss 117
Conclusion 120

7 Causation 123

Introduction 123
Uncertainty in Toxic Causation 124
Tort Approaches to the Causation Problem 127
Standard of Proof 127
The Traditional But-For Test 128
Reverse Onus 129
Contemporary *Sine Qua Non*: The But-For Test After *Snell* and *Clements* 130
The Material Contribution to Risk Test 132
Risk-Based Liability: Arguments For and Against 140
Material Contribution to Injury 143
Pre-existing Vulnerability 145
Theories of Collective Liability 146
Alternate Liability 146
Concerted Action/Civil Conspiracy 147
Enterprise Liability 147
Market Share Liability 148
Proposed Reforms and Alternatives 151
Revitalizing the But-For Approach 151
Reversing the Burden of Proof on Causation 153
Re-Conceptualizing Injury: Liability for Risk Alone 153
Legislative Reform 155
Avoiding the Causation Conundrum—Waiver of Tort 156
Conclusion 156

8 Defences 159

Policy Considerations 159
Statutory Immunity 160
Statutory Authority 161
General 161
Negligence 162
Nuisance 163
Rylands v. Fletcher 164

Contributory Negligence 165
Voluntary Assumption of Risk 168
Consent 171
Limitations 172
Necessity 174
Act of God or a Third Party 175
Conclusion 176

9 Remedies 177

Damages 178
Nominal Damages 178
Compensatory Damages 179
Personal Injury 179
Property Damage 185
Punitive Damages 191
Injunctive Relief 194
Interlocutory Injunctions 194
Permanent Injunctions 198
Waiver of Tort 200
Conclusion 203

10 Toxic Torts Involving Government Parties 205

Government as Defendant 206
Negligence 206
Duty of Care 206
Standard of Care 213
Causation 214
Defences 215
Nuisance 215
Rylands v. Fletcher 217
Battery 218
Constitutional Toxic Torts 218
Statutory Immunity 219
Government as Plaintiff 219
Suits in *Parens Patriae* 219
Statutory Torts—Tobacco 222
The Legislation 224
Constitutionality 228
Conclusion 230

11 Toxic Tort Class Actions 231

Introduction 231
The Certification Test 233
Evolution and Purposes of Class Actions 235
Toxic Tort Class Actions 239
Cause of Action 240
Identifiable Class 244
Sub-classes 247
Multi-jurisdictional Classes 249
Common Issues 250
Focus on the Defendant's Conduct 252
Is the Harm Individual or Collective? 253
Approach to Causation 255
Calculation of Compensatory Damages 259
Preferable Procedure 260
Representative Plaintiff and Litigation Plan 264
Remedies 265
Conclusion 266

12 Climate Change as a Toxic Tort 267

Advantages and Disadvantages of Addressing Climate Change Through Torts 271
Overview of Existing Climate Tort Jurisprudence 272
Preliminary Hurdles: Science, Justiciability, Standing, Displacement, and Extraterritoriality 275
Science 275
Justiciability 275
Standing 278
Displacement 281
Extraterritoriality 282
Climate Tort Actions 282
Nuisance 283
Public Nuisance 283
Private Nuisance 285
Trespass 286
Negligence 287
Statutory Climate Torts 290

Other Tort Claims 291
Remedies 292
Concluding Thoughts 293

13 Conclusion: The Future of Toxic Tort Law in Canada 295

Why Tort Law? The Role of Tort in Environmental and Consumer Protection 295
Modernizing the Law of Torts: Towards a Principled Approach 297
Principles of Environmental Governance Applicable to Toxic Torts 300
Conclusion 305