Canadian Indigenous books for schools
selected and evaluated by teacher-librarians

2017-2018

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Dear librarians and educators,

First, a warm welcome to the library professionals who may be seeing this resource for the first time.

The Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia (ABPBC) represents the publishing industry through cultural, economic, and political initiatives and engages book-related communities in British Columbia, Canada, and beyond. We believe that strong school libraries, staffed by qualified teacher-librarians, are essential to the education and social well-being of our children. For a number of years, we’ve produced a series of catalogues for K–12 educators, library wholesalers, and retailers working in the educational field that complement other resources developed by Canadian publishers to support the resourcing needs of educators. We appreciate the educational system’s respect for the copyright of creators and publishers when resourcing materials in the classroom. Fair compensation ensures that Canadian publishers are able to continue to develop innovative learning tools and educational resources for Canadian students that truly reflect their world, and that meet your needs and expectations as their educators.

Changes to the Canadian Indigenous Books for Schools Catalogue

This catalogue began ten years ago as Canadian Aboriginal Books for Schools, with the aim of highlighting Canadian titles by Indigenous authors, on Indigenous topics, and from Indigenous publishing houses. This year, the catalogue has undergone some changes. We’ve updated the catalogue name to use the term currently preferred to refer to the original inhabitants of Canada, and, where this information was supplied by publishers, we have indicated the community affiliations of authors and editors who identify as Indigenous (note that authors may have other connections to Indigenous communities that are not indicated). We have also made efforts to use the terms and spellings preferred by each author, which accounts for what may appear to be stylistic inconsistencies.

And in light of current discussions around cultural appropriation in literature, and to respond to concerns about the catalogue raised by educators about titles that lack authentic Indigenous voice, this year the ABPBC implemented a new step in our review of titles by publishers submitted for consideration. We worked with a teacher-librarian who identifies as Indigenous and who has done extensive work on Indigenous resources in the curriculum to assess titles for authentic Indigenous voice, using criteria based on the recommendations of the First Nations Education Steering Committee. This criteria can be found online here: www.aboriginaleducationsd83.com/authentic-aboriginal-voice.html

We will again revisit the catalogue title selection process for 2018, in consultation with Indigenous teacher-librarians, publishers, and Indigenous education councils.

The catalogue is organized by appropriate level: Elementary (K–7), Secondary (8–12), and Cross-Grades for those books that are appropriate at both levels. Books that are appropriate as teacher resources are also indicated. Entries are organized alphabetically by title within each section. As this catalogue is distributed across Canada, we have provided general subject areas that can be aligned with your province’s curriculum. I welcome your feedback on these changes and how this catalogue serves your resourcing needs.

The start of a new school year is always filled with great energy, even for those of us whose school days are long behind us. I wish you a fulfilling and challenging year ahead.

Sincerely,

Heidi Waechtlr
Executive Director, Association of Book Publishers of BC
heidi@books.bc.ca

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund (CBF) for this project, as well as operating assistance provided by the Canada Council for the Arts, Creative BC, and the City of Vancouver.

Catalogue design by Gerilee McBride • Printed in Canada
Comment le puma a fini par être appelé le chat fantôme: Ta’n petalu telui’tut skit’kmujewey mia’wj

Michael James Isaac (Mi’kmaw) • Dozay (Arlene) Christmas, illus.

This French/Mi’kmaw picture book is an allegory about losing one’s identity. Aig becomes lost and in order to make friends, he suppresses his instincts and becomes a docile animal. When he returns to his land of birth, the other pumas reject him because he no longer remembers how to be a hunter. Young readers will find this story a comfortable entry point for understanding differences and also the more complex idea of assimilation. At the end of the book, author Michael James Isaac tells his own life story about how he was assimilated into Euro-Canadian society. He urges readers to develop positive feelings about living in a culturally diverse country. This end section is at a higher reading level than the story and may be used as a teacher reference or for older students.

Hello Humpback!

Roy Henry Vickers (Ts’msyen, Haida, Heiltsuk) and Robert Budd • Roy Henry Vickers, illus.

This rhyming board book uses Pacific Northwest artistic motifs in bright colours to introduce young readers to the natural landscape of the West Coast. The drawings are slightly raised, giving a tactile experience for pre-readers, while the shapes and designs are typical of Northwest Coast art. The book presents the diversity of animals and landscapes of the West Coast and would be suitable for primary level science or environmental studies. Some illustrations include faces on the moon or a thunderbird camouflaged in the sky, both representing an Indigenous worldview of the interconnection between the supernatural and the environment. Robert Budd and Roy Henry Vickers have previously collaborated on several children’s books. Roy Henry Vickers is a renowned BC First Nations artist and recipient of the Order of Canada.

I Am Not a Number

Jenny Kay Dupuis (Anishinaabe/Ojibway) and Kathy Kacer • Gillian Newland, illus.

The author’s grandmother, Irene Couchie, was eight years old in 1928, when officials took her and her brothers away from their family in Northern Ontario to a harsh residential school far away. Her mother’s last cry kept Irene strong: “Never forget who you are!” The story requires in-depth classroom discussions because the cruelties and prejudice Irene suffered, as well as the startling ending (when her father refuses to return his children to the school) is sure to shock many students. The dreary colours and dispirited characterizations in the illustrations reinforce the storyline of oppression and misery. The final pages feature information about the residential school system and an afterword by co-author Dr. Jenny Dupuis, an educator. Co-author Kathy Kacer wrote the multi-award-winning Holocaust story The Secret of Gabi’s Dresser.
An Inuksuk Means Welcome

Mary Wallace

This heart-warming book, with its bold, colourful palette and simple text for early primary students, shines a bright light on traditional Inuit culture and their ties to the land. After a brief introductory page about the iconic northern stone landmarks known as inuksuit (plural of inuksuk), an acrostic format follows, using each letter of inuksuk to present an important Inuktitut word with its phonetic pronunciation (ee-nuck-shuck) and definition. The first double-page spread begins in over-sized print, I is for inuksuk, the stone messenger that stands at the top of the world. Each word is subsequently illustrated with another vivid, double-page spread highlighting a meaningful Arctic scene of people or animals interacting with the environment. Students will enjoy searching the book for various inuksuk symbols depicted on the final page.

Mary Wallace, an Ontario artist, won the 2000 UNESCO International Youth Library Award for The Inuksuk Book, written for older students.

The Mask That Sang

Susan Currie (Cayuga)

This novel is about resilience and finding the way back to one's culture of origin. After time at residential school with its resulting trauma, Cass's grandmother gives up her daughter for adoption. As a result, the impact of residential school gets passed along to Cass's mother, who endures a childhood in foster homes. Although Cass knows she is loved, bullying leaves her feeling worthless. Then Cass finds an Iroquois healing mask in her grandmother's house. Its spirit starts singing words of encouragement. She learns to stand up for herself and also becomes an ally and friend to others. The emphasis is on healing, embracing one's family history, and the dignity to be found in accepting help from others.

In addition to the theme of generational trauma, points of discussion include the supernatural, family relationships, and living in poverty.

Susan Currie is a winner of Second Story Press' Aboriginal Writing Contest.

Métis Christmas Mittens: Lii Mitenn Michif di Nowel

Leah Marie Dorion (Métis) • Norman Fleury, trans.

When it starts snowing, the author’s family follows a Métis tradition of making special Christmas mittens, "to warm the hands and the heart." This endearing bilingual book will resonate with primary students while it describes numerous cultural aspects of how these beautiful, unique mittens “are made to show we care and to tell others that they belong.” The author illustrates each page with boldly coloured, loving scenes of Métis life. The end pages enrich the story with colour photographs of richly detailed Métis mittens, a reproducible page showing the parts of a mitten, and a CD of the story with narrations in English and Michif (the Métis language originating in Cree and French).

This award-winning Métis children's book author and illustrator is an artist and educator in Saskatchewan. Michif language specialist and storyteller Norman Fleury translated the story.
Mistasiniy: Buffalo Rubbing Stone
Mary Harelkin Bishop • Heaven Starr, illus.
Danny’s farm was homesteaded by his relatives in the 1800s, and he is excited about his class assignment describing how their families arrived in Canada. On the other hand, Zach, who is Cree, is upset by the teacher’s assumption that everyone is an immigrant. This novel depicts the differences colonization has on the worldview of settlers and Indigenous people up until present day. Although Danny realizes that a Cree sacred boulder is located on his farm, no one on the reserve remembers the sacred rock because collective memory was erased in residential schools. The hardships of European colonization for both the settlers and the First Peoples are realistically depicted, and the rural setting is richly described. Ultimately, the novel is uplifting because instances of kindness and respect across time suggest how reconciliation might look for Canadians who feel a connection to the land. The book received an Honourable Mention for the Young Adult Fiction 2017 Purple Dragonfly Book Awards.

Road Allowance Kitten:
Li Pchi Minoosh di Shmayn’d Liing
Wilfred Burton (Métis) • Norman Fleury, trans. • Christina Johns, illus.
After the 1885 Resistance by prairie Métis people, the government drove them off their traditional lands, forcing some to live on road allowance properties. This poignant bilingual story, based on actual accounts from 1949 Saskatchewan, vividly depicts the lives of two young cousins and their beloved kitten. When the government displaces them again, they watch their homes burning down as their train departs. The book features background information on the Road Allowance Métis, Canny Can game instructions, a glossary, map, and a CD with narrations in English and in Michif (the Métis language originating in Cree and French).

The award-winning children’s book author learned Métis storytelling, music, and dance from his mother. The illustrator, a Saskatchewan educator, has Métis roots.

The Salmon Run
Clayton Gauthier (Carrier/Dakelh)
The dynamic artwork and text of this bilingual creative non-fiction book are bold and direct. The Indigenous author-illustrator based it on traditional teachings about The Salmon Run of the sockeye, a most important and honoured resource of Pacific Northwest Coast peoples for generations. Through her point-of-view, the female salmon draws readers into the sights and feelings of her arduous journey to the spawning grounds: “Feeling the rapids of the sacred water...The moon tells us we are almost home.” Each page features a lively, illustrated lyrical phrase or sentence, which is translated along with its phonetic pronunciation, to help promote the Dakelh (Carrier) language. When finished spawning, a touch of visual humour depicts mother salmon finally resting with blanket and pillow. The author-illustrator is Cree and Dakelh (Carrier) and lives in Prince George. His uncle, Francois Prince, translated the text into Dakelh. Theytus Books is a Penticton First Nations publisher.
Les Savoirs Perdus /Panuijkatasikl Kina’masut’i’l
Michael James Isaac (Mi’kmaw) • Dozay (Arlene) Christmas
This richly illustrated story introduces young readers to the character traits essential for a fulfilling life. Eagle gives each animal one of the seven Lost Teachings and explains how to manifest that virtue through thought and action. These Teachings are based on traditional First Nations, Métis, and Inuit wisdom, yet readers will also find equivalencies in world religions and curricula for character development. There are many opportunities to make meaningful connections between self, text, and the world. Thematic elements include the connection to the animal world, the circle, and the Medicine Wheel. In the afterword, the author elaborates on the oral origins of the Lost Teachings, their loss during colonization, and the need to reclaim them in the modern world. The text is bilingual and appears in French with Mi’kmaq translations.

The Water Walker
Joanne Robertson (Atikameksheng Anishnawbek)
This inspiring story tells of the courageous actions of an Ojibwe woman, Nakomis (Grandmother) Josephine Mandamin, from Thunder Bay, Ontario. Her lifelong love and respect for water as the “giver of life,” as well as an Elder’s dire warning about the future of this precious resource, led Josephine to organize the Mother Earth Water Walkers. Over the past 14 years, the Water Walkers have sung, prayed, given thanks, and sent healing to the water, while trekking around all of the Great Lakes and from “sea-to-sea-to-sea.” The story is enhanced with bold, simple artwork and a liberal use of Ojibwe vocabulary. The book features a picture glossary of Ojibwe words with their English meaning and pronunciation, as well as information about Josephine.

When the Trees Crackle with Cold: A Plains Cree Calendar – Pisimwasinahikan
Bernice Johnson-Laxdal (Cree) and Miriam Körner • Miriam Körner, illus.
Co-author Bernice Johnson-Laxdal recalls her childhood and the cycle of traditional Métis family seasonal activities in northern Saskatchewan through this Cree moon calendar. Images of bringing in firewood, preparing the garden, gillnetting, smoking fish at the summer camp, having picnics, hunting, canning cranberries, and making moosehide Christmas mittens bring each month alive with short, expressive descriptions (in English and northern Plains Cree dialect) and lively, softly-hued watercolours. Supplementary information includes a list of Cree consonants and vowels, a Cree moon pronunciation guide, and a circular, illustrated Cree calendar year, showing not four but six seasons, including their important “break-up” and “freeze-up” seasons.
When We Were Alone
David A. Robertson (Métis) • Julie Flett, illus.
This compelling story about a young girl questioning her grandmother’s love of colourful clothing, long hair, Cree language, and tight family ties will help to sensitively open a classroom conversation about the hardships of life at residential schools. Dreary, lifeless, monotone colours in grandmother’s residential school scenes contrast starkly with the warm earth-tones of her loving home and nature settings. With the integration of some Cree language, strong similes and repetition of key phrases, this poignant pattern story honours an integrity, truth and reconciliation that will connect with children. A valuable parent/teacher guide, available free on the publisher’s website, features important concepts, lesson ideas, a Cree word list, and a short video of the author and a teacher discussing teaching difficult subjects with When We Were Alone.

The award-winning Winnipeg author has also written several graphic novels and works in Indigenous education.

Wisdom from our First Nations
Kim Sigafus (Ojibway) & Lyle Ernst (Native American Coalition of the Quad Cities)
Twelve Elders are profiled in this book for young readers. These brief biographies contain wisdom gained from a long life and are driven by a desire to actively pass down their knowledge. Each Elder shares their perspective on important life lessons for future generations with special emphasis on maintaining cultural roots. This resource can be used as examples for biographical writing. The stories are easy to read, represent a mix of male and female voices, and allow a comparative analysis between life in the US and Canada as an Indigenous person. Cultural concepts and more information about the Elders are expanded in a glossary and appendix.

You Hold Me Up
Monique Gray Smith (Cree, Lakota) • Danielle Daniel, illus.
This gentle, heart-warming book for early primary students models supportive, respectful relationships between children, families, and friends. Brightly coloured illustrations depict everyday activities like sharing food, learning, listening, learning with an Elder, playing, singing, and drumming, while simple, repetitive words in bold print inspire: “You hold me up. I hold you up. We hold each other up.” The last page features an author’s note about the negative legacy of residential schools and her hopes that, with this book, we can embark on a journey of healing and reconciliation.

The author won the 2017 BC Book Prize for Children’s Literature for her pre-school board book, My Heart Fills With Happiness. She lives in Victoria, BC, and is of Cree, Lakota, and Scottish ancestry. The award-winning illustrator, Danielle Daniel, lives in Sudbury, ON, and is Métis.
Algonquin Sunset: An Algonquin Quest Novel

Rick Revelle (Ardoch Algonquin First Nation)

Algonquin Sunset is the third novel in the Algonquin Quest series, but it can be read as a stand-alone title. The theme of the novel is war and conflict among the Algonquian and Iroquois societies in the 14th century. This novel will complement a study of the similarities and differences among Eastern First Nations societies in terms of worldview, protocols, language, and geography. The role of the natural world is also emphasized, with many examples of the characters taking only what they need, and of human-animal relationships. The author provides a bibliography to facilitate further research. As well, the literary focus on courage, identity, and survival could motivate readers to reflect on point of view and character development. Algonquin, Lakȟóta, and Ojibwe words are interspersed throughout the novel, with a glossary and pronunciation guide offering assistance.

Hawk

Jennifer Dance

The protagonists, a boy and a mating pair of ospreys, struggle to survive in their damaged environment. They each suffer the complications of oil sands pollution as increased levels of toxins in the food chain lead to higher cancer rates for First Nations communities and lower population numbers for birds of prey. What happens to Adam and the ospreys isn’t happy, but its authenticity makes this novel compelling. It is a true depiction of the ordeals of childhood cancer and the harsh realities of life in the wild. However, Adam and the ospreys share a strong survival instinct. Adam doesn’t accept the explanations of his illness without question, and he believes that the health of the ecosystem has been ignored at the expense of profits and jobs. Hawk affirms that living things are interdependent and our future is shared. Hawk will support interdisciplinary learning of literature, First Nations cultures, and ecology.

The River of the Salmon People

Jeannette Armstrong and Gerry William, eds.

The title refers to people united by the Fraser River, “the main artery of Mother Earth.” This book grew out of two years of consultations with Elders, youth, artists, fishers, and leaders from 13 First Nation bands. It contains insightful stories, songs, and vibrant art, all dealing with five main themes: a unifying force; expressing diversity; history of change; spiritual and cultural relationships; and a place of hope and reconciliation. Environmental stewardship insights include the importance of an intertribal treaty to manage resources, worries about salmon ingesting plastic, depleted fish species, and water systems disrupted by development. Salmon ceremonies allowing people to worship the water and revere the salmon enable them to be “reawakened by the river” and help them reconnect with their culture after being spiritually lost for years. This powerful compilation of candid and artistic expressions leaves readers enlightened about BC First Nations connections to the salmon.
Sacred Feminine: An Indigenous Art Colouring Book
Jackie Traverse (Anishinaabe)
This book’s author/illustrator envisioned her bold, beautiful portrayals of Indigenous women as images that would help to heal and educate readers and colourers of all ages. Each page carefully details scenes that incorporate nature, loving relationships, and symbols of transformation and Indigenous culture in a flowing, contemporary style. Several pages at the end of the book offer interpretations of the scenes through the artist’s personal story and the teachings of the traditional values and beliefs. Images with titles such as “My Heart is for My People,” “Tree of Life,” “Called to the Drum;” and “Prayers for Our Sisters” model an inspiring spirit of resilience, strength, and empowerment. The Anishinaabe illustrator and author is a Winnipeg artist who works in several disciplines. She is also a community activist.

Speaking Our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation
Monique Gray Smith (Cree and Lakota)
This vibrant and well-designed book is a sensitive and age-appropriate way to introduce middle-school children to the topic of residential schools and the reconciliation process. The high-quality photographs, colourful layout, and text are appealing and balanced. The book begins with background information on colonization and early Canadian history. While the content is age-appropriate, some readers might feel triggered when reading the stories from survivors. Many chapters include questions for reflection that will assist students in developing their communication skills, social responsibility, and sense of identity. The book concludes on a positive note, with profiles of non-Indigenous students and the actions they have taken as examples of their being allies in the reconciliation process. A glossary, recommended readings, and websites are also included. Caution: there is a reference to an electric chair being used as punishment.

Stolen Words
Melanie Florence (Cree) • Gabrielle Grimard, illus.
A buoyant seven-year-old girl with long braids “black as a raven’s wing” happily carries the dream catcher she made in school while she walks home hand-in-hand with her loving grandfather. Upon asking him to “catch” his lost language, he is also a vibrant and well-designed book is a sensitive way to introduce middle-school children to the topic of residential schools and the reconciliation process. The high-quality photographs, colourful layout, and text are appealing and balanced. The book begins with background information on colonization and early Canadian history. While the content is age-appropriate, some readers might feel triggered when reading the stories from survivors. Many chapters include questions for reflection that will assist students in developing their communication skills, social responsibility, and sense of identity. The book concludes on a positive note, with profiles of non-Indigenous students and the actions they have taken as examples of their being allies in the reconciliation process. A glossary, recommended readings, and websites are also included. Caution: there is a reference to an electric chair being used as punishment.

The Anishinaabe illustrator and author is a Winnipeg artist who works in several disciplines. She is also a community activist.
The Chief: Mistahimaskwa
David A. Robertson (Métis) • Scott B. Henderson, illus.
Part of the Tales From Big Spirit series, this graphic novel incorporates Indigenous storytelling techniques to reveal the life of Cree Chief Mistahimaskwa (Big Bear). The book recounts over 60 years of significant historical incidents during the 1800s – of the Blackfoot and Cree, as well as of events in the Chief’s life. These include the bison migrations, the devastating smallpox epidemic, Blackfoot camp raids, various peace treaties, the Belly River Battle, the first interactions with white settlers, and the near extinction of the bison. Accounts go up to the Chief’s death in 1888. Readers are drawn into these important Canadian historical events by the vivid illustrations and thoughtful dialogue.

The Land of Os: John Ramsay
David A. Robertson (Métis) • Wai Tien, illus.
Incorporating Indigenous storytelling techniques, this graphic novel from the Tales From Big Spirit series features John Ramsay, a community builder and advocate for the Sandy Bar Band (Cree and Saulteaux people) during the late 1800s in Manitoba. After the exodus in the 1870s of Icelanders who resettled in Manitoba, the Sandy Bar Band was dissolved due to being left out of treaty negotiations. They lost their land and all rights associated with it, creating rocky relations with the Icelandic settlers. With Ramsay’s help during the devastating smallpox epidemic of 1876 and his pleading his case to Manitoba’s Lieutenant Governor, he earned the settlers’ trust.

The Amazing Mazie Baker: The Squamish Nation’s Warrior Elder
Kay Johnston
The Amazing Mazie Baker is the biography of a remarkable Squamish Elder, known as “Ch’ésli’en” or “Golden Eagle.” Renowned for her incredible work ethic and strong sense of right and wrong, Mazie worked her entire adult life in bettering the lives of the Squamish First Nation. She successfully secured improvements along a busy road so that children could get safely to the school, the re-instatement of status for women who had married non-Indigenous men, the amelioration of property rights for all on the reserve, and more band council accountability and transparency – this last fight taking her all the way to a Senate Committee hearing in Ottawa.
Kay Johnston is the author of several poems and short stories in Kaleidoscope V, a Shuswap Writers’ Anthology, and co-author of Spirit of Powwow.

Use of the term “Indian” occurs in a historical and legal context.
Crees in the Caribbean

Drew Hayden Taylor (Ojibway)

Thanks to a gift from their adult children, a Cree couple celebrates their 35th anniversary with a holiday in Mexico. Hilarity ensues as they experience a foreign country for the first time and, as a result, encounter each other in a new way. Their responses are amusing and charming as they come to see their world and each other in a fresh light.

They befriend a young Mexican housekeeper who is unveiled and pregnant, and learn that the father of the child has abandoned her. This straightforward but sweet tale contains surprises throughout and has a shocking finale.

This is the 30th book by veteran essayist, humourist, and playwright Taylor. Because the piece contains some Cree vocabulary (with English in brackets), it might help readers enhance their second language skills.

Embers: One Ojibway’s Meditations

Richard Wagamese (Ojibway)

Filled with colour photographs, this book gives the author a forum for sharing his personal philosophies about gratitude, healing, making choices, the natural environment, and the many other facets that contribute to a sense of self and a rich life. These one-page meditations emphasize the education of the heart. One does not need to read them sequentially; rather, they lend themselves to teaching character development via the oral tradition. The book has seven sections: Stillness, Harmony, Trust, Reverence, Persistence, Gratitude, and Joy. These parallel the Seven Sacred Teachings of many First Nations. Often throughout Wagamese affirms his spiritual beliefs and his connection to the Creator. He includes written dialogues with his spirit guide, Old Woman; these highlight the role conversation and inquiry plays in the development of the inner self.

Embers won the Bill Duthie Booksellers’ Choice Award in the 2017 BC Book Prizes.

Everyday Exposure: Indigenous Mobilization and Environmental Justice in Canada’s Chemical Valley

Sarah Marie Wiebe

Aamijwnaang First Nation in Ontario is surrounded by Canada’s largest concentration of chemical plants, most of which stand on land that was once part of the reserve. Everyday Exposure explores this First Nation’s struggle for environmental and reproductive justice as its residents deal with a declining male birth rate and increased rates of cancer, asthma, and cardiovascular disease. Wiebe investigates the various level of government policies that allowed this injustice to happen, and argues that only through a transformative “sensing policy” approach will the Aamijwnaang First Nation receive the justice it deserves. The book includes extensive endnotes. The term “Indian” occurs in a historical context.

Sarah Marie Wiebe has also worked on films such as Indian Givers and To Fish as Formerly. She is currently an assistant professor at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.
Fire Starters
Jen Storm (Ojibway) • Scott B. Henderson, illus., Donovan Yaciuk, colour
This graphic novel focuses on the racism experienced by First Nations youth. Michael, who is white, sets the local gas bar on fire, but most of the non-Indigenous community assigns blame to two young Indigenous men. Jason, Michael’s best friend, knows that it is wrong to blame two innocent kids but is afraid to speak out since he passes as white due to his light skin colour. Although the story begins with racism, the end is about restitution and restorative justice. Michael admits his guilt in a talking circle and thus heals his relationships with the community. He also makes restitution to the victims by rebuilding the gas bar. There are other narrative threads in this novel that will deepen discussion about First Nations issues. For example, readers will notice reference to missing and murdered Indigenous women, intergenerational support, bullying, and the integration of Indigenous cultural practices into school curricula.

From the Tundra to the Trenches
Eddy Weetaltuk (Inuit)
In an authentic anecdotal style, using the eyes and voice of Inuk veteran Eddy Weetaltuk, this book describes the many changes in northern Canada. The story relates how, as the culture moved away from hunting and the traditional way of life, a young Inuk escaped to the south under an assumed identity, enlisted in the Canadian Forces, went to battle in Korea, and then transferred to Germany for many years. After leaving the Army in 1967, he returned to northern Quebec to centralized Inuit villages where unemployment made reliance on the government inevitable, with poverty a major issue.

Published in the First Voice, First Texts series, the author’s intention that his work be an encouragement to our ancestors had to fight every single day of their lives to survive. It is now your turn to be strong and courageous.”

Gatherings 15: Youth Water Anthology
Gregory Younging, ed. (Opsakwayak Cree Nation)
This anthology of Indigenous youth writing begins with the Syilx Nation (Okanagan Nation) siwkʷi declaration on water. The poetry, short stories, and essays in the collection all reflect some aspect of the theme of water. Many of the pieces appear in both the author’s traditional language as well as in English. The En’owkin International School of Writing travelled throughout British Columbia and conducted workshops for Indigenous youth, which resulted in this anthology. Gatherings XV: Water is a revival of a respected anthology for young Indigenous authors. Work by the editor, Dr. Gregory Younging, appeared in the first anthology in 1990. He also served as editor of the anthology from 1991 to 2004. Younging was the assistant director of research for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
Glimpses of Oneida Life

Karin Michelson, Norma Kennedy (Oneida), and Mercy Doxtator (Oneida)

This book results from decades of dedicated work to preserve the Oneida language. It begins with preliminaries to familiarize readers with Oneida orthography; its consonants, vowels, punctuation, pronunciation, and accents. The middle section is stories, collected as oral history; these make up the bulk of the book. Each story first appears in Oneida with the English translation underneath, then again in English at the bottom of the page. These include favourite memories of growing up, lessons, pranks, and also encounters with the supernatural. The third section is a comprehensive grammar section for the serious student, delving into the intricacies of word structures, verb tenses, and how the words occur in larger structures to express ideas and thoughts. This book makes a significant contribution to preserving a language no longer widely spoken, and highlights the importance of the people who still do.

An Honest Woman

Jónina Kirton (Métis)

In this brutally honest book of poems, a Métis woman recounts the abuses, joys, and catastrophic losses she has experienced, as well as her coming of age in a difficult time and place. With uncommon grace and intelligence, Kirton presents an honest and plain depiction of what a woman’s life can look like in the face of familial limitations, sexist and racist disregard and mistreatment, or as the consequences of the choices one makes while growing up.

She presents some stunning and surprising instances of joy, but also the depths of grief over the loss of brothers and unborn children. She contrasts the differences between male and female sexual awakening, and offers examples of shocking current events, parental/societal abuse and neglect, but also ones of gratitude. Seeing what a young woman of mixed heritage endures is useful for all genders and ethnicities.

Caution: explicit sexual references; sexual and physical abuse.

I Am a Metis: The Story of Gerry St. Germain

Peter O’Neil

I Am a Metis is the biography of Gerry St. Germain, a bilingual Métis who rose from humble beginnings in Manitoba to become a major player on the national political stage. A self-made millionaire, St. Germain was an air force pilot, police officer, salesman, and a chicken farmer before turning his sights to politics. Under the Brian Mulroney Conservatives, he was first the party caucus chair, and rose to be a cabinet minister. Further, as a BC senator, he helped negotiate the unification of the Reform Party and the Conservative Party under Stephen Harper. In his final years of political life, he worked tirelessly as chair of the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal People, writing reports on land claims and on-reserve education.

Peter O’Neil is a former Vancouver Sun reporter who won the Jack Webster Award for political feature writing.
Chelsea Vowel (Métis)

Indigenous Writes, a collection of essays about various Indigenous-related topics, interrogates popular misconceptions about the Indigenous citizens of Canada. Subjects like taxation, free housing, free post-secondary education, and Aboriginal title are carefully examined. The essays analyze the residential school legacy, the Sixties Scoop, the Millennial Scoop, whole-community relocations, drinking water, treaties, assimilation, the dog slaughter, the Indian Act, doctrines of colonialism, the White Paper, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Making a convincing case for rejecting the prevailing policies of “assimilation, control, intrusion, and coercion” regarding Indigenous people, the book offers clear, concise, and well-organized information. Endnotes with links to selected resources support and encourage further research.

A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Dedicated to the survivors, this comprehensive book covers the history, experience, and legacy of Canadian residential schools, including the Assimilation Policy, Indian Act, and Industrial School initiative. Featuring a timeline listing all 124 schools operating from 1834 to 1999, it illustrates the blatant “cultural genocide” behind the Canadian government’s policy to eliminate Indigenous culture, assimilating Indigenous people against their will. The Canadian government’s disregard for Indigenous governments resulted in unfulfilled treaty obligations and gross underfunding, abuse and neglect throughout the residential school system. The book includes an abridged version of the TRC report with 94 Calls to Action.

Caution: physical and sexual abuse.

The Land We Are: Artists & Writers Unsettle the Politics of Reconciliation
Gabrielle L’Hi读懂elle Hill (Cree-Métis) and Sophie McCall, eds.

This book explores the themes of reconciling settler and Indigenous histories and the connection between Indigenous people and the land. This collaborative compilation of art, poetry, and analysis by 19 contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists and academics asserts that meaningful questions and answers can emerge through the catharsis of art practice. For example, “Public Memory and the Neo-liberal City,” a photographic essay of Vancouver public art in “a civic infrastructure of redress,” argues that an attempt to Indigenize the landscape effectively dismisses local Indigenous history. Another piece, “Collaboration, Creative Practice, and Labour,” honours craft and collective work in commemorative art. The overall message is that mutual recognition of shared history is a first step toward reconciliation.
**Medicine Unbundled: A Journey through the Minefields of Indigenous Health Care**

**Gary Geddes**

This book examines the history and legacy of segregated Indigenous health care in Canada and exposes some of the many ways it parallels the residential school experience.

Evidence provided by the harrowing memories of Indigenous Elders from across the country presents a testimony to survival and perseverance in the face of gratuitous drug and surgical experiments, including electroshock treatments to destroy memories of sexual abuse. The book reiterates the power of memory to keep history alive and suggests reconciliation as a means to a more open and just future for Canadian society.

Gary Geddes has won more than a dozen literary awards, including the British Columbia Lieutenant-Governor’s Award for Literary Excellence. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *Drink the Bitter Root*, a finalist for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize.

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**mitêwâcimowina: Indigenous Science Fiction and Speculative Storytelling**

**Neal McLeod, ed. (Cree)**

In this first-ever Indigenous science fiction anthology, established authors such as Drew Hayden Taylor, Richard Van Camp, Lee Maracle, and Eden Robinson draw on the rich history of storytelling in First Nations culture. The 18 short stories detail alien invasions, space travel, and post-apocalyptic worlds, as well as other topics. Many of the stories draw their inspiration from First Nations lore. Neal McLeod’s contribution is partially written in Cree and has been translated.

Neal McLeod is the author of several other books, including *100 Days of Cree* and *cîhcêwêsin: New Poetry from Indigenous Saskatchewan*.

These Indigenous authors occasionally use the term “Indian.”

**Caution:** occasional instances of profanity and drug use.

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**Moccasin Tracks: A Memoir of Mi’kmaw Life in Newfoundland**

**John Nick Jeddore (Mi’kmaw)**

Author John Nick Jeddore was a Mi’kmaw Elder who died in 2016. *Moccasin Tracks* is his historical chronicle of life in Newfoundland’s Mi’kmaw community from the 1920s to 1991. The story tracks his experiences as a follower of his ancestors’ disappearing culture, and as one who witnesses his language dying in a changing world. He recounts changes that took him beyond his community to the Forestry Service in Scotland during the Second World War, and later, into confinement in a tuberculosis sanatorium. His memoir is a legacy to scholars and future generations interested in a life “on the country,” an existence that is now gone forever.

*Moccasin Tracks* was a 2017 finalist for the Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award for Non-Fiction.
John S. Milloy
In the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, this second edition of A National Crime explores the history of residential schools from 1879 to 1986. Examining previously unreleased government documents, the author outlines the rationale for the creation of these schools: the assimilation of Indigenous people into the colonial culture. Using the government’s own reports, Milloy paints a picture of an education system that failed its students. Children were subjected to unsanitary, poorly built buildings, untrained teachers, poor diet, and unsuitable clothing. Often added to these conditions was physical, mental, and sexual abuse. These schools failed generations of Indigenous children, who were left unprepared for the world they returned to. The terms “Indian” and “Eskimo” appear in a historical context.

Nicimos: The Last Rez Christmas Story
Curtis Peeteetuce (Cree)
This play is the last in the series of Rez Christmas stories that ran from 2001 to 2015. This humorous episode has two 70-something widows creating mischief for others, themselves, and each other. There is a comedy of errors around the Christmas wedding of a couple in their 50s, a returning ex, and a budding romance between a pair who are in their 30s.

Wit and hijinks abound in this light-hearted romp through a Cree band office, often at the expense of its inhabitants. Some characters use Cree language. This could further the development of second language skills through the use of context.

Caution: references to sexual and alcohol abuse; some Indigenous stereotypes will require explanation.

Not My Fate: The Story of a Nisga’a Survivor
Janet Romain (Métis)
Jo Caplin, the author’s “exceptional” friend, is a woman whose mother and grandmother experienced the residential school system. After her mother abandons the family, Jo and her brother live with their loving though alcoholic father. They eventually get sent to foster care and are separated for six years. Jo has fetal alcohol syndrome, suffers sexual abuse, and at 15 has a baby, whom she gives up for adoption. Denied any cultural upbringing, Jo forges her own philosophy and spirituality, determined to live a life close to nature. She is a birdwatcher and an innovative gardener, and she nurtures her creativity through beading, embroidery, and quilting. A hard worker and an indomitable spirit, Jo is curious, eager to learn, deeply emotional, generous, and self-sufficient. After facing her demons and witnessing so much tragedy, she knows she must break the cycle and walk the healing path.

Caution: strong language and details of abuse.
Nta’tugwaqanminen: Our Story – Evolution of the Gespe’gewa’gi Mi’gmaq

Gespe’gewa’gi Mi’gmawei Mawiomi (Mi’gmaq)

This authoritative volume synthesizes research from many fields – science and social science, interviews, oral histories, archival histories, and historic maps – that clearly delineates the rights of entitlement which the Mi’gmaq of the Gaspé Peninsula and Northern New Brunswick have to that land and its uses.

In a detailed and even-handed manner, this book explores the land’s occupation and use, the systematic dispossession of these lands since the arrival of Europeans, the state of current entitlements, and proposes a way forward.

For Mi’gmaq youth and their non-Mi’gmaq neighbours, this is an indispensable resource to allow the original people of this area to re-appropriate their culture – their history, geography, ecology, politics, and ways of being in the world. The book also contains their creation story, and their main myths and legends, which would be of interest to a wide age range.

The Pemmican Eaters

Marilyn Dumont (Cree/Métis)

Using various perspectives that undo and extend traditional historical views of the “Rebellions,” Marilyn Dumont reframes and retells accounts of the time of Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont. These poems transform the narrative of these events into the direct action against human rights abuses that they were.

Using research and contemporary understandings of the complexities of Métis, First Nations, and white relationships, Dumont broadens our insights into the nature of historical and modern conflicts. She traces her ancestral relations to Gabriel Dumont and synthesizes her family’s history with Métis history, creating a richer and more accurate context for making sense of this defining aspect of our history.

The poet interweaves the Métis arts of beading, fiddling, and dancing into this compelling read of a world we all need to value and comprehend more profoundly.

Playing the White Man’s Game

Don Marks

Playing the White Man’s Game expands on They Call Me Chief (2008), with its stories of Indigenous athletes who overcame obstacles to star in the National Hockey League. This volume includes the extraordinary careers of Native American athletes who rose to the peak of the NFL, CFL, PGA, Olympic Games, NHL, and professional wrestling leagues. The author balances exploits of “forgotten Americans” – both in competition, and in preserving Indigenous history, culture, and lifestyle with pride and dignity off the field – with discussions of the use of “mascots” and Indigenous nicknames for professional sports teams. He also discusses the importance of the tradition of the Bone Game, and its contribution toward stabilizing Indigenous society. A combination of statistics, anecdotes, and trivia highlight significant Indigenous accomplishments that we too often overlook.
Price Paid: The Fight for First Nations Survival
Bev Sellars (Xat’sull First Nation)

Price Paid began as a presentation the author would give to treaty makers and politicians who did not understand why they were negotiating First Nations rights. It first examines the contributions First Nations peoples have made to the world, including food and medicine. It then goes on to discuss the effects of racist laws on First Nations people and how and why the movement for Indigenous land and resource rights began. Price Paid is told through the lens of Sellars’s personal and family history.

Bev Sellars is the author of They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School, which was the 2014 winner of the George Ryga Award for Social Justice in Literature and was a finalist for the 2014 Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize. Sellars was chief of the Xat’sull First Nations in Williams Lake, BC from 1987 to 1993 and from 2009 to 2015.

Read, Listen, Tell: Indigenous Stories from Turtle Island
Sophie McCall, Deanna Reder (Métis), David Gaertner, and Gabrielle L’Hirondelle Hill (Métis), eds.

Featuring prominent Indigenous authors such as Richard Van Camp, Jeannette Armstrong, Sherman Alexie, and Thomas King, this anthology of short stories brings together works by Indigenous storytellers, authors, and critics from throughout Turtle Island (North America). To encourage a practice of critical reading, an intellectual discourse prefaces each story, demonstrating ways students can approach the story through Indigenous ways of knowing – with the understanding that there is not just one way to interpret a story. Unlike in “Western realist short stories,” Indigenous writers move fluidly between supernatural, historical, theoretical, and personal themes, so categorizing Indigenous stories by genre devalues them. This would be a good complement to any literature study.

A Really Good Brown Girl: Brick Book Classics 4
Marilyn Dumont (Métis)

This new edition of the widely acclaimed and award-winning first book by Marilyn Dumont includes a new afterword by the poet and an introduction by Stó:lō writer Lee Maracle.

The book contains three sections, with the first one, “Squaw Poems,” blasting open the truth about Indigenous life in a racist Canadian world. Love poems predominate in “What More Than Dance,” as the poet considers family and loved ones. “White Noise” considers racism from unlikely sources, including from those First Nations people who consider themselves more “Indian” than Métis. In the fourth section, “Made of Water,” the poet explores the direct effects of family and others.

These poems are artful, moving, precise – and still very relevant as we try to heal and make sense of the humanity of the Other in Canadian communities.
Reckoning
Tara Beagan (Ntlaka’pamux) and Andy Moro (Cree)
These three performance pieces take an unsentimental look at how the fallout from the tragedy of residential schools in Canada has a profound effect on so many Canadians.
Witness is a detailed set of notes for a dance piece that represents how an officer of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission reacts to the suffering in residential schools of generations of First Nations children. Explicit guidelines from the commission show what happens when a government bureaucracy tries to quantify abuse details and minimize legal exposure. Daughter is a twisted seduction and interaction between a survivor of a residential school and the daughter of the teacher he accused of rape. In Survivor, a residential school survivor prepares a video to be broadcast as a public spectacle to reveal the serious inadequacies of the reconciliation process through his commentary and suicide.
Caution: explicit language and representation of sexual and physical abuse.

Sounding Thunder: The Stories of Francis Pegahmagabow
Brian McInnes (Ojibway)
Employing Ojibwe language with English translations, this book presents the personal story of Francis Pegahmagabow’s life in the context of a time of transition for the Ojibwe language and the Nishnaabe people.
Among the last generation to grow up without significant influence from the cultural expectations of settlers, he served in WWI, becoming the most decorated Canadian Indigenous soldier and the most skilled sniper in North American military history. As a political activist and Indigenous rights leader in Canada, he became Supreme Chief of the National Indian Government, working toward self-government.
The author, Pegahmagabow’s great-grandson, interjects chapters of his own between the stories, providing context and additional insights. The resulting portrait is of a gentle man who fought for what was central to his life and to his people, because he could not do otherwise.

Take Us to Your Chief: And Other Stories
Drew Hayden Taylor (Ojibway)
This collection of nine short stories combines 1950s-era science fiction with First Nations perspectives, and includes stories on alien invasion, government conspiracies, and time travel. These stories mirror the encounters First Nations people had with the arrival of Europeans in North America, as well as the modern struggles First Nations people experience.
Drew Hayden Taylor is the author of almost 30 books, including Motorcycles and Sweetgrass, which was nominated for the Governor General’s Award. His play, In a World Created by a Drunken God, was also nominated for a Governor General’s Award. Take Us to Your Chief: And Other Stories was shortlisted for the Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour.
Caution: occasional use of profanity.
Talking to the Diaspora
Lee Maracle (Stó:lo)

This book’s format and layout of visual poetry, with black text on white pages and white text on black, is as unique as the content is compelling. Noted Stó:lo activist, poet, and essayist Maracle considers the Indigenous and white worlds through inclusive and original eyes.

Through long and short-form poems, readers take a varied walk through regrets, loves, losses, connections, and responses to the human and natural world – ones that invite and challenge us at the same time.

The title poem defines all non-Indigenous people as part of some diaspora. With subjects as varied as Martin Luther King, the Oka crisis, 9/11, Gaza injustices, the Montreal Massacre, Vancouver history, as well as personal and Indigenous losses, the poet shows us our shared humanity and responsibilities.

This moving work will transform all who devote time and attention to it and who want to see healing in all realms of modern life.

Tekahionwake: E. Pauline Johnson’s Writings on Native North America
Margery Fee and Dory Nason, eds.

Tekahionwake collects a wide range of Pauline Johnson’s poetry, fiction, and nonfiction on the Indigenous issues of her time, and on her own Indigenous identity. Arranged in thematic sections, some of the subject matter is historical, but much (“Residential School” and “Women and Children”) is still of current interest. A representative selection of her prose includes fiction on Indigenous-settler relations, journalism related to women and recreation, and discussions of gender roles and racial stereotypes. Through a series of appendices, the book documents her public life and her work as a feminist and activist for Indigenous people, and places it within a historical context.

Totem Poles and Railroads
Janet McDonald (Mohawk/Tuscarora)

This book of visual poetry uses black and white pages and fonts and varied font sizes to present an exploration of the historical relationship between First Nations and white Canada. In poems that would also work powerfully as performance pieces Rogers offers startling and revealing insight into the limitations of the white Canadian worldview. She often uses short, choppy lines that emphasize sound, pulling the reader along in a unique experience of each poem. In juxtaposing the historical, cultural, and contemporary, she calls readers to action, self-awareness, and understanding.

One of the most powerful poems tells the story of a young Indigenous woman who is captured, sold, enslaved, forced to live away from her people. Her fractured sense of self speaks to all who have been colonized by invaders – whether military, cultural, or corporate.

Rogers is a past Poet Laureate of Victoria, BC.

Ma-Nee Chacaby (Ojibway, Cree) with Mary Louisa Plummer

In this heart-wrenching work, Chacaby shares fond memories of a traditional childhood and being raised by her loving grandmother, yet wonders if she would have been better off going to a residential school. After experiencing sexual and physical abuse, alcohol addiction, single parenting, homelessness, and tuberculosis, Chacaby becomes an addictions counselor. An exceptional community member, Chacaby fosters dozens of teens and cares for her family before coming to terms with being a lesbian. Declared legally blind at age 50, she gives up her cherished career. Regardless of hardships, Chacaby blossoms into a revered, two-spirit Elder in her Anishinaabe community. Her memoir reveals unprecedented insights into the challenges faced by many Indigenous people. Includes a glossary of Ojibwe words.

Caution: physical and sexual violence.

Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-Up Call

Arthur Manuel (Secwepemc) and Grand Chief Ronald M. Derrickson (Okanagan – Westbank First Nation)

Unsettling Canada, with a foreword by Naomi Klein, outlines the personal struggles of Manuel and Derrickson to bring about an end to the racist and colonial treatment of First Nations peoples by government. Told through the eyes of Manuel, the narrative begins with the infamous 1969 White Paper and ends with the 2014 Tsilhqot’in decision by the Supreme Court of Canada that recognized Indigenous land title. Both men have aided tremendously in the advancement of Indigenous rights and have worked on both the national and international stage to bring about change – not just locally, but worldwide. Working together, these formidable men have developed a plan for a sustainable Indigenous economy. Winner of the 2016 Canadian Historical Association Aboriginal History Book Prize.


Visiting with the Ancestors: Blackfoot Shirts in Museum Spaces

Laura Peers and Alison K. Brown

“Each shirt has stories to tell.” In 1941, Sir George Simpson and Edward Hopkins (HBC officers) acquired five hairlock shirts, sacred to Blackfoot people, eventually giving them to Oxford University. Years later, Blackfoot ceremonial leaders requested the return of the shirts (and their spirits). Many had heard of these shirts, but had never seen them. This book shares the transformative process of the shirts’ “visit” in Spring 2012 and the powerful “handling sessions” where, prior to museum exhibitions in Alberta, hundreds of Blackfoot people touched the shirts, which are made of animal skins and decorated with porcupine quills, glass beads, and hair. The book includes Blackfoot history, origin stories, art, challenges faced while falling from their traditional ways, and “the rippling effect” of the shirts in Blackfoot communities. Brown is an anthropologist at the University of Aberdeen.
Will I See?
David A. Robertson (Métis) with Iskwé and Erin Leslie • GMB Chomichuk, illus.

Will I See? is a dark graphic novel, addressing the topic of violence against Indigenous women. A teenage girl finds unique and meaningful trinkets that have been left by missing and murdered Indigenous girls and women. With her grandmother’s help she makes a necklace of the found items; during her own trials she finds strength through the previous owners.

The illustrator’s gritty black-and-white images underline the story’s elements of magical realism. Although the artist never clearly depicts the real-life monsters in the book, they are terrifying because readers know that they do actually exist. Sparingly used, the colour red provides impact throughout the greyscale pages. The images can be disturbing.

David Alexander Robertson won the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer in 2015 and has created several bestselling graphic novels, including the 7 Generations series.

The Winona LaDuke Chronicles:
Stories from the Front Lines in the Battle for Environmental Justice

Winona LaDuke (Ojibwe)

Using current statistics, interviews, and quotes from Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders, LaDuke covers many topics: the extreme impacts of non-renewable and renewable resource development on Indigenous lands and peoples; Western colonization and genocide; violence against women; and political activism. She elaborates by examining the impact of chemical trains and cars, the loss of Indigenous food and of farms, and renaming geographic features. LaDuke raises important points – how a country’s GNP does not measure the quality of people’s health, environment, or education, citing how “we have created a linear society to which one of our largest industries is waste?” This riveting collection of thought-provoking writings would be an excellent resource for Social Justice classes and Science research projects.

Witness, I Am

Gregory Scofield (Métis, Cree)

Métis poet Gregory Scofield’s newest book of topical and powerful poems contains three sections. “Muskrat Woman” is the poetic retelling and updating of a sacred Cree story that integrates the tragedies of missing and murdered Indigenous women. “Ghost Dance” includes autobiographical and current events in moving and heartbreaking ways. In the last section, “Dangerous Sound”, an incredible sequence of poems asserts the poet’s right to be – not one, not the other – but just what he is.

In this, his eighth book of poems, Scofield, whose debut collection won the Dorothy Livesay Prize, furthers his place of prominence in modern Canadian poetry and brings readers along in developing an understanding of First Nations, Métis, and white culture.

Caution: explicit coarse and sexual language.
Blackfoot Dictionary of Stems, Roots and Affixes: Third Edition
Donald G. Frantz and Norma Jean Russell (Blackfoot)

Blackfoot Grammar: Third Edition
Donald G. Frantz

These comprehensive reference works on Blackfoot, an Algonquian language spoken in parts of Alberta and Montana, will appeal to beginning learners of the language and to experts in the field. The author recommends reading Blackfoot Grammar before consulting the Dictionary. The early chapters of Grammar provide an overview of the principles of the language, but readers will require a basic understanding of linguistics in order to follow the later chapters. Grammar contains language exercises for checking comprehension (no answer key provided). These texts could be used for a study of how the Blackfoot language reflects a particular worldview.

Literary Land Claims: The “Indian Land Question” from Pontiac’s War to Attawapiskat
Margery Fee

This book, part of the Indigenous Studies series, investigates the ways in which Indigenous land claims have been included, both explicitly and implicitly, in literary works—written and oral—over the past three centuries. This extensive study cites the works, contributions, and viewpoints of John Richardson, Louis Riel, E. Pauline Johnson/Tekahionwake, Archibald Belaney/Grey Owl, and Harry Robinson, narrating and assessing these texts in terms of their conveyance of Indigenous land claims from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Twentieth and 21st centuries Indigenous literary contributions from various genres (novels, poems, essays, and oral performances) on this pivotal topic supplement the earlier writings. Selections in this book challenge, confront, and demonstrate the refutability of presumptions and assumptions in both settler/colonial attitudes and actions related to Indigenous land claims.
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