Canadian Aboriginal Books for Schools

selected & evaluated by teacher-librarians

2013 • 2014

Aaron Paquette | Returning Home, 2010
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CANADIAN ABORIGINAL BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS
WELCOME TO OUR 2013/14 CATALOGUE

The Association of Book Publishers of BC is very proud of our educational catalogues including this our sixth catalogue of Aboriginal books.

The titles that appear in this catalogue are published by Canadian publishers and are selected from their submissions. All books are written or published by Aboriginal people or are about or for Aboriginals. Teacher-librarians select and annotate the titles providing grade and curricula links, as well as comments and cautions. Their enthusiasm for books and their commitment to their students is inspiring and we thank them heartily for their work.

If you are new to the catalogue, you will find that it is helpfully organized by grade level: Elementary (K-7), Secondary (8-12) and Cross-Grades for those books that are appropriate at both levels. Entries are then organized alphabetically by title within each section. Because this catalogue is distributed nationally we have chosen to provide generic subject areas, which we trust are sufficient for your resourcing needs.

Our catalogue is available on our website in PDF format at books.bc.ca under Resources for Teachers. In upcoming months, educators and others will also be able to find it on 49th Shelf, which, if you have not discovered yet, is a remarkable resource for Canadian books. Check out the booklists, book reviews and discussions at 49thshelf.com.

The ABPBC must thank the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage’s Canada Book Fund and the BC Arts Council for funding to make this catalogue available to teacher-librarians, band schools, wholesalers and retailers across the country.

We receive many compliments on the attractive format, the selection of titles and the ease of use in Canadian Aboriginal Books for Schools but we know improvements are always possible, so please send your suggestions to us. It would not be possible to provide these catalogues without the partnerships of funders at both the federal and provincial level as mentioned above, so if you have comments that will convince them to help us to continue to provide these resources, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at Margaret@books.bc.ca.

Best regards,
Margaret Reynolds
Executive Director, Association of Book Publishers of BC
September 2013

THE ASSOCIATION OF BOOK PUBLISHERS OF BC CANNOT FILL ORDERS. PLEASE SEND ORDERS TO YOUR LIBRARY WHOLESALER OR RETAILER OF CHOICE OR TO ONE OF THE WHOLESALER ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION OF THIS CATALOGUE.

COVER ARTIST
Aaron Paquette
Returning Home, 2010

Aaron Paquette is a First Nations artist. Since facing a life changing moment on a very tall bridge he has been dedicated to the healing journey for himself and any who would benefit from his efforts. He works with youth and his YA novel, Lightfinder will be released Spring 2014, Kegedonce Press.
Call of the Fiddle
Wilfred Burton & Anne Patton

Nolan travels to a Métis celebration at Batoche with his mother and grandfather. He is shy about participating in the jigging competition but encouraged by his family he overcomes his reluctance. Although Nolan does well he doesn’t win but he knows that the next year he will be ready with some new steps and more confidence. The Sunday visit to the church at Batoche is a sobering history lesson.

The text is written in English and Michif. A glossary follows along with two pages of historical information about the 1885 Northwest Resistance and the Battle of Batoche. The accompanying CD contains narration of the text in English and in Michif along with four selections of traditional fiddle music. Engaging illustrations in bright colours enhance the text.

Diamond Willow Walking Stick
A Traditional Métis Story About Generosity
Leah Marie Dorion
Norman Fleury, trans.

A young Métis boy learns from his grandparents about the importance of generosity. Their belief in the circle of life extends to sharing what you have without reservation as your return will be fourfold. The boy learns from the example of both of his grandparents and observes the respect in which they are held in the community. Eventually he must put this belief into practice himself by giving away his most treasured possession, the diamond willow walking stick.

The text is written in both English and Michif and is followed by three pages of information about willow trees and their traditional uses. The included CD has both English and Michif narration of the text. The brightly coloured, primitive style illustrations reflect traditional Métis bead designs.

Night Movies
Alison Utti
Linda Wood

In this staple-bound, booklet-size, early chapter book an unnamed girl is new to the country and culture. She relies on her older sister to help her with unfamiliar events such as a birthday party at an arcade. She is prey to the school bullies but is befriended by a classmate, which lessens her stress. Her story is told in a series of vignettes that show her inner thoughts. One of the short chapters tells of an assembly celebrating National Aboriginal Day. This event resonates with the protagonist. She says, “I will remember June 21st forever”.

This book in the First Days series is told in simple sentences with a controlled vocabulary so could be read by an older ELL student or be read to younger students.

Night Movies was shortlisted for 2011 Saskatchewan Book Award for Children’s Literature.

Wall of Tears
Alison Utti
Linda Wood

The nameless protagonist of Night Movies, also featured in this catalogue, is promoted to the next grade and continues to experience common events of a Canadian childhood from swinging on a swing to cutting her finger when using a can opener. An ordinary event such as ordering a lunch at school is a very special experience for her. Three chapters are allocated to the theme of residential schools (in her mind called jail schools). A related classroom activity produces a very strong response in the narrator and gives the reader some idea of her background. The narrator’s reaction to an assembly where a residential school survivor is a presenter, provides an emotional tie in for the reader. This novella could be a read aloud and as an instructional text and could be used for ELL students.

The staple-bound, booklet format may be difficult to shelve.

GRADEs: 2–6, ENGLISH
LANGUAGE ARTS, HEALTH & CAREER EDUCATION
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2011 44 pp. 4.5”x7”
ISBN: 9780986875090 $6.99 PA
Hear My Heart Books Inc.
www.hearmyheartbooks.ca

GRADEs: 3–6, ENGLISH
LANGUAGE ARTS, HEALTH & CAREER EDUCATION
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2012 47 pp. 8”x11.5”
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781926795096 $15.00 PA/HC
Gabriel Dumont Institute
www.gdins.org/publishing

GRADEs: 2–6, ENGLISH
LANGUAGE ARTS, HEALTH & CAREER EDUCATION
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2011 40 pp. 4.5”x7”
ISBN: 9780986875007 $6.99 PA
Hear My Heart Books Inc.
www.hearmyheartbooks.ca

GRADEs: 2–6, ENGLISH
LANGUAGE ARTS, HEALTH & CAREER EDUCATION
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2011 44 pp. 8”x11.5”
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781926795041 $15.00 PA
Gabriel Dumont Institute
www.gdins.org/publishing
**LITTLE YOU**  
**Richard Van Camp**  
**Julie Flett**  
This is a board book with short poetic text and brightly coloured, simple illustrations showing a mother, father and toddler. It celebrates the individuality of children and the joy they bring to families. The Japanese-style pictures lend a multicultural feel.

Useful in school libraries that support Roots of Empathy and preschool programs, it may also be used as a pattern book and a basis for discussion of families and new babies.

Van Camp is an internationally renowned storyteller and author of many books. A member of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Nation from Fort Smith, NWT, he has taught creative writing at UBC and Emily Carr Institute and was Writer in Residence at the University of Alberta.

Flett is a Métis and Cree artist and illustrator who has been nominated for several awards for her picture books.

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**THE LOST TEACHINGS / PANUIJKATASIKL KINA’MASUTI’L**  
**Michael James Isaac Dozay (Arlene) Christmas**  
This is a gentle teaching story with text in both English and Mi’kmaw. Eagle finds a bundle tied with gold that contains seven teachings that will bring peace, harmony and balance if they are shared and practiced. Eagle passes each of the teachings to another animal in the forest but he forgets to pass on the warning that came with them. When Wolf introduces Envy and Greed to the forest, the animals begin arguing and then Eagle remembers. He uses his gift of Truth to tell the animals about the dangers of Envy and Greed. Eventually, balance, peace and harmony return to the forest community.

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**MOLLY’S PROMISE**  
**Sylvia Olsen**  
Insecure grade seven student Molly does not feel she fits in at Riverside Middle School but when a talent competition is announced, Molly is challenged to face her struggles around a promise she made concerning her long-absent mother. She and her enthusiastic best friend, Murphy, live on a First Nation’s reserve and it’s her close-knit, extended “reserve family” that encourage, cajole and support Molly to reveal her secret vocal talent for the competition. The inner joy she feels by finally singing and expressing herself in public is only matched by re-uniting with her mother and resolving her promise.

This easy-to-read story offers rich discussion topics such as bullying, secrets, friendship, competition, diverse families and race relations.

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**PETER FIDLER AND THE MÉTIS**  
**Donna Lee Dumont**  
This is a brief overview of the development of the Métis culture as Hudson’s Bay Company employees like explorer and journal writer Peter Fidler married First Nations women. Dumont intersperses events in Fidler’s life with details of the way of life of those early people from making pemmican and collecting plants and shrubs for food and medicine to decorating moss bag baby carriers. She concludes with her own lineage and a brief mention of the racism that caused many Métis to deny their heritage. The illustrations use traditional Métis motifs and floral beadwork designs. Dumont, herself, reads the text on the included CD. A glossary explains highlighted words.
QUESTS FOR FIRE
TALES FROM MANY LANDS
Jon C. Stott
Theo Dombrowski

This carefully researched collection of nine hero legends are from Canada, USA, Mexico, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Benin and Greece. Coyote and Nanabozho are the main characters in two stories set in Canadian regions. The lively language of the oral traditions results in fluent, adventurous read-aloud tales of survival and culture. Each story is enhanced with expressive illustrations in fire-themed oranges and greys. A useful glossary explains key words from the languages of each country, such as skookum, Baba Yaga and mesa.

Stott is a retired English professor well known for his children’s literature workshops for educators. He has also written A Book of Tricksters: Tales from Many Lands.

Caution: The Greek myth about Prometheus presents the gruesome attack by an eagle on his liver, as a punishment from Zeus.

ROOGAROO MICKEY
Wilfred Burton
Leah Marie Dorion

Two little boys beg their grandmother for a scary bedtime story about the Roogaroo. She finally gives in and begins the story promising to finish it in the morning if they will go to sleep. The next day, while driving to town, Mamayr makes a sudden turn into the neighbour’s yard and rushes the boys inside stammering that she saw a Roogaroo in the back of the van. Happily for everyone the Roogaroo turns out to be Mamayr’s dog Mickey who had sneaked into the van. Renamed Roogaroo Mickey he joins the family on their trip to town for treats for everyone.

A Michif translation is added at the back along with information about the Métis Roogaroo legend. An extensive interview with the artist gives insight into the colours, style and symbolism of the illustrations. The attached CD tells the story in both English and Michif.

THE SALMON TWINS
Caroll Simpson

This richly illustrated picturebook depicts community values as practiced in the Pacific Northwest. In a mythical village everyone celebrates the birth of twins. However, these twins grow up to become selfish children who the Thunderbird punishes by transforming them into a two-headed sea serpent. One day the two-headed serpent learns that her village is going hungry and she fights her enemies in order to push the salmon back to the village. The Thunderbird is pleased with the sea serpent so turns it back into the twins. The illustrations convey the richness of Pacific Northwest mythology and Coastal art through its inclusion of various mythical characters and the stylistic motifs chosen to depict everyday life. A red and black colour scheme unifies the drawings and button blankets and a frame of salmon images decorates the end pages. A glossary of supernatural creatures and West Coast sea life is included.

ROOGAROO MICKEY
Theo Dombrowski

Two little boys beg their grandmother for a scary bedtime story about the Roogaroo. She finally gives in and begins the story promising to finish it in the morning if they will go to sleep. The next day, while driving to town, Mamayr makes a sudden turn into the neighbour’s yard and rushes the boys inside stammering that she saw a Roogaroo in the back of the van. Happily for everyone the Roogaroo turns out to be Mamayr’s dog Mickey who had sneaked into the van. Renamed Roogaroo Mickey he joins the family on their trip to town for treats for everyone.

A Michif translation is added at the back along with information about the Métis Roogaroo legend. An extensive interview with the artist gives insight into the colours, style and symbolism of the illustrations. The attached CD tells the story in both English and Michif.
YETSA’S SWEATER
Sylvia Olsen
Joan Larson

In this book first published in 2006 and now available in paperback, Yetsa, a young Coast Salish girl, is learning the traditional craft of creating a Cowichan sweater from her beloved Grandma. It’s springtime and the smelly, filthy sheep fleeces delivered to Grandma’s yard must first be painstakingly picked clean, then washed, rinsed, wrung out, dried, teased, carded, and spun. As Grandma knits over the winter, she will create the unique Cowichan sweater designs that reflect her family stories and cultural heritage. This warm, simple, generational tale reflects the pride and respect Yetsa and her Mom share with Grandma as they happily work together each Saturday. The story is enhanced by background information on Cowichan sweaters.

This title was shortlisted for the 2007 BC Booksellers’ Choice Award. Olsen has written many books dealing with First Nation’s topics.

GEORGE LITTLECHILD
THE SPIRIT GIGGLES WITHIN
George Littlechild

This large format art book focuses on the narrative the art reveals about the artist George Littlechild’s personal history, art career and developing understanding of Native Canadian culture, politics and society. Over 145 colour plates and annotations, organized chronologically into three periods of the artist’s career, tell the story of his family and the stories of other Native and non-native Canadians. The extended captions also reveal the artist’s sources, background information about the piece, and how Littlechild developed artistically and personally. The book opens with an extended artist’s statement that provides a context to the provocative and unique art that is selected. An index of paintings is provided.

HANNAH & THE SALISH SEA
Carol Anne Shaw

This is the second book in the Hannah series. Here, Hannah and her friend Max become acquainted with troubled teen, Izzy Tate, a girl trying to deny her First Nations background. The three teens, with the help of Hannah’s raven Jack, unknowingly uncover an illegal operation taking place on the abandoned ship in Cowichan Bay, the Orca I. Hannah, Max and Izzy work together to solve the mystery and bring the criminals involved to justice.

Shaw’s previous book Hannah and the Spindle Whorl was the 2011 winner of the Moonbeam’s Children’s Book Award and was shortlisted for the 2011-12 Chocolate Lily Award.

Caution: Use of the word “Indian” instead of “First Nations.”

KOU-SKELOWH / WE ARE THE PEOPLE
A TRILOGY OF OKANAGAN LEGENDS
Okanagan Tribal Council
Barbara Marchand

First published together in 2009, this is a delightful collection of three original native legends: How Food Was Given, How Names Were Given, and How Turtle Set the Animals Free. Each legend, told in English and the Okanagan Language, reveals strong native values of humbleness, giving, sharing, loyalty and respect, as told through the central ‘chief’ animal characters. The colour illustrations further bring the legends to life. Includes a glossary.

Originally, these legends were shared orally by elders from the Okanagan Elders Council (OEC). First translated into English, then published in 1984, they were shared in traditional Okanagan Culture Protocol. The OEC later agreed that no individual could claim ownership of these legends, nor profit from the sales of the book.

This title is also recommended for ELL.

GRADING: 1–4, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2012 40 pp. 8”x10”
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781550392029 $9.95 PA
Sono Nis Press
www.sononis.com

GRADING: 5–12, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, HEALTH & CAREER EDUCATION, SOCIAL STUDIES, VISUAL ARTS, TEACHER RESOURCE
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2012 176 pp. 11.5”x10.75”
colour reproductions
ISBN: 9781927051511 $59.95 HC
epub: 9781927051986 $24.99
Heritage House Publishing
www.heritagehouse.ca

GRADING: 5–9, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2013 246 pp. 5.25”x7.75”
epub: 9781553802334 $11.95 PA
Ronsdale Press
www.ronsdalepress.com

GRADING: K–10, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2012 88 pp. 10.75”x8”
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781894778664 $18.95 PA
Theytus Books
www.theytus.com

CANADIAN ABORIGINAL BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS 2013–2014 CATALOGUE
RAVEN BRINGS THE LIGHT
Roy Henry Vickers & Robert Budd
Roy Henry Vickers

This is a masterful book retelling the classic Northwest Coast legend of the origin of daylight on earth, as told to Roy Henry Vickers in 1975 by the Kitkatla Chief of the Ravens, Chester Bolton. The tale has been passed down for over 3000 years through the oral tradition. This fine art version rings strong and true. A special child is born who can transform into the Raven, trick the Chief of the Heavens and bring the light to his dark land of Haida Gwaii. The compelling storytelling resounds with Vickers’ striking, powerful artwork and mystical shadow images that accentuate layers of meaning in this vibrant version of the traditional tale.

Vickers is an acclaimed BC Aboriginal carver and printmaker who received the Order of Canada in 2006. Budd is an oral historian living in Victoria, BC.

SAGKEENG LEGENDS
JOHN C. COURCHENE’S STORIES
Craig Charbonneau Fontaine
Lloyd Swampy

The two stories in this book are written in English and Anishanabemowin. The stories are handed down through oral tradition and provide a vehicle for understanding both the Anishnabek worldview before colonization and themes of the supernatural. In Aadiniskaan Beding a boy shape-shifts into animals. He is helpful and kind, one day changing a wolf back to his human form. Psychological questions are raised when the wolf man returns to his village and turns his enemy into a snake. Aadiniskaan Niiish is about love, death and ghosts. A boy searches for his childhood friend, but the girl has died and is buried in a wigwam full of provisions. The boy finds the wigwam and hears a voice telling him to eat the food. During his meal, the girl rises from the dead.

SPIRIT ANIMALS
THE WISDOM OF NATURE
Wayne Arthurson

Spirit Animals is a compendium of knowledge regarding the relationship between Native peoples and animals. The author claims that indigenous peoples have a different view of animals than others. When Aboriginals kill an animal they use every part of the animal. They honour the animal that has sacrificed its life for humans. This book is a guide to introduce the significance of animals to Native people. There are three main sections: Air, Earth and Water. Air contains Crow, Eagle, Owl and Raven. Earth has Bear, Buffalo, Cougar, Coyote, Dog, Horse, Polar Bear, Spider, Wolf and Deer. Water animals are Beaver, Duck, Muskrat, Orca, Salmon and Turtle. The format for each animal includes attributes, legends from many different Native groups, interesting facts, clan references and spiritual aspects of each animal. A Native American zodiac is included.

WÂPIKWANIY
A BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO MÉTIS FLORAL BEADWORK
Gregory Scofield & Amy Briley

This well organized, well thought-out crafts book provides clear instructions for creating traditional beadwork projects. Clearly spelled-out steps give tips on locating supplies, preparation of materials and threading the needles. The book’s spiral binding allows it to lie flat for easy use. Straightforward and easy to follow instructions and large full-colour photographs throughout help the student accomplish the projects described. The page containing additional templates may be photocopied for a variety of additional projects. The award-winning Métis poet Gregory Scofield has written a personal and inspiring introduction. An historical overview is also included and offers much useful and interesting information. The book includes an instructional DVD.

GRADES: 3–12, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES, VISUAL ARTS
Index/Bibliography: No/No ©2013 48 pp. 10.5"x9" colour reproductions ISBN: 9781550175939 $19.95 HC Kindle edition $9.95
Harbour Publishing www.harbourpublishing.com

GRADES: 7–12, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No ©2012 72 pp. 8.5"x6" colour illustrations ISBN: 97815152665176 $14.95 PA
Roseway Publishing www.ferwoodpublishing.ca

GRADES: 7–12, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES, TEACHER RESOURCE
Index/Bibliography: No/No ©2012 240 pp. 5.25"x8.25" ISBN: 9781926696218 $18.95 PA
Eschia Books Inc. www.eschia.com

GRADES: 4–10, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, FINE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES, TEACHER RESOURCE
Index/Bibliography: No/No ©2011 37 pp. 8.5"x11" colour photographs ISBN: 9781926795058 $24.95 PA
Gabriel Dumont Institute www.gdnins.org/publishing
7 GENERATIONS
A PLAINS CREE SAGA
David Alexander Robertson
Scott B. Henderson

7 Generations is a vivid graphic novel of a mother telling a series of stories to her Aboriginal teenage son who attempted suicide. The stories follow their Cree family history through three centuries from pre-contact warrior, to smallpox epidemic survivor, to casualty of the residential schools horrors. As he connects with his family’s past, the son gains strength absorbing his heritage of Plains Cree social customs, culture, spiritual practices and rituals.

7 Generations uses the conventions of the graphic novel to powerful effect in narrating a sensitive, and sometimes, disturbing story.

7 Generations was shortlisted for a 2013 Manitoba Book Award. A free Teacher’s Guide for 7 Generations is available at: https://highwaterpress.com

Caution: Graphic images and strong content may be disturbing to some readers.

THE ARCTIC JOURNALS OF JOHN RAEB
John Rae

This is the personal narrative of the explorer who discovered the fate of Sir John Franklin and revealed evidence that some of the Franklin expedition resorted to cannibalism. The book contains Rae’s account of his 1846–47 Arctic expedition. It also offers first-hand source material relating to the Inuit way of life at the time. Rae’s initial report on Franklin’s fate is followed by Charles Dickens’ attacks on the credibility of his witnesses, Rae’s rejoinder and the full text of Rae’s official report. Rae respected Inuit customs, traditions and skills; he adopted, learned and described the ways of indigenous Inuit peoples, becoming the leading exponent of cold-climate survival and travel. Rae describes extended boat and sledge journeys, storms and frostbite, and offers the first complete report, based on Inuit evidence, as to Franklin’s fate.

THE BEOTHUK EXPEDITION
Derek Yetman

John Cartwright, an officer in England’s Royal Navy, was given an unusual mission in 1768. His task: to make peaceful contact with the Beothuk, Newfoundland’s indigenous people. Early Canadian history is brought vividly to life in this fictionalized but well researched account of his failed journey. The grim details of the daily lives of both seamen and settlers are compelling. Yetman’s book also incorporates an unvarnished look at the conflicted, often tragic relationship between the Europeans and the Beothuk. The seeds of modern day Aboriginal issues can clearly be seen in this historical tale.

Aboriginal people are described in demeaning ways reflecting the culture at the time.

Caution: Non-gratuitous graphic violence is depicted throughout the book demonstrating the consequences of the rules, beliefs and attitudes prevalent at the time.

BRUNO AND THE BEACH
THE BEACHCOMBERS AT 40
Marc Strange & Jackson Davies

The most popular Canadian TV series ever is served well by this large format, full colour publication. An interesting chapter outlines the work of pioneering First Nations actor Pat John and his struggles with fame and the pressures of working on a TV series. John was one of the actors that worked on the series for all of its 19 years and consequently he matured from a beginning teen actor to a young man in full view of the Canadian viewing audience. There is also brief mention of Chief Dan George and other First Nations actors and how the series was one of the first to consider First Nations issues and use scripts by First Nations writers.

Caution: Refers to excessive alcohol consumption and marijuana use in an approving manner.

GRADES: 10–12, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/No
©2013 330 pp. 5.5”x8.5”
b/w charts, map
ISBN: 9781927129746 $19.95 PA
epub: 9781927129753 $14.99
TouchWood Editions
www.touchwoodeditions.com

GRADES: 10–12, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
©2013 320 pp. 6.5”x10”
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781553793557 $32.00 PA
epub: 9781553793854 $25.60
HighWater Press
www.highwaterpress.com

GRADES: 8–12, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL JUSTICE

Index/Bibliography: No/No
©2011 208 pp. 5.5”x8.5”
ISBN: 9781550813609 $19.95 PA
epub: 9781550813746 $12.99
Breakwater Books
www.breakwaterbooks.com

GRADES: 8–12, CAREER PLANNING, CREATIVE WRITING, DRAMA, ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/No
©2012 200 pp. 8”x10”
b/w & colour photographs
ISBN: 9781550175653 $26.95 PA
Harbour Publishing
www.harbourpublishing.com
CARRYING ON “IRREGARDLESS” HUMOUR IN CONTEMPORARY NORTHWEST COAST ART
Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art

Created as an accompaniment to the art exhibition of the same name, this groundbreaking book considers the often misunderstood place of humour and irony in Northwest Coast Native art. Three essays consider how humour and irony can be used as a tool for First Nations people to develop resiliency in the face of the demands of the dominant western culture. In addition, this art book explores the many uses of humour and irony in native art including the questioning of current practices, entertaining, defusing tension in controversies, drawing attention to issues and responding to difficult disputes. The book challenges readers to look at Northwest Coast art in different ways. Brief biographies of the artists are included as well as explanatory notes and anecdotes for many of the illustrations.

CENTERING ANISHINAABEG STUDIES UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD THROUGH STORIES
Jill Doerfler, et al, eds.

This scholarly anthology of 24 essays is written by Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars, activists and artists, who theorize the link between stories and contemporary Anishinaabeg thought. Anishinaabeg is the name the Odawa, Ojibwe and Algonquin peoples prefer to name themselves. Their thesis is that Anishinaabeg identity is articulated through the structure, content and context of oral stories. Declaring stories as a way of knowing is deemed as resistive of colonial hegemony since stories are social, dwell in the oral tradition, are based upon relationships, and respond to history and time. Seven sections called "stories" consider identity, tribal law, politics and art. Annishinaabeg stories are also embedded in the essays. Caution: Use of the term “Indian”.

DISINHERITED GENERATIONS OUR STRUGGLE TO RECLAIM TREATY RIGHTS FOR FIRST NATIONS WOMEN AND THEIR DESCENDANTS
Linda Goyette

Written in the oral tradition, Cree activists Nellie Carlson and Kathleen Steinhauer recount their struggle to regain their lost Indigenous legal identity when they married men who did not have Indian status. In the early 1970s they founded the Indian Rights for Indian Women movement and challenged the Canadian government’s discrimination against First Nations women and children who had been disinherited from their treaty rights. Goyette provides the historical context and overviews of the Indian Act. Additionally, Goyette describes amendments to the Indian Act and current perspectives on Aboriginal identity. A glossary defines important terms. Caution: Use of the term “Indian” in context.

FATHER AUGUST BRABANT SAVIOUR OR SCOURGE?
Jim McDowell

In 1869, the west coast of Vancouver Island was isolated and untouched by Euroamerican influence. First Nations’ cultures were highly structured and complex and had flourished for thousands of years. Father Brabant, who had no understanding of the region or its people, arrived as a zealous missionary determined to convert Aboriginals to Catholicism, forcing them to abandon their heritage. He was responsible for the first residential schools on Vancouver Island which were later criticized for “trying to kill the Indian in the child,” making it easier for the government to take away land and resources. Chief Tawinisam, the hereditary leader of the Hesquiat, wished to maintain and protect traditional values and so became Brabant’s main opponent. This thoroughly researched historical document brings to life the conflict between the two cultures.

GRAD-12: LAW, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes ©2012 500 pp. 8½”x11” b/w photographs ISBN: 9781553801894 $24.95 PA
epub: 9781553801900 $11.99
Ronsdale Press www.ronsdalepress.com

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes ©2013 446 pp. 6”x9” ISBN: 9780887557613 $29.95 PA
University of Manitoba Press www.uofmpress.ca

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes ©2013 120 pp. 7.5”x9.5” ISBN: 9780981234120 $24.95 PA
Bill Reid Gallery www.billreidgallery.ca

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes ©2013 216 pp. 6”x9” b/w photographs ISBN: 9780886646422 $24.95 PA
epub: 9780886646903 $19.99
University of Alberta Press www.uap.ualberta.ca

INDEX/BIBLIOGRAPHY: Yes/Yes ©2012 500 pp. 8½”x11” b/w photographs, maps ISBN: 9781553801894 $24.95 PA
epub: 9781553801900 $11.99
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INDEX/BIBLIOGRAPHY: Yes/Yes ©2013 120 pp. 7.5”x9.5” ISBN: 9780981234120 $24.95 PA
Bill Reid Gallery www.billreidgallery.ca

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epub: 9780886646903 $19.99
University of Alberta Press www.uap.ualberta.ca

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Ronsdale Press www.ronsdalepress.com
GARDENS AFLAME
GARRY OAK MEADOWS OF BC’S SOUTH COAST
Maleea Acker
Acker, a Victoria writer and environmentalist, shares her knowledge of the unique and vanishing Garry oak meadow ecosystem in No. 21 of the Transmontanus series. She begins with the early history of these wide-open landscapes, noting that the first settlers failed to realize that these landscapes were the result of generations of cultivation by the Coast Salish peoples. Acker presents collective knowledge gathered by scientists, arborists and the many volunteers who dedicate themselves to research and restoration of these ecosystems. Written in a very poetic style, the author builds a relationship with her readers. She recounts how the beauty of the Garry oak meadow inspired her to transform her own yard in Saanich into a small Garry oak meadow causing concern in her neighbourhood.

GHOST DETECTIVE
Zachary Muswagon
This entertaining and sometimes hilarious murder mystery novel is set on a Prairie Province Reserve. The plot involves a ruthless multinational company exploiting sour gas resources with fatal consequences for innocent residents and for Billy, the murdered Band Compliance Officer. The story opens with Billy earth bound and unable to cross over to the great hunting grounds until he discovers who murdered him and why. With assistance from animal spirit guides and dysfunctional humans, Billy and his supporters break through inertia and self-imposed stereotypes to uncover the culprits and move on. Through bizarre, comical, and sometimes traumatic adventures, this novel exposes current issues realistically and respectfully, with perceptive observations and an optimistic approach. There is a concluding hint that Ghost Detective is addressing a much greater story, and perhaps, therefore, beginning a new series.

THE GIFT IS IN THE MAKING
ANISHINAABEG STORIES
Leanne Simpson
When the author’s children were born, she wanted to continue the tradition of oral storytelling as a way to introduce them to the beauty and wisdom of their culture, and as an inheritance from the past that they will someday gift to their own children. She eventually was asked to tell stories to larger groups and then write them down as a way for families to share their connections to the past, nature, their own language and the oral tradition. The stories are teachings, often humorous, but with deeper levels of meaning which include politics, leadership and “deeply held collective values.” Simpson believes that it is each generation’s responsibility to keep the stories relevant and meaningful so she uses modern phrases and colloquial language. She also uses Anishinaabe names and words throughout with definitions at the end of each of the stories.

HEALING HISTORIES
STORIES FROM CANADA’S INDIAN HOSPITALS
Laurie Meijer Drees
Between the 1940s and 1970s, Canada’s federal government created Indian Health Services in response to epidemic diseases like tuberculosis, measles and smallpox. This book expands the history of Canada’s Indian health system by collecting Aboriginal perspectives. Drees references archived testimonies as well as personal interviews with former nurses, Aboriginal workers and patients to write a postcolonial “storywork” that includes diverse voices. Dress also provides the historical context with an explanation of tuberculosis, health care policy, the facilities of the IHS and Aboriginal perspectives in health care. She suggests a shared history of paternalism, isolation from families and segregation from non-Native people as that which took place in regards to Indian Residential Schools.

Caution: The term “Indian” is used to differentiate First Nations from Inuit.
HE MOVED A MOUNTAIN
THE LIFE OF FRANK CALDER AND THE NISGA’A LAND CLAIMS ACCORD
Joan Harper

This is the biography of Frank Calder, the first Aboriginal in Canada to be elected to any legislature and to be appointed a cabinet minister. He served as MLA for Atlin, BC for 26 years and for most of that time he was also the president of the Nisga’a Tribal Council. Calder fought tirelessly for Aboriginal rights. He won the right of First Nations to negotiate land claims in a Supreme Court of Canada decision favouring the Nisga’a. When Calder passed away in 2006, the world lost an internationally respected Aboriginal elder. Includes extensive chapter notes.

Harper is a former library educator both for the Vancouver School Board and the University of British Columbia. This is her first book.

Caution: Use of the word “Indian” reflects the historical context of the work.

HOME TRUTHS
HIGHLIGHTS FROM BC HISTORY
Richard Mackie & Graeme Wynn, eds.

Home Truths selects articles from the journal BC Studies on two themes: the struggle by Aboriginal peoples to resist dispossession and the search by newcomers for a home. Various chapters describe the reduction of the indigenous population and their cultural dislocation; the Tsimshian experience at the settlements of Fort Simpson (a fur trade post), Metlakatla (a missionary settlement), and Port Essington (a salmon-canning town) in changing their lives and attempting to subject them to government regulation; the displacement of a traditional Native food fishery by a group of wealthy American sportsmen; and how the Squamish families on the Kitsilano Reserve were cheated out of their land by the provincial government in 1913. The essays on the quests by newcomers for a home focus on rootlessness and a search for utopia.

IN THE DOG HOUSE
Wanda John-Kehewin

These 28 poems are expressions of a First Nations woman. The author wanted to give her people a voice and “communicate the devastating effects of the colonization of the First Nations people”. John-Kehewin’s works encompass a love of Mother Earth, the pain of losing a parent, abandonment and life lessons. The book’s format follows the four quadrants of the medicine wheel as taught to the author by her father when she was a young woman. The wheel circle represents the whole world. Held within are the four aspects of self: physical, mental, spiritual and emotional and the poems follow suit. Many poems have shapes that assist understanding. For example, Collective Tears of Unity is a teardrop. Standing on Thin Ice provides a powerful example of global warming.

John-Kehewin was awarded the 2013 World Poetry Empowered Poet Award.

Caution: Themes of alcohol addiction and sexual abuse.

KIYÂM
Naomi McIlwraith

This book of poems had roots in McIlwraith’s Masters thesis, but is clearly an expression of love of both her family and Cree heritage. It is a record of language preservation as well as a personal narrative. McIlwraith’s Scottish father learned to speak Cree fluently, though her Métis mother did not. His death, shortly after she began to write, hastened awareness of the importance of preserving this Native language. While she is aware that in transcribing an oral language some essential meaning is lost, she understands that in preserving one’s culture, one must preserve the language, as language is culture. These poems are rich tapestries of cultural identity, traditional practices and family love, evoking the sights, smells, tastes of an earlier time on the prairie. The Cree words inserted into the poems provide rhythm, timbre and beauty, which provide a deeper layer of meaning. The work includes a pronunciation guide.
LIVING INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP
NATIVE NARRATIVES ON BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES
Carolyn Kenny & Tina Ngaroimata Fraser, eds.

Meant as a guide for readers to learn about issues and practices in Aboriginal leadership this book uses storytelling to convey information gathered both from the contributors’ lived experiences and their research on the topic. The contributors are all women with Aboriginal backgrounds from Canada, the United States and New Zealand. The stories discuss Aboriginal leadership as it has been in the past, as it is today and how it could be in the future as well. The chapter “Parental Involvement” is particularly important as it explores the confl ict that can create. The stories discuss Aboriginal people negotiating living between two cultures and the conflict that can create. The chapter “Parental Involvement in First Nations Communities” could be of particular interest to educators. Although written by academics and very much research-based, the storytelling format makes the book accessible.

MANITOWAPOW
ABORIGINAL WRITINGS FROM THE LAND OF WATER
Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair & Warren Cariou, eds.

This anthology captures the range and scope of Aboriginal writings in Manitoba. It brings together a collection of rich, colourful and diverse stories, speeches, letters and poetry featuring historical writings, literary writing, storytelling and contemporary political works. Excerpts from the works of Louis Riel and Elijah Harper, to Wab Kanew’s hip-hop lyrics provide a new perspective on the Aboriginal experience. The material presented was chosen for its artistic excellence, historical significance and representation of the diversity of Aboriginal voices. Each segment is introduced with a brief biography of the contributor. In the foreword, Beatrice Mosionier notes that during her school visits, she finds that students hunger for more knowledge of the Aboriginal experience. Manitowapow definitely meets this need.

NOBODY CRIES AT BINGO
Dawn Dumont

This engaging and funny memoir chronicles the author’s experiences growing up on the Okanese First Nation reservation, opening up her experience to outsiders. Dumont manages to convey the mindset of herself as a little girl living in that environment, and she does it with a lot of humour. Through her storytelling, she addresses both the positives and negatives of rez life, all while very much engaging the reader in the story. Dumont’s short stories have been published in anthologies and her play Nicimis was workshoped at the Weesageechak Begins to Dance Festival. She is also a stand-up comedian and a program host on APTN.

SETTLEMENT, SUBSISTENCE, AND CHANGE AMONG THE LABRADOR INUIT
eds. David C. Natcher et al

In this collection of scholarly essays the history, practices and issues of the Labrador Inuit are explicated to show the rationale and foci of the treaty negotiations and ultimate agreement between the Labrador Inuit and the federal and provincial governments. In the creation of Nunatsiavummiut regional self-government, the settlement, subsistence, process of settling land claims and future issues the community will need to address are considered. The essays are researched and written by anthropologists, archaeologists, sociologists, biologists, geographers and environmental scientists. The complexities of Inuit social, economic and political adaptations are revealed to show the structures and requirements of a modern treaty agreement.

GRADERS: 11–12, COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS, SOCIAL STUDIES, TEACHER RESOURCE
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ISBN: 9780887557316 $27.95 PA
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University of Manitoba Press
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STR8UP AND GANGS
THE UNTOLD STORIES
Thirteen Men Who Got Caught Up in the Gang Lifestyle
Curtis Eklund

This book is a collection of the personal stories, poems, songs and artwork of 13 young First Nations men who have all been in jail. The stories are about their lives and the experiences and behaviour that led them there. The book is specifically aimed at telling youth about the pitfalls of joining gangs and where that lifestyle leads. The authors are all very candid about how both the things that happened to them growing up and their own choices and action have led to their current circumstances. Written by men who have been directly involved in gangs, this book will have a powerful impact on readers.

Caution: Contains a lot of descriptions of violence, drinking, drug use, child abuse, and ‘asterisked out’ swearing.

STORIES IN A NEW SKIN
APPROACHES TO INUIT LITERATURE
Keavy Martin

Stories in a New Skin introduces southern Canadians to the literary traditions of the Inuit by examining classical stories and songs, life writing, oral history and contemporary works. Working with the texts, Martin demonstrates that the Inuit have their own literary tradition which adapts to the influences of non-Inuit literature. Includes extensive endnotes.

Martin is an associate professor of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta. Stories in a New Skin was a finalist for the 2012 Gabrielle Roy Prize (English Section) from the Association for Canadian and Quebec Literatures.

STRONG HEARTS NATIVE LANDS
ANTI-CLEARCUTTING ACTIVISM AT GRASSY NARROWS FIRST NATIONS
Anna J. Willow

When the Anishinaabe people at Grassy Narrows blocked a logging road in December, 2002, they began a long process of resistance. Willow chronicles what became the longest-running indigenous blockade in Canadian history, as well as the history of the reserve, including its disastrous relocation in the early 1960s from spacious clan-based configurations to Canadian subdivisions. Crime and alcohol-based problems became rampant. In the 1970s, methyl mercury was discovered. Contaminated lakes and rivers caused serious illnesses and deaths. Commercial fishery was banned, leading to loss of tourism and the main food source. With this blockade, the people of Grassy Narrows reclaimed their cultural identity and determined their own future.

STURGEON REACH
SHIFTING CURRENTS AT THE HEART OF THE FRASER
Terry Glavin & Ben Parfitt

The title refers to a stretch of BC’s Fraser River between Hope and Mission, an area that has been home to human settlements for thousands of years. In this Transmontanus series title, the authors demonstrate the importance of this ancient river and the land along its banks, citing its significance as a breeding ground for many species of fish as well as its rich history, both anthropologically and archeologically. Looking back 20 million years to the river’s birth, they bring readers up to the 21st century and our ceaseless demands for gravel from the river for construction, which is causing floods and habitat loss on the river itself and in the surrounding land.

Parfitt has received a Jack Webster Award for Journalism. Glavin has earned the Hubert Evans Award for Non-Fiction and the Lieutenant-Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence.
This graphic novel is based on the life of Betsy Ross, an elder from Manitoba’s Cross Lake First Nation. The misery of Betsy’s schooling is conveyed through text and image. The sparse black and white illustrations suggest a thin life of farming, praying and copying Latin. The nuns and priest are farming, praying and copying Latin. Reconciliation is also a theme and the teacher who creates the biography assignment. teenagers who interview Betsy in the novel represented by the words of her father telling her to hold on to her language and her spirit. Unfortunately, some girls despair and Betsy’s friend drowns trying to escape. Physical abuse prevails and the images do not spare us its effects. Betsy stays strong by remembering her to heal and embrace her culture. Includes extensive chapter notes.

Sellars has a B.A. from the University of Victoria and a law degree from the University of British Columbia. She served as an advisor to the BC Treaty Commission and is currently the elected chief of the Xat’sūll (Soda Creek) First Nation. This is her first book.

SUGAR FALLS
A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL STORY
David Alexander Robertson
Scott B. Henderson

In They Called Me Number One, the author weaves her own experiences of hunger and abuse at St. Joseph’s Mission residential school in Williams Lake, BC with those of her mother and grandmother. At the school she was taught that her culture was inferior and she should strive to become more “White”. This experience has had lasting effects on Sellars and it has taken many years for her to heal and embrace her culture. Includes extensive chapter notes.

Sellars has a B.A. from the University of Victoria and a law degree from the University of British Columbia. She served as an advisor to the BC Treaty Commission and is currently the elected chief of the Xat’sūll (Soda Creek) First Nation. This is her first book.

Caution: Violence, death and sexual abuse are depicted or implied.

Caution: Use of the word “Indian” instead of “First Nations.”

TSE-LOH-NE (THE PEOPLE AT THE END OF THE ROCKS)
JOURNEY DOWN THE DAVE TRAIL
Keith Billington

After working with the people of Fort Ware for over ten years, Keith Billington was invited to join a group of elders on a 460km trek by foot along the Aatse Davie Trail, which is a part of their traditional territory. He uses the recounting of that journey and the circumstances that led to it as a vehicle for also telling interesting stories about the history of the Tse-loh-ne, their current life and their struggles living between two cultures.

Written by a non-Aboriginal man who for many years has worked closely with Aboriginal communities, including working as band manager for the Fort Ware Sekani Band, this is an engaging book that includes personal stories along with band and area history.

Keith Billington is the author of House Calls by Dogsled and Cold Land, Warm Hearts.

**Grades:** 9–12, English Language Arts

**Index/Bibliography:** No/No

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15.00 PA

**b/w illustrations**

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www.highwaterpress.com

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**Index/Bibliography:** Yes/No

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5.5”x8.5”

19.95 PA

**b/w photographs**

ISBN: 9780889227415 $9.95 PA
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Talonbooks

www.talonbooks.com

**Grades:** 10–12, English Language Arts, Social Studies

**Index/Bibliography:** No/No

©2013 264 pp.

5.25”x8”

14.95 PA

**b/w photographs, map**

ISBN: 9781927129852 $14.95 PA
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TouchWood Editions

www.touchwoodeditions.com

**Grades:** 10–12, English Language Arts, Social Studies

**Index/Bibliography:** No/Yes

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6”x9”

12.95 PA

**b/w photographs**

ISBN: 9781894759885 $22.95 PA

caitlin Press

www.caitlin-press.com
The Huu-ay-aht Chiefs and Council authorised *Voices of the Elders* to introduce the intricate and unique history of the people whose ancestral home is located on the southeastern shores of Barkley Sound. Derived from oral history passed down through generations, and preserved by voice recordings of Huu-ay-aht chiefs and elders, the persuasive stories of the Huu-ay-aht people are presented from their historical perception. The multifarious history of a West Coast First Nation, from tales of their historical perception. The Huu-ay-aht chiefs and elders, the persuasive stories of the Huu-ay-aht people are presented from their historical perception. The multifarious history of a West Coast First Nation, from tales of the old times, accounts of their traditional ways of doing things, to the recent Ma’u’nulth treaty through the British Columbia Treaty Commission is laid out here in an accessible format.
WOMEN OF BRAVE METTLE
MORE STORIES FROM THE CARIBOO CHILCOTIN
Diana French

The second in the Extraordinary Women series, this volume includes short accounts of 46 women, including several Aboriginal women, who proudly call the region home. The book’s earliest pioneers were born or arrived in the area when it was remote with no services or roads. They endured isolation, privation and hardship, but eventually thrived. Those who had ranches, farms or businesses worked alongside their men. Most raised families and were very involved in their communities and many had other careers in education, medicine, government, the arts and even the rodeo. Later arrivals had more career choices, as transportation and communication systems had been implemented. Present in all accounts is an appreciation of the natural environment and the supportive communities surrounding them.

WORKING WITH WOOL
A COAST SALISH LEGACY & THE COWICHAN SWEATER
Sylvia Olsen

This carefully constructed history of the Cowichan sweater is much more than the story of a familiar piece of clothing. In part, it tracks the influence of white settlement, especially the effects it had on the First Nations peoples of Vancouver Island. It is this interplay between cultures that serves as the crux of the narrative. The author, an expert knitter who identifies herself as Euro-Canadian, is married to a Coast Salish man and has lived most of her life with him on the Tsartlip First Nation reserve. This experience culminates in her bringing a wonderfully balanced perspective to the work. Working with Wool received the BC Lieutenant-Governor’s Award for Excellence in Historical Writing.
### INDEX BY TITLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 GENERATIONS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCTIC JOURNALS OF JOHN RAE, THE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEOTHUK EXPEDITION, THE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUNO AND THE BEACH</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALL OF THE FIDDLER</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARRYING ON “IRREGARDLESS”</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTERING ANISHINABEG STUDIES</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIAMOND WILLOW WALKING STICK</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISINHERITED GENERATIONS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FATHER AUGUST BRABANT</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST DAYS: NIGHT MOVES</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRST DAYS: WALL OF TEARS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GARDENS AFLAME</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGE LITTLECHILD</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHOST DETECTIVE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIFT IS IN THE MAKING</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HANNAH &amp; THE SALISH SEA</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE MOVED A MOUNTAIN</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOME TRUTHS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN THE DOG HOUSE</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIYÂM</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOU-SKELOWH / WE ARE THE PEOPLE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITTLE YOU</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIVING INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOST TEACHINGS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANIJUKATASKIL KINA’MASUTTL</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANITOWAPOW</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOLLY’S PROMISE</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOBODY CRIES AT BINGO</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETER FIDLER AND THE MÉTIS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUESTS FOR FIRE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAVEN BRINGS THE LIGHT</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROOGAROO MICKEY</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAGKEENG LEGENDS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALMON TWINS, THE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SETTLEMENT, SUBSISTENCE, AND CHANGE</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMONG THE LABRADOR INUIT</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIRIT ANIMALS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORIES IN A NEW SKIN</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STR8UP AND GANGS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRONG HEARTS NATIVE LANDS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STURGEON REACH</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUGAR FALLS</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIRD RIEL CONSPIRACY, THE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEY CALLED ME NUMBER ONE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSEE-LOH-NE</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(THE PEOPLE AT THE END OF THE ROCKS)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOICES OF THE ELDERS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALK WITH MY SHADOW</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAPIKWANİY</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHALING PEOPLE, THE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHEN I WAS EIGHT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHERE HAPPINESS DWELLS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMEN OF BRAVE METTE</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORKING WITH WOOL</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YETSÅ’S SWEATER</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INDEX BY AUTHOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acker, Maleea</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arima, Eugene</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthurson, Wayne</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billington, Keith</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge, Kathryn</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briley, Amy</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budd, Robert</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton, Wilfred</td>
<td>2, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cariou, Warren</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davies, Jackson</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doerfler, et al, eds, Jill</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorion, Leah Marie</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drees, Laurie Meijer</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumont, Dawn</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumont, Donna Lee</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fontaine, Craig Charbonneau</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraser, Tina Ngaroimata</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French, Diana</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glavin, Terry</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goyette, Terry</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregoire, George</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harper, Joan</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoover, Alan</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac, Michael James</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John-Kehevin, Wanda</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan-Fenton, Christy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenny, Carolyn</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INDEX BY AUTHOR (continued)

Legault, Stephen .................................. 13
Littlechild, George ............................... 5
Mackie, Richard .................................. 10
Martin, Keavy ..................................... 12
McDowell, Jim .................................... 8
McIlwraith, Naomi .............................. 10
Muswagon, Zachary ......................... 9
Natcher, David C. ............................. 11
Neary, Kevin ..................................... 14
Okanagan Tribal Council ...................... 5
Olsen, Sylvia ..................................... 3, 5, 15
Parfitt, Ben ........................................ 12
Patton, Anne ....................................... 2
Pokiak-Fenton, Margaret ..................... 4
Rae, John .......................................... 7
Ridington, Jillian .................................. 14
Ridington, Robin .................................. 14
Robertson, David Alexander .............. 7, 13
Scofield, Gregory ............................... 6
Sellars, Bev ........................................ 13
Shaw, Carol Anne ............................... 5
Simpson, Carol ................................. 4
Simpson, Leanne ............................... 9
Sinclair, Niigaanwewidam James .......... 11
Stott, Jon C. ....................................... 4
Strange, Marc ................................... 7
Thirteen Men Who Got Caught Up in the Gang Lifestyle .................. 12
Van Camp, Richard .............................. 3
Vickers, Roy Henry ............................ 6
Vitti, Alison ....................................... 2
Willow, Anna J. .................................. 12
Wynn, Graeme .................................... 10
Yetman, Derek ................................... 7

Kathryn goes to Alberta to live with her Aunt and is shocked to learn that her new home is a group of Métis shacks called River Falls.

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Neepin Auger is a Cree artist, educator and mother. Originally from the Bigstone Cree Nation in northern Alberta, she has been painting for over ten years, having studied art under her father, Dale Auger, a renowned First Nations artist and author of the award-winning children’s book Muwâkwa Talks to the Loon: A Cree Story for Children (Heritage House, 2006). Neepin is currently studying in the Department of Education and Schooling at Mount Royal University and is the mother of one daughter, Gracie, who she believes is her greatest masterpiece. Discovering Words and Discovering Numbers are her first books. She lives in Calgary, Alberta.

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