

Reading for Reconciliation

This is a list of suggested fiction, poetry and non-fiction books on First Nations topics. The focus is on books that are written by Indigenous authors, but the list also includes some non-Aboriginal contributors writing about issues relevant to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's process. Many books have a B.C. focus, and most are available in the Vancouver Island Regional Library system. The list is far from complete, and should be considered a work in progress.

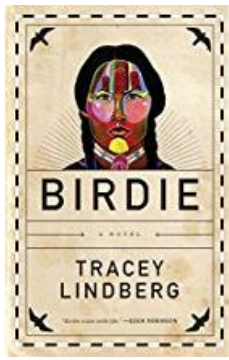
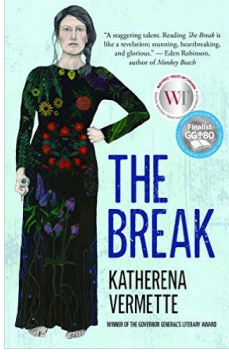
Some of the authors represented have several books which are all worthy of being included. However in the interests of keeping the list manageable, in most cases only one book by each author is featured. If you discover an author on this list whose work speaks to you, consider seeking out other books they have written.

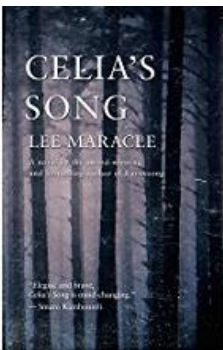
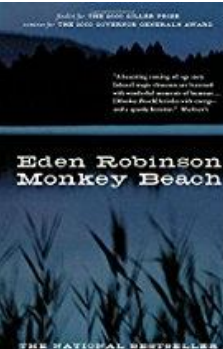
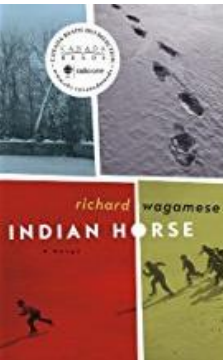
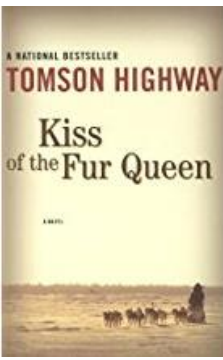
Every effort has been made to ensure that the books on this list represent authentic First Nations voices and/or points of view. As such, most titles have been cross-referenced from multiple sources to ensure that they are genuinely well-regarded in the Indigenous community.

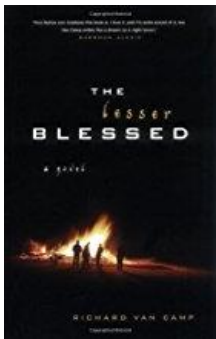
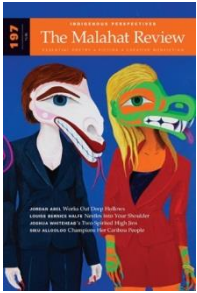
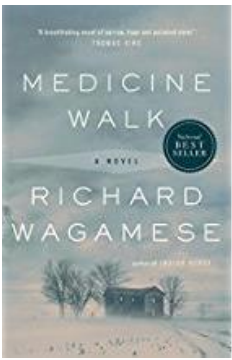
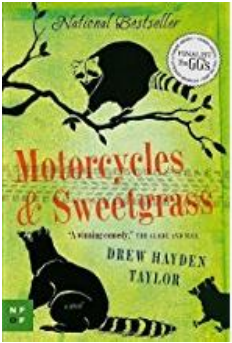
Books can be windows into other cultures, and they can be doors. Through the act of reading we engage our imagination and open our minds. We learn, but we also dream. We hope that you find something on this list that will inspire you, challenge you, move you, and help to guide you on your own personal path of Truth and Reconciliation.

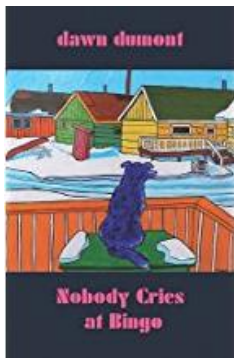
We are all treaty people.
Huy ch q'u siem

Fiction

	<i>Birdie</i> by Tracy Lindberg, 2015 <i>Birdie</i> is a darkly comic and moving first novel about the universal experience of recovering from wounds of the past, informed by the lore and knowledge of Cree traditions. Part road trip, part dream quest, part travelogue, the novel touches on the universality of women's experience, regardless of culture or race. Tracey Lindberg is a citizen of As'in'i'wa'chi Ni'Yaw Nation Rocky Mountain Cree and hails from the Kelly Lake Cree Nation community. She is an award-winning writer for her academic work and teaches Indigenous studies and Indigenous laws at two universities in Canada. • Shortlisted for Canada Reads 2016 • Selected for the <i>National Post's</i> 99 Best Books of 2015 • Selected for CBC's Best Books of 2015 • Shortlisted for Alberta Reader's Choice Award
	<i>The Break</i> by Katherena Vermette, 2016 <i>The Break</i> is a critically acclaimed novel set in Winnipeg's gritty North End. A series of shifting narratives exposes a larger, more comprehensive story about the lives of an extended Indigenous family. A powerful intergenerational saga. Katherena Vermette is a Métis writer from Treaty One territory, the heart of the Métis nation, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Her first book, <i>North End Love Songs</i> won the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry. • Longlisted for Canada Reads 2017 • Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize Finalist, 2016 • Governor General's Literary Award Finalist, 2016

	<i>Celia's Song</i> by Lee Maracle, 2014 <i>Celia's Song</i> relates one Nuu'Chahlnuth family's harrowing experiences over several generations, after the brutality, interference, and neglect resulting from contact with Europeans. Lee Maracle is a member of the Sto:Lo nation. She was born in Vancouver and grew up on the North Shore, and is the author of the critically acclaimed novels <i>Ravensong</i> and <i>Daughters Are Forever</i>. • Longlisted for Canada Reads 2015 • Shortlisted for the ReLit Award 2015 • A CTV Ottawa Best Reads of the Season 2014
	<i>Monkey Beach</i> by Eden Robinson, 2011 <i>Monkey Beach</i> combines both joy and tragedy in a harrowing yet restrained story of grief and survival, and of a family on the edge of heartbreak. In the first English-language novel to be published by a Haisla writer, Eden Robinson offers a rich celebration of life in the Native settlement of Kitamaat, on the coast of British Columbia. Eden Robinson grew up with her older brother and younger sister in Haisla territory near Kitamaat Village, and has become one of Canada's first female Native writers to gain international attention. • Nominated for the Scotiabank Giller Prize 2000 • Nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award 2000 • Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize Winner 2001
	<i>Indian Horse: A Novel</i> by Richard Wagamese, 2012 <i>Indian Horse</i> unfolds against the bleak loveliness of northern Ontario. Richard Wagamese writes with a spare beauty, sharing the story of Saul Indian Horse as he reflects on the sorrows and joys he has experienced in his life as a northern Ojibway. Richard Wagamese is Ojibway from the Wabaseemoong First Nation in Ontario. A member of the Sturgeon Clan, he is one of Canada's foremost authors and journalists. • Canada Reads People's Choice Award 2013 • A Globe and Mail top 100 book of 2012 • First Nations Communities Read Selection 2013-2014 • CODE's Burt Award for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Literature 2013
	<i>Kiss of the Fur Queen</i> by Tomson Highway, 1998 <i>Kiss of the Fur Queen</i> infuses stark realism with the magic of Cree culture and blends tragedy with raucous comedy. Estranged from their own people and alienated from the culture imposed upon them, the Okimasis brothers fight to survive. Wherever they go, the Fur Queen—a wily, shape-shifting trickster—watches over them with a protective eye. Tomson Highway is a Cree playwright and author who holds seven honorary doctorates and has taught and performed at universities across North America and Europe. • Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award Finalist 1998 • Nominated for Canadian Booksellers Association Libris Award 1998

	<i>The Lesser Blessed</i> by Richard Van Camp, 1996 <i>The Lesser Blessed</i> is a bestselling novel about coming of age in Canada's North. Now also an acclaimed film, this cult classic tracks the exploits of Larry Sole, a Dogrib teenager living in the small Northern town of Fort Simmer. Richard Van Camp was born in Fort Smith, NWT, and is a member of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Dene Nation. An internationally renowned bestselling author, he was awarded Storyteller of the Year for both Canada and the US by the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers. • Included in CBC's list of 100 novels that make you proud to be Canadian
	<i>The Malahat Review</i> Indigenous Perspectives Issue (#197) <i>The Malahat Review</i> is one of Canada's leading literary journals. Published quarterly, it features contemporary Canadian and international works of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction as well as reviews of recently published Canadian poetry, fiction, and literary nonfiction. The full table of contents for the Indigenous Perspectives issue is available online at http://web.uvic.ca/malahat/issues/197.html. Featured writers include Jordan Abel, Lisa Bird-Wilson, Louise Bernice Halfe, Janet Rogers, Troy Sebastian, Shannon Webb-Campbell, Joshua Whitehead, Alicia Elliott, and many more.
	<i>Legacy</i> by Waubgeshig Rice, 2014 Set in the 1990s, <i>Legacy</i> deals with violence against a young Indigenous woman and its lingering aftershocks on an Anishnawbe family in Ontario. Its themes of injustice, privilege and those denied it, reconciliation and revenge, are as timely as today's headlines. Waubgeshig Rice is an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation, whose collection of stories; <i>Midnight Sweatlodge</i> was the Gold Medal Winner of the Independent Publisher Book Awards, 2012 for Adult Multicultural Fiction.
	<i>Medicine Walk: A Novel</i> by Richard Wagamese, 2014 <i>Medicine Walk</i> is simultaneously a journey through the rugged and beautiful backcountry, and a journey into the past. It relates the journey of 16-year-old Franklin Starlight as he brings his dying, alcoholic father Eldon back to the land. A novel about love, family, courage, and the idea that the land has within it powers of healing. Richard Wagamese is Ojibway from the Wabaseemoong First Nation in Ontario. A member of the Sturgeon Clan, he is one of Canada's foremost authors and journalists. • Evergreen Award Winner 2015 • Won the Writer's Trust Matt Cohen Award in 2015 for his body of work
	<i>Motorcycles & Sweetgrass</i> by Drew Hayden Taylor, 2010 In Ojibway mythology, Nanabush is a mischievous trickster, shapeshifter, and cultural hero. Drew Hayden Taylor uses this figure and his manic spirit to bring a modern twist to ancient native folklore. <i>Motorcycles and Sweetgrass</i> is a charming story about the importance of balance and belief—and a little bit of magic—in everyone's life. Drew Hayden Taylor is an Ojibway from the Curve Lake First Nations. He has been an award-winning playwright, journalist/columnist, short-story writer, novelist and scriptwriter. • First Nations Communities Read Finalist 2013-2014



Nobody Cries at Bingo by Dawn Dumont, 2011

In ***Nobody Cries At Bingo***, the narrator invites the reader to witness family life on the Okanese First Nation first hand. It's all here—life on the Rez in rich technicolour—as Dawn emerges from home life, through school life, and into the promise of a great future. This book embraces cultural differences and does it with the great traditional medicine of laughter.

Dawn Dumont is a Plains Cree comedian and actress born and raised in Saskatchewan. She is a member of the Okanese First Nation.

- First Nations Communities Read Shortlisted 2013-2014
- Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Award Shortlisted 2012
- Alberta Readers Choice Award Shortlisted 2012

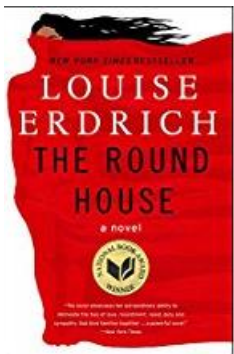


Red Rooms by Cherie Dimaline, 2007

Red Rooms is a collection of stories articulating the lives of the Native patrons of an urban hotel as seen through the eyes of the hotel's cleaning lady. The characters face the crises in their lives in ways that are easily identifiable and not uncommon to Indigenous people.

Cherie Dimaline is an author and editor from the Georgian Bay Métis community. She has written several novels, was named the 2014 Emerging Artist of the Year—Ontario Premier's Award, and was also the first Writer in Residence—Aboriginal Literature for the Toronto Public Library.

- Anskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival and Book Awards, Fiction Winner, 2007

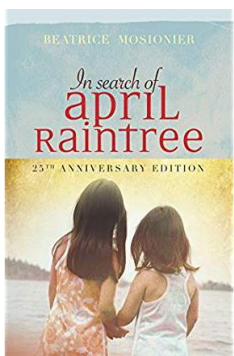


The Round House: A Novel by Louise Erdrich, 2012

Louise Erdrich returns to the territory of her bestselling, Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Plague of Doves* with ***The Round House***, transporting readers to the Ojibwe reservation in North Dakota. A page-turning masterpiece of literary fiction—at once a powerful coming-of-age story, a mystery, and a tender, moving novel of family, history, and culture.

Louise Erdrich is the author of fifteen novels as well as volumes of poetry, children's books, short stories, and a memoir. She has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and received the Library of Congress Prize in American Fiction, the PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

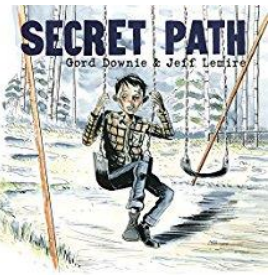
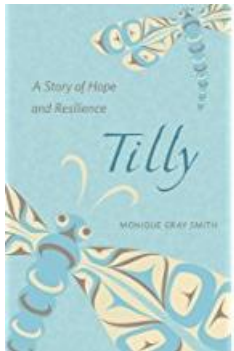
- National Book Award for Fiction Winner 2012
- Minnesota Book Awards for Novel and Short Story Winner 2013
- Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction Finalist 2013



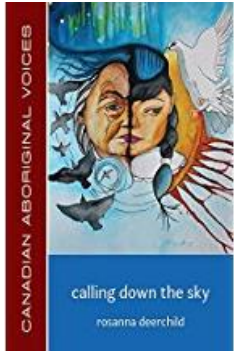
In Search of April Raintree by Beatrice Culleton Mosionier, 1999

In Search of April Raintree follows two young sisters who are taken from their home and family, separated, and each put into different foster homes. Over the years, the bond between them grows. As they each make their way in a society that is, at times, indifferent, hostile, and violent, one embraces her Métis identity, while the other tries to leave it behind. In the end, out of tragedy comes an unexpected legacy of triumph and reclamation.

Beatrice Mosionier was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba and grew up in foster homes. Following the suicides of her two sisters, Beatrice wrote *In Search of April Raintree*. First published in 1983, it launched the Manitoba literacy initiative On the Same Page in 2008.

	<i>Secret Path</i> by Gord Downie and Jeff Lemire, 2016 <i>Secret Path</i> is a digital download album combined with a graphic novel that tells the story of Chanie “Charlie” Wenjack, a twelve-year-old boy who died in flight from the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School fifty years ago. <i>Secret Path</i> acknowledges a dark part of Canada’s history—the long suppressed mistreatment of Indigenous children and families by the residential school system—with the hope of starting our country on a road to reconciliation. Proceeds from <i>Secret Path</i> will be donated to The Gord Downie Secret Path Fund for Truth and Reconciliation. Gord Downie is a Canadian musician, writer, and the lead singer and lyricist for The Tragically Hip. Jeff Lemire is an award-winning author and artist who has written and illustrated many acclaimed literary graphic novels
	<i>Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience</i> by Monique Gray Smith, 2013 Loosely based on author Monique Gray Smith's own life, <i>Tilly</i> tells the story of a young indigenous woman coming of age in the 1980s. In a spirit of hope, this revealing, important work captures the irrepressible resilience of Tilly and of Indigenous peoples everywhere. Monique Gray Smith is a mixed-heritage woman of Cree, Lakota and Scottish ancestry. She is an accomplished consultant, writer and international speaker. Monique and her family live on Lkwungen territory in Victoria, British Columbia. • Burt Award for First Nations, Metis and Inuit Literature 2014

Poetry

	<i>Burning in This Midnight Dream</i> by Louise Bernice-Halfe, 2016 <i>Burning in This Midnight Dream</i> is a collection of fearlessly wrought verse—the poet’s response to the grim tide of emotions, memories, dreams and nightmares that arose in her as the Truth and Reconciliation process unfolded. Halfe describes how the experience of the residential schools continues to haunt those who survive, and how the effects pass like a virus from one generation to the next. She asks us to consider the damage done to children taken from their families, to families mourning their children; damage done to entire communities and to ancient cultures. Louise Bernice-Halfe is an award-winning poet who was born in Two Hills, Alberta, and was raised on the Saddle Lake Reserve. Her Cree name is Sky Dancer. She currently works with Elders in an organized called Opikinawasowin ("raising our children").
	<i>Calling Down the Sky</i> by Rosanna Deerchild, 2015 <i>Calling Down the Sky</i> is a poetry collection that describes deep personal experiences and post generational effects of the Canadian Aboriginal Residential School confinements in the 1950s when thousands of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were placed in these schools against their parents' wishes. Rosanna Deerchild is the host of "Unreserved" on CBC Radio One. She is an award-winning Cree author and has worked for a variety of Indigenous newspapers and for major networks for almost 15 years, including APTN, CBC Radio, and Global. She lives in South Indian Lake, Manitoba.



The Pemmican Eaters by Marilyn Dumont, 2015

The Pemmican Eaters combines free verse and metered poems to recreate a palpable sense of the Riel Resistance period and evoke the geographical, linguistic/cultural, and political situation of Batoche during this time through the eyes of those who experienced the battles, as well as through the eyes of Gabriel and Madeleine Dumont and Louis Riel. Winner of the 2016 Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry.

Marilyn Dumont has won provincial and national awards for her work. She has been the writer-in-residence at five Canadian universities and the Edmonton Public Library as well as an advisor in the Aboriginal Emerging Writers Program at the Banff Centre.

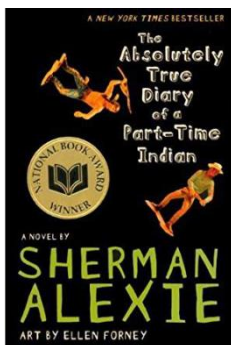


Witness, I am by Gregory Scofield, 2016

Witness, I am is divided into three sections: "Dangerous Sound" contains contemporary themed poems about identity and belonging; "Muskrat Woman" is a breathtaking epic poem that considers the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women through the reimagining of a sacred Cree creation story; "Ghost Dance" is an autobiographical tapestry. Winner of Latner Writers' Trust Poetry Prize, awarded to a mid-career poet in recognition of a remarkable body of work.

Gregory Scofield is Red River Metis of Cree, Scottish, and European descent whose ancestry can be traced to the fur trade and the Metis community of Kinesota, Manitoba. He won the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize in 1994 for his debut collection, *The Gathering: Stones for the Medicine Wheel*, and has since published six volumes of poetry as well as a memoir, *Thunder Through My Veins*.

Young Adult



The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie, 2007

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, this book chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live.

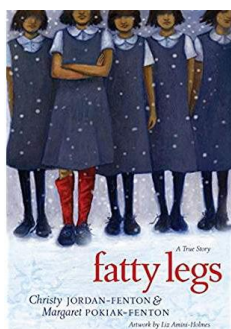
Sherman Alexie is a National Book Award-winning author, poet, and filmmaker. He is one of the most well known and beloved literary writers of his generation, and has received numerous awards and citations, including the PEN/Malamud Award for Fiction and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award.



Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story by David Alexander Robertson, 2015

Betty tells the story of Helen Betty Osborne. Betty dreamed of becoming a teacher, leaving home to attend residential school then later moving to The Pas, Manitoba, to attend high school. On November 13, 1971, Betty was abducted and brutally murdered by four young men. Initially met with silence and indifference, her tragic murder resonates loudly today. Betty represents one of almost 1,200 Indigenous women in Canada who have been murdered or gone missing.

David Alexander Robertson is an award-winning graphic novelist and writer who has long been an advocate for educating youth on Indigenous history and contemporary issues.

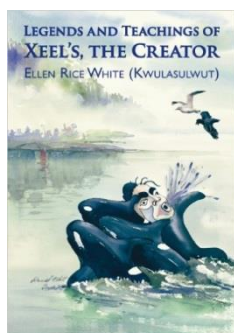


Fatty Legs by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, 2010

Fatty Legs is the moving memoir of an Inuit girl who emerges from a residential school with her spirit intact. Aimed at middle school students, this book is critically acclaimed and has garnered far too many accolades and awards to list here. The story of a brave young girl who ultimately gives a bully a lesson in the power of human dignity.

Christy Jordan-Fenton lives near Fort St. John, British Columbia. Margaret Pokiak-Fenton is her mother-in-law.

Margaret Pokiak-Fenton spent her early years on Banks Island in the Arctic Ocean. She now lives in Fort St. John.

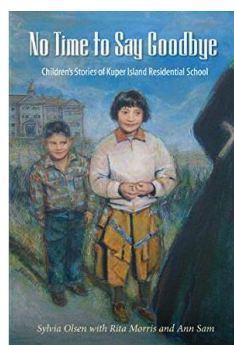


Legends and Teachings of Xeel's, the Creator by Ellen White

Modern problems are addressed through the lens of traditional tales—how a mother can help her baby survive and thrive; how a community can prevent pre-teens from becoming angry and rebellious; how people from different cultures can learn to respect one another and celebrate differences; how a young man can learn to take responsibility for the children he has fathered.

Ellen White, whose Coast Salish name is Kwulasulwut (“Many Stars”), is an Elder of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. She has touched many lives in her decades as a teacher, storyteller, dancer, drummer, healer, and political activist. She spent many years as Elder-in-Residence at VIU and has been named to the Order of BC.

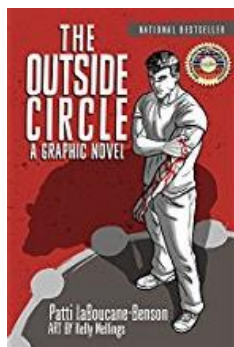
Daniel Elliott is an artist from the Shts’uminus First Nation who also works as an Aboriginal Education assistant in Nanaimo public schools.



No Time to Say Goodbye: Children's Stories of Kuper Island Residential School by Sylvia Olsen, Rita Morris, and Ann Sam, 2001

No Time to Say Goodbye is a fictional account of five children sent to residential school, based on the recollections of a number of Tsartlip First Nations people. These unforgettable children are taken by government agents from Tsartlip Day School to live at Kuper Island Residential School. Sometimes sad, sometimes funny, always engrossing, *No Time to Say Goodbye* is a story that readers of all ages won't soon forget.

Sylvia Olsen is the author of many books and usually writes for children and young adults about the place between cultures where Canada's First Nations and settlers come together.



The Outside Circle: A Graphic Novel by Patti LaBoucane-Benson, 2015

The Outside Circle follows two Aboriginal brothers surrounded by poverty, drug abuse, and gang violence, who try to overcome centuries of historic trauma in very different ways to bring about positive change in their lives. Powerful, courageous, and deeply moving, this graphic novel is drawn from the author's twenty years of work and research on healing and reconciliation of gang-affiliated or incarcerated Aboriginal men. Winner, CODE's 2016 Burt Award for First Nation, Inuit and Métis Literature.

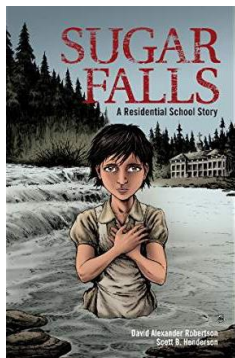
Patti LaBoucane-Benson is a Métis woman and the Director of Research, Training, and Communication at Native Counselling Services of Alberta (NCSA). She has a Ph.D. in Human Ecology, focusing on Aboriginal Family Resilience.



Slash by Jeannette Armstrong, 2007

Slash poignantly traces the struggles, pain and alienation of a young Okanagan man who searches for truth and meaning in his life. Recognized as an important work of literature, *Slash* is frequently used in high schools, colleges, and universities. “A deeply felt novel about racism and the plight of aboriginal peoples, both in Canada and the rest of the world.” —*Globe and Mail*.

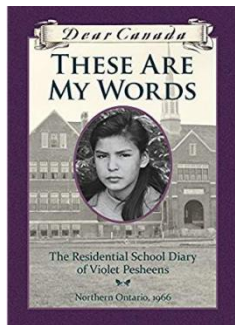
Jeannette Armstrong is a professor of Indigenous Studies and a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Philosophy. A dedicated spokesperson for Indigenous peoples' rights, the award-winning writer and activist, novelist, and poet has always sought to change deeply biased misconceptions of Aboriginal people.



Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story by David Alexander Robertson, 2011

Sugar Falls is based on the true story of Betty Ross from the Cross Lake First Nation. This graphic novel does an excellent job of representing the residential school experience for middle school students. The outcome for Betty, the survivor, is contrasted with the outcome for her friend Flora, who is drowned while attempting to leave the school.

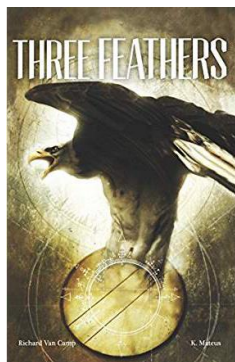
David Alexander Robertson is an award-winning graphic novelist and writer who has long been an advocate for educating youth on indigenous history and contemporary issues.



These Are My Words: The Residential School Diary of Violet Pesheens by Ruby Slipperjack, 2016

These Are My Words is the Dear Canada diary of Violet Pesheens, who is struggling to adjust to her new life at residential school. She misses her Grandma; she has run-ins with Cree girls; at her "white" school, everyone just stares; and everything she brought has been taken from her, including her name—she is now just a number. But worst of all, she has a fear of forgetting the things she treasures most: her Anishnabe language; the names of those she knew before; and her traditional customs—a fear of forgetting who she was.

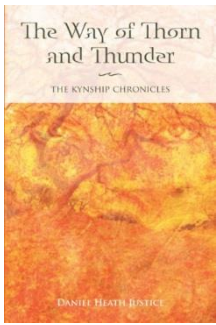
Ruby Slipperjack was born in Whitewater Lake, Ontario. She learned traditional stories and crafts from her family. In the 1960s she attended a Residential School in northern Ontario for most of a year, and later, high school in Thunder Bay.



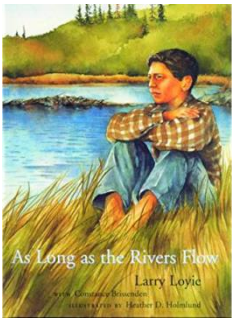
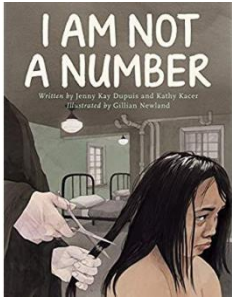
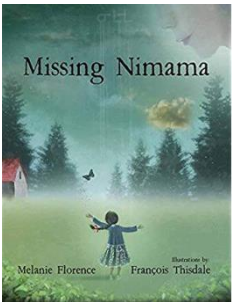
Three Feathers by Richard Van Camp

Three Feathers is a graphic novel that weaves together the stories of three young men who have committed crimes within their community. They are sent by its Elders to live nine months on the land as part of the circle sentencing process. Their time there is transformative, and they return home changed. Their experiences, and the changed relationships with the community members they have harmed, speak to the power and grace of restorative justice in First Nations communities.

Richard Van Camp was born in Fort Smith, NWT, and is a member of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Dene Nation. An internationally renowned best-selling author, he was awarded Storyteller of the Year for both Canada and the US by the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers.

	<i>The Way of Thorn and Thunder: The Kynship Chronicles</i> by Daniel Heath Justice, 2011 <i>The Way of Thorn and Thunder</i> is a series of Indigenous fantasy fiction novels which delve beyond the stereotypes of race and gender to tell a story set in a world similar to eighteenth-century eastern North America. The original trilogy—an example of green/eco-literature—is collected here in a one-volume novel. Daniel Heath Justice is a Colorado-born Canadian citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He teaches Aboriginal literatures at the University of Toronto.
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Children

	<i>As Long as the Rivers Flow</i> by Larry Loyie and Constance Brissenden, 2005 <i>As Long as the Rivers Flow</i> is a powerful first-person account of the author's last summer before he and his siblings were taken away from their family. Most of the story focuses on what was otherwise a normal season for the Cree people of that era, with the family moving from their main cabin to their summer "camp" for a few weeks. The sensitive text and expressive illustrations capture the joy and drama of a First Nations family's last summer together. Larry Loyie was born in Slave Lake, Alberta, where he spent his early years living a traditional Cree life. At the age of ten he was placed in St. Bernard's Mission residential school Grouard, Alberta. He is the author of several plays, short stories and children's stories dealing with Native traditions, literacy, and residential schools. Constance Brissenden is a freelance writer and editor. She is the author of several books of travel and history.
	<i>I Am Not a Number</i> by Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer, 2016 <i>I Am Not a Number</i> is a picture book that tells the story of the author's grandmother Irene Couchie Dupuis, who was taken to residential school in 1928. Conditions at the school are recounted through the eyes and perspective of eight-year-old Irene. But the story ends on a positive note when the Couchie children return home for summer holidays to the loving arms of their parents. This book brings the immediacy of oral history to an elementary audience. Jenny Kay Dupuis (Ojibway Anishinaabe) is a member of Nipissing First Nation. She is an educator, researcher, artist and speaker focusing on issues that relate to Indigenous education, leadership and diversity, engagement and the importance of relationship building. Kathy Kacer has won many awards for her books about the holocaust for young readers.
	<i>Missing Nimâmâ</i> by Melanie Florence, 2015 <i>Missing Nimâmâ</i> follows the life of Kateri, a young girl, growing up in the care of her grandmother. As her story unfolds, it becomes evident that her absent mother is one of Canada's murdered and missing Indigenous women. We see her reaching important milestones: her first day of school, first dance, first date, wedding, first child, along with her mother, who is always there, watching her child growing up without her. Melanie Florence is an Aboriginal writer of Cree heritage based in Toronto. She has written many books for young people on Indigenous themes. <i>Finding Nimâmâ</i>, her first picture book, has won many awards including the 2016 TD Canadian Children's Literature Award.



Orca Chief by Roy Henry Vickers and Robert Budd

Orca Chief is the third in an award-winning series of Northwest Coast legends by Roy Henry Vickers and Robert Budd. Based on a traditional tale about four hunters who head out on a canoe to harvest seaweed and salmon, the story's message is one of love and respect for all.

Roy Henry Vickers is a renowned carver, painter, printmaker and author. In 1998, Roy was appointed to the Order of British Columbia and in 2006, the Order of Canada.

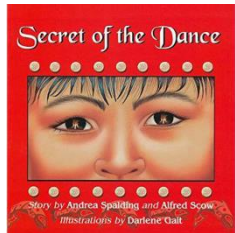
Robert (Lucky) Budd holds an MA in history and has digitized many high-profile oral history collections including that of the Nisga'a First Nation.



Salish Stories Series by Celestine Aleck

Salish Stories Series is a set of 8 short illustrated books for early readers which feature a mix of informational texts and traditional Coast Salish stories. Titles include *The Sun and the Moon*, *Mom*, *How Do You Make Smoked Fish*, and *Why Ravens and Wolves Hunt Together*.

Celestine Aleck, Sahiltiniye descends from Snuneymuxw First Nations. She has been an artist most of her life which has taught her to learn facts and then mix imagination when writing stories.

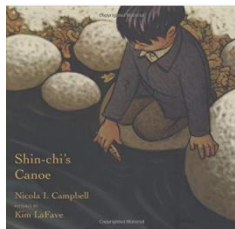


Secret of the Dance by Andrea Spalding and Alfred Scow

Secret of the Dance is a fictionalized version of a real incident in the childhood of Kwakwaka'wakw elder Alfred Scow. Alfred's family sailed from Gilford Island to isolated Kingcome Inlet to attend a forbidden potlatch. His parents forbade him to attend so he wouldn't be apprehended if they were raided by the authorities but the boy slipped from his bed to bear witness.

Alfred Scow was a hereditary chief of the Kwikwasutinuxw of the Kwakwaka'wakw people. He was the first Aboriginal person to graduate from a B.C. law school, the first Aboriginal lawyer called to the B.C. bar, and the first Aboriginal legally trained judge appointed to the B.C. Provincial Court.

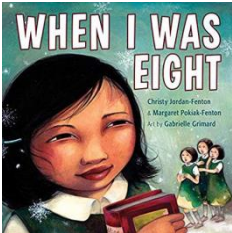
Andrea Spalding is an award-winning author based on Pender Island, BC.



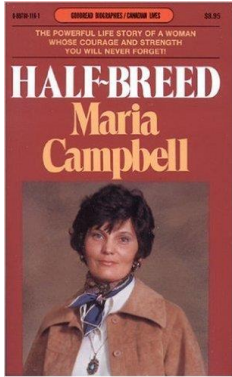
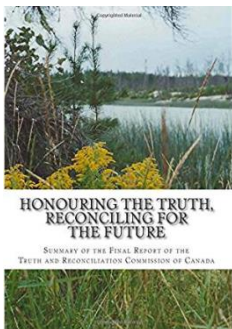
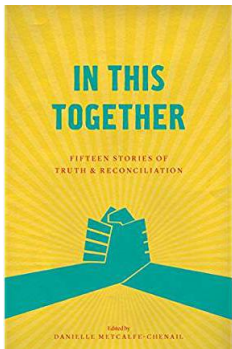
Shin-Chi's Canoe by Nicola Campbell, 2008

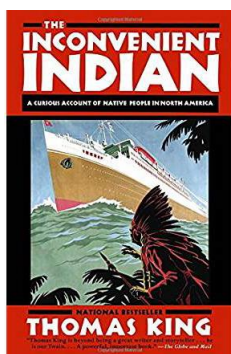
Shin-Chi's Canoe tells the story of Shi-shi-etko's younger brother Shin-chi and his experience during his first year at residential school. In this haunting and beautifully illustrated story, Shin-chi is not excited to go to school, unlike his sister Shi-shi-etko. But Shin-chi finds solace in his toy canoe, friendship, nature, and the memory of his grandfather's prayer song.

Nicola Campbell is Interior Salish and Metis, and she grew up in British Columbia's Nicola Valley. Her children's picture books based on Indigenous themes have won many awards, and *Shin-chi's Canoe* was a finalist for the Governor General's Award.

	<i>When I Was Eight</i> by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, 2013 <i>When I Was Eight</i> is an adaptation for younger readers of <i>Fatty Legs</i>, Margaret Pokiak's story about her residential school experience. At school, young Margaret perseveres in her quest to learn how to read, even when she is bullied and tormented by one of the nuns. Described as "a searing account of assimilation policies and a celebration of the human spirit" and "a powerful way to introduce the residential school experience to younger readers." Christy Jordan-Fenton lives near Fort St. John, British Columbia. Margaret Pokiak-Fenton is her mother-in-law. Margaret Pokiak-Fenton spent her early years on Banks Island in the Arctic Ocean. She now lives in Fort St. John.
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Non-Fiction

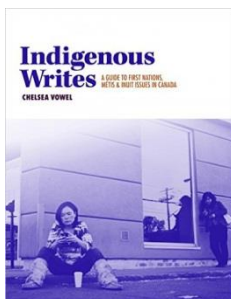
	<i>Half-Breed</i> by Maria Campbell, 1983 <i>Half-Breed</i> is the classic, groundbreaking autobiography of Maria Campbell—a strong, sensitive Metis child who lived in a community robbed of its pride and dignity by the dominant culture. At 15 she tried in vain to escape by marrying a white man, only to find herself trapped in the slums of Vancouver—addicted to drugs, tempted by suicide, close to death. But the inspiration of her Cree great-grandmother, Cheechum, gave her confidence in herself and in her people, confidence she needed to survive and to thrive. Maria Campbell was born and raised in a northern Saskatchewan Metis community. An author and community worker, her many books include <i>Achimoona</i> (1985) and <i>Stories of the Road Allowance People</i> (1995).
	<i>Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada</i>, 2015 Also available online: http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Exec_Summary_2015_05_31_web_o.pdf This book contains the Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, released in June 2015. The complete findings of the Commission are also available here: http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=890
	<i>In This Together: Fifteen Stories of Truth and Reconciliation</i> by Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail, 2016 <i>In This Together</i> addresses the vital question, "What is <i>real</i> reconciliation?" This collection of essays from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous contributors from across Canada welcomes readers into a timely, healing conversation. These reflective and personal pieces come from journalists, writers, academics, visual artists, filmmakers, city planners, and lawyers, all of whom look deeply and honestly at their own experiences and assumptions about race and racial divides in Canada in hopes that the rest of the country will do the same. Danielle Metcalfe-Chenail is Edmonton's Historian Laureate, author of <i>Polar Winds</i> and <i>For the Love of Flying</i>, and a columnist for CBC Radio Active.



The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America by Thomas King, 2013

The Inconvenient Indian is at once a “history” and the complete subversion of a history—in short, a critical and personal meditation that the remarkable Thomas King has conducted over the past 50 years about what it means to be “Indian” in North America. A sometimes inconvenient, but nonetheless indispensable account for all of us, Indian and non-Indian alike, seeking to understand how we might tell a new story for the future.

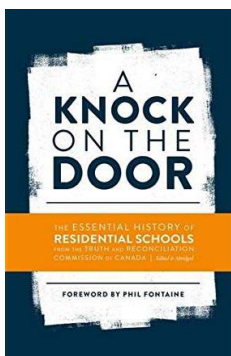
Thomas King is an award-winning novelist, short story writer, scriptwriter, and photographer. He is the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western American Literary Association (2004) and an Aboriginal Achievement Award (2003), and was made a member of the Order of Canada in 2004.



Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit issues in Canada by Chelsea Vowel

Indigenous Writes explores the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Canada. An advocate for Indigenous worldviews, the author discusses the fundamental issues and the terminology of relationships; culture and identity; myth-busting; state violence; and land, learning, law, and treaties along with wider social beliefs about these issues. She answers the questions that many people have on these topics to spark further conversations at home, in the classroom, and in the larger community.

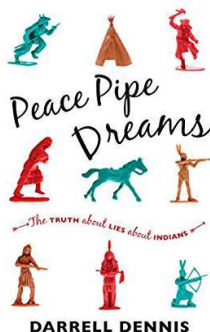
Chelsea Vowel is Métis from manitow-sâkahikan (Lac Ste. Anne) Alberta. She is a public intellectual, writer, and educator whose work intersects language, gender, Métis self-determination, and resurgence. Chelsea blogs at apihtawikosisan.com and dedicates much of her time to mentoring other young activists.



A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015

A Knock on the Door, published in collaboration with the National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, gathers material from the several reports the TRC has produced to present the essential history and legacy of residential schools in a concise and accessible package that includes new material to help inform and contextualize the journey to reconciliation that Canadians are now embarked upon.

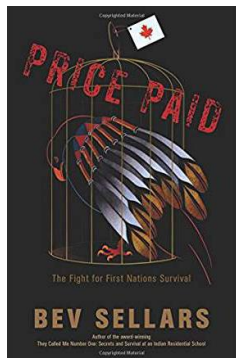
Phil Fontaine is a Survivor, TRC Honorary Witness, and former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. **Aimée Craft** is the Director of Research at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba. **The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada** was established in 2008 and led by the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair (Chair), Dr. Marie Wilson, and Chief Wilson Littlechild.



Peace Pipe Dreams: The Truth about Lies about Indians by Darrell Dennis, 2014

Employing pop culture examples, personal anecdote and a cutting wit, ***Peace Pipe Dreams*** deftly weaves history with current events to entertain, inform and provide a convincing, readable overview of First Nations issues and why they matter today.

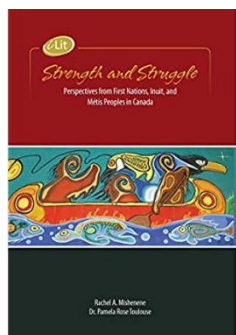
Darrell Dennis is an author, playwright, broadcaster, actor, and comedian. He is also known for his roles in two CBC TV series; Frank Fencpost on *The Rez*, and Brian Potter on *Northwood*. Dennis considers himself a stereotype-busting, politically incorrect Native American/Aboriginal/Shuswap.



Price Paid: The Fight for First Nations Survival by Bev Sellars, 2016

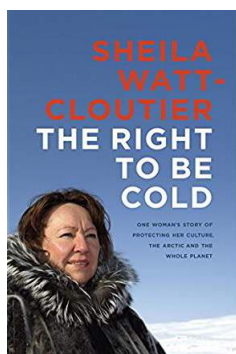
Price Paid untangles truth from some of the myths about First Nations at the same time as it addresses many misconceptions still widely believed today. Based on a popular presentation Sellars created for treaty-makers, politicians, policymakers, and educators when she discovered they did not know the historic reasons they were at the table negotiating First Nations rights, this is essentially Canadian history told from a First Nations point of view.

Bev Sellars is chief of the Xatsu'll (Soda Creek) First Nation in Williams Lake. She holds a degree in history from the University of Victoria and a law degree from the University of British Columbia. She has served as an advisor to the British Columbia Treaty Commission.



Strength and Struggle: Perspectives from First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples in Canada edited by Rachel A. Mishene and Dr. Pamela Rose Toulouse

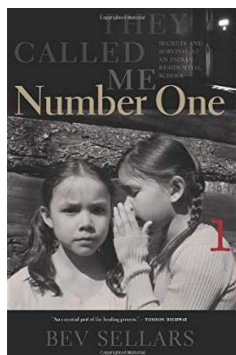
Strength and Struggle is an anthology of interviews, essays, memoirs, and various types of creative pieces (poetry, graphic journal, story) which capture the perspectives and insight of contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit artists, thinkers, jurists, and other public figures. Contributors include Joyce Atcheson, Nichola Batzel, Christi Belcourt, Chris Bose, Joseph Boyden, Gord Bruyere, Lisa Charleyboy, Cherie Dimaline, Elliott Doxtater-Wynn, Jason Eaglespeaker, Ronald Everett Green, Louise B. Halfe-Sky Dancer, Al Hunter, Lucie Idlout, Justice James Igloliorte, Xavier Kataquapit, Wab Kinew, Nadya Kwandibens, John Adrian McDonald, Deborah McGregor, Nadia McLaren, Sharron Proulx-Turner, Darryl Sainnawap, Forrest Rain Shapwaykeesic, Justice Murray Sinclair, Niigonwedom James Sinclair, Maurice Switzer, Richard Van Camp, Richard Wagamese, and Kai Zyganiuk.



The Right To Be Cold : One Woman's Story of Protecting Her Culture, the Arctic and the Whole Planet by Sheila Watt-Cloutier, 2015

The Right to Be Cold is a human story of resilience, commitment, and survival. It explores the parallels between safeguarding the Arctic and the survival of Inuit culture in the face of past, present, and future environmental degradation. Long-listed for 2017 CBC Canada Reads.

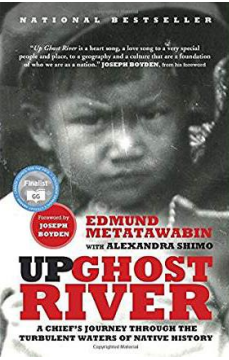
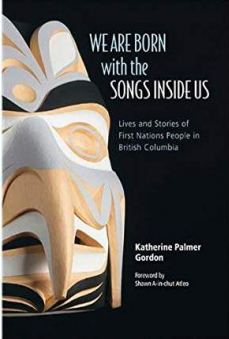
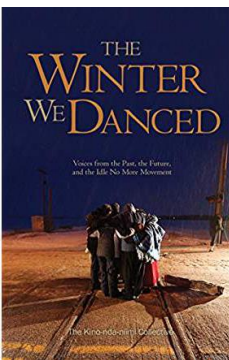
Sheila Watt-Cloutier is one of the world's most recognized environmental and human rights activists. She treats the issues of our day—the environment, the economy, foreign policy, global health, and sustainability—not as separate concerns, but as a deeply interconnected whole. In 2007, Watt-Cloutier was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her advocacy work in showing the impact global climate change has on human rights, especially in the Arctic.



They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School by Bev Sellars, 2012

Like thousands of Aboriginal children, Xatsu'll chief Bev Sellars spent part of her childhood as a student in a church-run residential school. In **They Called Me Number One**, a frank and poignant memoir of her years at St. Joseph's Mission, Sellars breaks her silence about the residential school's lasting effects on her and her family—from substance abuse to suicide attempts—and eloquently articulates her own path to healing.

Bev Sellars is chief of the Xatsu'll (Soda Creek) First Nation in Williams Lake, British Columbia. She holds a degree in history from the University of Victoria and a law degree from the University of British Columbia. She has served as an advisor to the British Columbia Treaty Commission.

	<i>Up Ghost River: A Chief's Journey Through the Turbulent Waters of Native History</i> by Edmund Metatawabin and Alexandra Shimo, 2014 <i>Up Ghost River</i> is an award-winning, powerful, and eloquent memoir about the abuse former First Nations chief Edmund Metatawabin endured in residential school in the 1960s, the resulting trauma, and the spirit he rediscovered within himself and his community through traditional spirituality and knowledge. Edmund Metatawabin, former Chief of Fort Albany First Nation, is a Cree writer, educator, and activist. A residential school survivor, he has devoted himself to righting the wrongs of the past, and educating Native youth in traditional knowledge. Alexandra Shimo is a former radio producer for the CBC and former editor at <i>Maclean's</i>.
	<i>We Are Born with the Songs Inside Us: Lives and Stories of First Nations People in British Columbia</i> by Katherine Palmer Gordon, 2013 <i>We Are Born with the Songs Inside Us</i> collects sixteen candid stories of people who share an unshakeable belief in the importance of their cultural heritage to their well-being, to their success at what they do, and to their everyday lives. Shattering stereotypes, <i>We Are Born with the Songs Inside Us</i> celebrates today's young native people who represent a bright future for Canada. Katherine Palmer Gordon is the award-winning author of several non-fiction books. With more than fifteen years' experience as a contracts lawyer and First Peoples' land claims negotiator and facilitator, she turns a spotlight on the complex and human side of Indigenous matters and related cultural issues.
	<i>The Winter We Danced: Voices From the Past, the Future, and the Idle No More Movement</i> by The Kino-nda-niimi Collective, 2014. <i>The Winter We Danced</i> is a vivid collection of writing, poetry, lyrics, art, and images from the many diverse voices that make up the past, present, and future of the Idle No More movement. Calling for pathways into healthy, just, equitable, and sustainable communities, this collection consolidates some of the most powerful, creative, and insightful moments from the winter we danced, and gestures towards next steps in an ongoing movement for justice and Indigenous self-determination. Royalties from the sale of this book are donated to the Native Youth Sexual Health Network.

Further Online Resources

The complete findings of the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** are available here:

www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=890

The findings are presented in the form of several reports (most are also available in hard copy through your local library).

- i. Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future
- ii. What We Have Learned
- iii. The Survivors Speak
- iv. The History, Part 1 - Origins to 1939
- v. The History, Part 2 - The History, Part 2 | 1939 to 2000
- vi. The Inuit and Northern Experience
- vii. The Métis Experience
- viii. Missing Children and Unmarked Burials
- ix. The Legacy
- x. Reconciliation

Speaking My Truth: Reflections on Reconciliation and Residential School and ***Reconciliation and The Way Forward*** are two collections of essays and personal reflections published by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Speaking My Truth is edited by Shelagh Rogers, Mike DeGagné, Jonathan Dewar, and Glen Lowry, and can be downloaded at www.speakingmytruth.ca.

Reconciliation and the Way Forward is edited by Shelagh Rogers, Mike DeGagné, Glen Lowry, and Sara Fryer and can be downloaded at www.legacyofhope.ca/education/ along with many other resources.