Here is the long-awaited grammar of the Musqueam dialect of Halkomelem, which Wayne Suttles began work on in the late 1950s. The Musqueam peoples aboriginal territory includes much of the Fraser Delta and the city of Vancouver. Halkomelem is one of the twenty-three languages that belong to the Salish Family. Suttles, an anthropologist, worked with knowledgeable older people, eliciting traditional stories, personal narratives, and ethnographic accounts. The grammar covers the usual topics of phonology, morphology, and syntax, illustrated by numerous sentences selected for their cultural relevance, providing insight into traditional practices, social relations, and sense of humor. With information on kinship, space and time, names of people and places, and the history of work on Halkomelem, this is perhaps the fullest account of any Salish language.

My Personal Review:
This is a careful and detailed but admirably clear and readable account of Halkomelem. Prof Suttles succeeds in his stated objective of providing a reference grammar accessible to interested non-linguists (like me). He steers clear (for example) of the more question-begging sort of presentation of Salishan languages which denies the verb/noun distinction, but provides all the relevant information bearing on the point; the grammar is accessible but in no sense linguistically naive. Prof Suttles' anthropological background is evident in the quite copious and interesting appendices too. The index is a bit patchy. No entry, for example, under "control", although this is treated (of course) in the text. Glad I bought it!