Canadian Aboriginal Books for Schools

selected & evaluated by teacher-librarians

2010•2011

Alan Syliboy | Three Red Wigwams, 2006
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Canadian Aboriginal Books for Schools
Welcome to our 2010/11 catalogue

Dear teacher-librarians, public librarians, wholesalers and retailers:

Every year the Association of Book Publishers of BC (ABPBC) works with teacher-librarians to select and annotate books from Canadian publishers that will be useful school library resources. Not only is it gratifying work to see the practical, pedagogical application of the many excellent and diverse titles published in Canada, but it is also a great pleasure to work with our team of passionate teacher-librarians. The result of our collaboration is this catalogue.

For those of you who are new to Canadian Aboriginal Books for Schools the catalogue is organized first by appropriate level: Elementary (K-7), Secondary (8-12) and Cross-Grades for those books that are appropriate at both levels. Entries are organized alphabetically by title within each section. Subject areas follow curriculum areas across the country and we also highlight specific courses where it is felt that information should be included. Grade levels, relevant bibliographical material and cautions are also included to help users make selections. Note too that the catalogue is available online at books.bc.ca under Resources for Teacher-Librarians.

Canadian Aboriginal Books for Schools and our companion catalogue, BC Books for BC Schools, now feature on their covers the work of, respectively, an Aboriginal artist and an emerging Canadian artist. This is a new tradition for us that we hope will help to bring their work to new audiences.

Yours truly,
Margaret Reynolds
Executive Director
Association of Book Publishers of BC
September 2010

Please note:
The Association of Book Publishers of BC cannot fill orders.
Please send orders to your wholesaler or local retailer or to one of our advertisers who support the production of this catalogue.

Cover artwork by Alan Syliboy
Three Red Wigwams, 2006, mixed media on canvas board

Mi’kmaw painter Alan Syliboy attended the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design from 1975-76 where he studied under Shirley Bear. Kejimkujik petroglyphs, his people’s legacy, are his inspiration. His work expresses his pride in his cultural heritage and his understanding of Mi’kmaw spiritualism. He states: “Simplicity of line and colour and uncomplicated symbolism now gives my work a cleanliness and strength.” Syliboy also works in pencil, pastels and printmaking, and has designed costumes.

This catalogue would not be possible without the project assistance of The Canada Council for the Arts and the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP) of Canadian Heritage. The ABPBC also receives essential operating funding from the Arts & Culture Division of the BC Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts.
Chuck in the City
Jordan Wheeler
Christopher Aucrter
Theytus Books

Young Chuck and his Mum move to a big city to visit Kookum (grandmother). He is curious and eager to explore. Waking early, he sets out on his own while his Mum and Kookum are still asleep. Entertained by the business of the city streets, he eventually realizes he is lost. While searching for something familiar, he notices a police car. He remembers “when in doubt you look for the police to help you out” so he climbs into the empty police car and falls asleep. All is resolved when the police return to the car, respond to a call about a missing child, and find Chuck napping in the car.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 1-3
SUBJECT AREAS: HEALTH & CAREER EDUCATION, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 32 pp. 8"x8"
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781894778817 $10.95 PA
theytus.com

A Different Game
Sylvia Olsen
Orca Book Publishers

In this Orca Young Reader and sequel to Murphy and Mousetrap, Murphy is a fair-haired Aboriginal boy facing a challenging transition from his comfortable Long Inlet Tribal School to middle school as a Grade Seven student. He and his three soccer-loving pals are all expected to make the provincial champion middle school soccer team. However, their superstar player begins playing and behaving poorly and the friends eventually learn that he has leukaemia. With the help of their devoted tribal coach, Uncle Rudy and a new middle school friend, Molly, the “Formidable Four” learn that the power of positive thinking, persistence and supportive relationships will help them through this trying time.

An extensive Teacher’s Guide is available on the publisher’s website. Olsen worked on the Tsartlip First Nations Reserve near Victoria, BC for almost 30 years. She has written several children’s and young adult novels.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 3-6
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2010 136 pp. 5"x8"
ISBN: 9781554691692 $7.95 PA
orcabook.com

Dream Catcher
Stella Calahasen
Theytus Books

Dream Catcher is the story of Marin. She dreams of the time of her forefathers but also has terrible nightmares in which she is attacked by a she-spider. Her mother and Kohkum (grandmother) plan to have her visit with an Elder, Maskwa, who performs a smudge ceremony and tells Marin the legend of the Spider Woman, a strong medicine woman. Marin learns about her culture and how to make a dream catcher. When hung above the bed it “catches” the bad dreams and lets the good dreams through. Maskwa says, “Some things are just meant to be” and Marin’s new dream catcher helps her face and conquer her fears. The author said she “was inspired to write books that would give other children an insight into the Cree people and that would retain the Cree language and culture.” That wish has been accomplished with Dream Catcher.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 3-6
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 96 pp. 5"x8"
ISBN: 9781894778923 $14.95 PA
theytus.com

The First Mosquito
Caroll Simpson
Heritage House

This dramatic tale introduces children to many of the mythological creatures of the Pacific Northwest, both good and evil. When Yex loses his spear in the forest, he decides to go looking for it, and becomes lost. His mother is sure the Bloodsucking Monster has taken him and she devises a way to rid the forest of this beast. Some of the good creatures such as Mouse Woman, Thunderbird and the Lightning Snakes help Yex find his way to the bonfire his mother has lit to attract the Monster. His mother has also used his sister Sook as bait. When the Monster tries to capture the children, their mother pushes him into the flames. He explodes into sparks of black ash that turn into mosquitoes, thus giving readers a creative and entertaining story of how this annoying insect came into being.

Simpson taught art and drama in schools.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: K-4
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2010 32 pp. 10.25"x8.25"
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781926613673 $24.95 HC
heritagehouse.ca
The Flower Beadwork People

Sherry Farrell Racette
Norman Fleury, trans.
Gabriel Dumont Institute

This book is a reissue of the original 1991 title now with a Michif language translation and updated language. Colourful illustrations detail Métis culture such as jigging, buffalo hunting and clothing styles. The book tells the story of how the Métis people came to be in Canada and how they are distinct from both First Nations and European culture. Modern Métis culture is also mentioned demonstrating how the culture continues to grow.

Important vocabulary words such as pemmican are included, as are interesting facts, such as the Métis being known as the “Burnt Wood People”. A glossary is included.

Racette is a Métis author who also wrote Better That Way. She illustrated Stories of the Road Allowance People. Fleury is a Métis storyteller who has also translated The Métis Alphabet Book (included in this catalogue) into Michif.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: K-4
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES

Hannah and the Spindle Whorl

Carol Anne Shaw
Ronsdale Press

While exploring near her home on Vancouver Island, 12-year-old Hannah stumbles across a spindle whorl, a traditional weaving tool used by the Coast Salish people. This discovery sparks Hannah’s curiosity about the local First Nations peoples. The day she is to lead researchers to the cave where she found the spindle, she finds herself mysteriously transported back in time to Tulpalus, the traditional Coast Salish settlement in Cowichan Bay. Befriending a young native girl, she is welcomed into Yisella’s village. Hannah is hesitant, yet thrilled to meet Yisella’s family and fills her diary with reflections on her adventures and experiences of the Coast Salish lifestyle and traditions. This captivating, well researched and realistic novel allows readers to witnesses a major part of BC’s history that changed the Coast Salish peoples’ lives forever.

This is Shaw’s first novel.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4-7
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES

Island Kids

Tara Saracuse
Brindle & Glass Publishing

From tsunamis to sailboats, light-houses to castles, cougars to sea monsters, island kids encounter life with courage and describe their world with humour and wisdom. The author uses her own experience moving to Victoria as a child and getting used to living on an island to inform her collection of 22 true stories told by island children from the ancient Haida to the modern day. Narratives in chronological order bring to life the experiences of children who have lived on the islands of BC’s west coast from pre-history to modern day. Each story is followed by an explanation of how much is fact and what is imagined.

Part of the Courageous Kids series. Source information and teacher resources are available at couragouskids.ca.

Caution: Some stories address Japanese internment and First Nations residential schools.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4-7
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, HEALTH & CAREER EDUCATION, SOCIAL STUDIES

Meshom and The Little One

Elaine J. Wagner
Marie-Micheline Hamelin
Theytus Books

Shawna moves to the west coast with her mother, but misses Manitoba and her grandparents. Meshom (grandfather) and Kokum (grandmother) come to celebrate her tenth birthday. Meshom brings a mysterious gift in a burlap sack. It is a small, white plaster figure representing the “Little One”, who is a trickster in Ojibway culture. Meshom instructs her to paint the figure without anyone’s help. When she is finished she names it Obi-ma, Man of Esteem. Meshom and Kokum make a return visit and bring another plaster figure that Shawna names Ogi-ma-kwe, Woman of High Esteem. The illustrations are simple, colourful and include images of the tricksters. Little mice are incorporated wielding paintbrushes and teasing a laughing cat.

Wagner is an Ojibway.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 1-4
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2006 56 pp. 8”x8”
colour illustrations
ISBN: 978894778350 $14.95 PA
theytus.com
The Métis Alphabet Book
Joseph Jean Fauchon
Sheldon Mauvieux
Norman Fleury, trans.
Gabriel Dumont Institute

Hand drawn images of Métis culture decorate this alphabet book. Written in both English and Michif, the traditional Métis language, each letter is used to describe some part of Métis culture. Some of the words used are capote, York boat, beadwork, infinity flag and Louis Riel. Although there are not enough letters to represent all parts of Métis culture, the author incorporates other cultural information under different letters, such as using N for New Nation to describe how the Métis are a blending of European and First Nations culture yet are culturally distinct.

Fauchon is a Métis teacher and Fleury is a Métis storyteller who has also translated The Flower Beadwork People (also featured in this catalogue) into Michif.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: K-2
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
2010 56 pp. 8.5"x11"
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9780920915967 $12.95 PA
gdins.org

Northern Kids
Linda Goyette
Brindle & Glass Publishing

Goyette uses her own experience living in and visiting the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon to inform her collection of true stories told by northern children from 1870 to the modern day. Narratives in chronological order bring to life experiences of northern children. Each story is followed by an explanation of how much is fact and what is imagined. Aboriginal and immigrant children share stories from mushing their sled dogs to running trap lines, escaping fires, bears and plane crashes, to entertaining miners and learning to hunt caribou.

Part of the Courageous Kids series. Teacher resources are available courageouskids.ca.

Caution: Stories address First Nations residential schools, death of family members and a dying child’s letter to his family.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4-7
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, HEALTH & CAREER EDUCATION, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/Yes
2010 144 pp. 5.5"x7.5"
b/w photographs, maps
ISBN: 9781897142493 $12.95 PA
brindleandglass.com

Shadow Riders
B.J. Bayle
Dundurn Press

This dramatic adventure story follows two brothers, one an adopted Aboriginal boy, as they join the trek of the North West Mounted Police in an effort to find the horses stolen from their family farm. Based on factual accounts of the Mounties’ first expedition into the lawless western prairies, the story explores the characters of the men involved, the hardships brought about by the lack of good information and maps, and the courage and determination of the pioneers. As they search for the missing herd, both Rob and Luke have to do some fast growing up and Luke begins to learn something of his possible heritage.

Bayle has written two other novels based on early Canadian history. Battle Cry at Batoche was a CCBC Our Choice selection. Perilous Passage was a CCBC Best Book and was nominated for the 2009 Red Maple Award.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4-7
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/Yes
2010 264 pp. 7.25"x5.25"
b/w map
ISBN: 9781554887248 $12.99 PA
dundurn.com

The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book
Gord Hill
Arsenal Pulp Press

Gord Hill, a member of the Kwakwaka’wakw nation and a self-described warrior, has written an account of indigenous Americans from 1492 to the present day in a graphic format. In four parts: Invasion, Resistance, Assimilation and Renewed Resistance it portrays indigenous peoples’ resistance to European colonization of the Americas. Included are stories of Columbus, General Custer and the Oka Conflict, as well as historical occurrences such as the wars of the Pacific Coast against the Haida, Tlingit and Tsimshian. Hill’s illustrations are evocative and dramatic. Includes an introduction by Ward Churchill, activist, scholar, leader of Colorado’s American Indian Movement.

Caution: Some coarse language is included and a murder is depicted.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 7-12
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/Yes
2010 88 pp. 7"x8.5"
b/w illustrations
ISBN: 9781551523606 $12.95 PA
arsenalpulp.com
The Chilcotin War
A Tale of Death and Reprisal
Rich Mole
Heritage House

The Chilcotin War presents the core facts of a 19th-century conflict. Colonial society is portrayed and Alfred Waddington’s new route to the Barkerville goldfields, via Bute Inlet and across the Chilcotin Plateau, circumventing the treacherous Fraser Canyon area, is described. The Chilcotin people had been weakened by the smallpox epidemic, and they were hungry. The road builders treated the Aboriginal people disrespectfully. This led to the violent episode that took place in the spring of 1864 when some Chilcotin attacked and killed 19 people. Eventually the perpetrators were captured, tried and executed in the fall of 1864. Going beyond the events that led to violence, the author explores how erroneous assumptions led to escalation from anger to mass murder.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 7-12
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2009 144 pp. 5.5"x8.5" b/w photographs, map
ISBN: 9781894974967 $9.95 PA
heritagehouse.ca

Classic Images of Canada’s First Nations
1850-1920
Edward Cavell
Heritage House

This collection of photographs compiled by former museum curator Edward Cavell is a pictorial record of Canada’s Aboriginal peoples from the 1850s through the 1920s. It presents Haida shamans of the West Coast, the interior of an igloo in a village on Hudson Bay, a prairie horse race and a Cree camp. Crowfoot, Cree, and Mi’kmaq men and women posed and in repose are captured by early photographers. We view the construction of a birch bark canoe by the Montagnais in Quebec and see the pride on the faces of a lacrosse team in 1876 Kahnawake. Each image is accompanied by a brief description of time and place, and often includes names and information that make the photographs more personal. The powerful collection of images in this slim volume is of both aesthetic and historical interest.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4-12
SUBJECT AREAS: PHOTOGRAPHY, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/No
2009 96 pp. 5.5"x8.5" b/w photographs
ISBN: 9781894974646 $12.95 PA
heritagehouse.ca

Counting on Hope
Sylvia Olsen
Sono Nis Press

This story of life in the mid-nineteenth century on the Pacific coast is told in two voices. Hope is a newly arrived English girl and Letia is a Lamalcha girl whose family’s summer camp is at the end of an island granted to Hope’s father. Miners are flocking to the Fraser River and Victoria is turning from a small Hudson’s Bay Company fort into a centre for these transients. The influx of people is unsettling for the natives. Although Hope’s and Letia’s fathers appear wise and can coexist, not everyone can. People of both races are afraid. Some white settlers have been killed. Eventually Hope’s mother convinces her husband to allow the family to move to Mayne Island where other settlers live, a move that has sad consequences. For the Lamalcha there are also sad consequences when British guns attack their winter home.

This title is a BC Book Prize Honour Book.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 6-10
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 320 pp. 6"x9" ISBN: 9781550391732 $14.95 PA
sononis.com

The Declaration of Interdependence
A Pledge for Planet Earth
Tara Cullis & David Suzuki
Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas
Greystone Books/David Suzuki Foundation

In 1990, David Suzuki and Tara Cullis founded the David Suzuki Foundation. Through science and education, the foundation collaborates with scientists, business, governments, educators and nongovernmental organizations to seek innovative solutions that will help build a clean, sustainable world economy. The “Declaration of Interdependence” is the foundation’s creed. It is written in three sections: This We Know, This We Believe, This We Resolve. Each statement is illustrated with a drawing by Haida artist Yahgulanaas. Cullis describes the history and achievements of the Foundation and shares hopes for the future.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4-12
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2010 64 pp. 5"x8" b/w illustrations
ISBN: 9781553655466 $16.00 HC
dmpibooks.com
Fatty Legs
A True Story
Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton
Liz Amini-Holmes
Annick Press

This autobiography follows a young Inuit girl, Margaret (Olemaun) Pokiak, in her quest to learn to read. To get an education she must leave her family, community and culture on Banks Island to attend a Catholic residential school in Aklavik. Despite the misgivings of her parents Margaret gets her wish and goes to school. There she encounters a nun who takes an immediate and vindictive dislike to her. Margaret doesn’t let this get her down, on the contrary she teaches “the rave” a lesson about human dignity. Margaret emerges from the school with her spirit intact, and with the ability to read. Family photographs add to the authenticity of the story.

Caution: Some younger readers may find the illustrations disturbing. The religious order is portrayed in an unflattering light.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4, 9-10
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
2010 112 pp. 6.25”x9”
colour illustrations, b/w photographs
ISBN: 9781554512478 $21.95 HC
annickpress.com

The Giving Tree
A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story
Leah Dorion
Gabriel Dumont Institute

This story within a story, written in both English and Michif, describes the significance of a particular Manitoba maple to the Métis people. The grandfather narrating the story describes his boyhood joy and delight every time his family approached this tree, as it was the “Métis way” to stop for tea and bannock there. His father showed him that within the hollow of the tree was a cache of items left by travellers for anyone in a time of need. The hollow was also a message centre, and a symbol of honesty and respect and of the earth’s bounty. Includes a “Red River Cart Wheel” of the teachings used in the story, a description of the Métis Infinity flag and a CD with narration in both English and Michif.

Dorion is a Métis artist, writer, curriculum developer, lecturer and researcher.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 1-12
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES, VISUAL ART
Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 42 pp. 8.5”x11”
colour illustrations, CD
ISBN: 9780920915905 $12.95 PA
gdins.org

How the Fox Got His Legs Crossed
Virginia Football
James Wedzin
Theytus Books

Theytus Books received permission from the Dogrib community to publish this oral legend. Fox and Bear get into an argument. When Bear loses his temper he accidentally pulls off Fox’s front leg. Raven retrieves Fox’s leg by tricking Bear but puts it back on the wrong way. That is why Fox’s legs look crossed. This simple story features sparse text and rich, realistic illustrations of forest animals by Aboriginal artist James Wedzin. The text is written in both Dogrib and English and the package includes a CD with a reading of this story in both languages.

Royalties from this book are given to Chief Jimmy Bruneau School to encourage the preservation of the traditional art of oral storytelling. This book is one in a series of Dogrib legends.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 2-9
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 32 pp. 8”x10.25”
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9781894778749 $22.95 HC
theytus.com

Images from the Likeness House
Dan Savard
Royal BC Museum

This is a meticulously researched, carefully crafted and visually rich document compiled by the manager of the Anthropology Audio Visual Collection at the Royal BC Museum. It reflects “the wealth of First Nations historical photographs housed in the collections of museums, archives, and libraries” focusing on pictures taken between 1860 and 1920. The text plays a supporting role to the carefully selected images, explaining their historical significance. An introductory section describes camera technology and some common picture formats. Subsequent chapters group pictures around themes of governance, tourism, buildings and technology.

Caution: Some images, stories and quotes reflect the negative attitudes towards Aboriginal peoples during the period covered.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4, 8-12
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2010 208 pp. 9.5”x10.5”
b/w photographs, map
royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/publications


**Je suis Corbeau**

**David Bouchard**  
**Éditions des Plaines**

In this French language picture book, Bouchard explains that we each have a “totem” or animal spirit guide that is the source of our strengths and our weaknesses. Asked by an elder if the Bear is his totem, he responds yes, a grizzly bear. The Bear represents wisdom, a suitable animal guide for a teacher and writer. That night, as instructed by the elder, he calls forth his totem. It is not the grizzly who comes to him, it is the Raven. Bouchard then shares the legend told to him by his grandmother, about how a great chief came to discover his totem, which was also the Raven. Students will enjoy trying to discover their own totems, using the attributes assigned to various animals.

*Je suis Corbeau* won the Moonbeam Prix Littérature jeunesse. Bouchard is an award-winning Métis writer. Illustrator Everson has a Masters degree in anthropology and produces native music CDs.

**SUGGESTED AUDIENCE:** 4-12  
**SUBJECT AREAS:** FRENCH, SOCIAL STUDIES  
**Index/Bibliography:** No/No  
**2009 16 pp. 8.5”x9.75”  
**colour illustrations  
**ISBN:** 9782896110520 $22.95 HC  
plaines.ca  

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**The Little Hummingbird**

**Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas**  
**Greystone Books**

The message in this simple story is to do the best you can. When the forest catches fire, the little hummingbird flies to the stream again and again to fill its beak with water to douse the flames. The other animals cower in fear and watch in awe as the hummingbird takes action. At story’s end we do not know whether the hummingbird’s efforts are successful. We wonder whether the other animals decide to pitch in. Facing pages are solid red or black featuring animals drawn in the Northwest Coast native style by Haida artist Yahgulanaas. Includes a foreword by Wangari Maathai, an environmental activist who became known for planting trees in her native Kenya. Yahgulanaas also wrote *A Tale of Two Shamans*, *Flight of the Hummingbird* and *Red* (a graphic novel).

**SUGGESTED AUDIENCE:** 2-9  
**SUBJECT AREAS:** ENGLISH, ESL, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, VISUAL ART  
**Index/Bibliography:** No/No  
**2010 32 pp. 6.75”x10”  
**colour illustrations  
**ISBN:** 9781553655336 $18.95 HC  
dmpibooks.com  

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**The Métis**

**Sherry Farrell Racette**  
**Gabriel Dumont Institute**

Sherry Farrell Racette created four panels, originally intended as theatre backdrops, to represent significant periods of Métis history. New People focuses on the French fur trade in the Great Lakes Region. Les Bois Brulé represents the emergence of the Métis on the plains. The Caves at Batoche tells the story of the culmination of the 15-year period of resistance, depicting the devastating effects of the loss of traditional lifestyle. The fourth, The Spirit Returns, is one of hope, signifying the rebirth of Métis pride and resistance as they endeavoured to maintain their culture, improve living conditions and educate their children while the struggle against racism, poverty and loss of land continued. Racette is an educator, illustrator and author and one of the founders of the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

**SUGGESTED AUDIENCE:** 4-12  
**SUBJECT AREAS:** ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES  
**Index/Bibliography:** No/Yes  
**2010 28 pp. 8.5”x11”  
**colour illustrations  
**ISBN:** 9780920915912 $75.00 PA  
gdins.org  

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**My Mi’kmaq Mother**

**Julie Pellissier-Lush**  
**Retromedia Publishing**

*My Mi’kmaq Mother* is a memoir of the early childhood of the author, growing up half white, half Mi’kmaq on Prince Edward Island in the 1970s and early 1980s. It is written as a series of vignettes: how her parents met and their life before she was born, their life when she was a baby, and then her life after her mother’s death when the author was still a toddler. It explores how growing up with a single father and a mother who was gone but still a presence in her life affected her. The book explores the world from the point of view of a small child who didn’t always know why her life is the way it is.  
**Caution:** Includes one chapter with a non-graphic scene of sexual abuse of the main character.

**SUGGESTED AUDIENCE:** 7-12  
**SUBJECT AREAS:** ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES  
**Index/Bibliography:** No/No  
**2009 158 pp. 6”x9”  
**b/w photographs, map  
**ISBN:** 9780978181833 $24.95 PA  
retromedia.ca
Oil King Courage
Sigmund Brouwer
Orca Book Publishers

In this Orca Sports series book, friends Gary and Reuben live for hockey. When their Inuvik team gets a chance to play the WHL Edmonton Oil Kings, they put on their best game. Reuben’s performance earns him an invitation to go to Edmonton to try out for the Oil Kings, a chance of a lifetime. But 17-year-old Reuben needs his Grandma’s consent to be able to make the trip, and she is intent on having Reuben stay in the north to learn the old way of life in order to gain respect for his Inuit heritage. She eventually relents, with the condition that Reuben seek out the truth about his grandfather’s death. A fundraising hockey tournament takes Gary and Reuben from one northern community to another, where they follow the grandfather’s mysteriously criminal demise. A history of northern communities, descriptions of the landscape of the north, and Inuit culture are woven into the text.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 5-9
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 176 pp. 4.25”x7”
ISBN: 9781554691975 $9.95 PA
orcabook.com

The People and Josh Wilson
John Reid
Roseway Publishing

In this fast-paced, entertaining story, Josh Wilson is a grade nine student in Holyoke, Massachusetts. One Saturday morning, while photographing a local abandoned mill for a school project, Josh falls through a hole and finds himself in a parallel world where history has taken a different path and Native Americans retain control of much of North America. With the help of Rencatha, a Mohican girl, Josh searches for a way back to his world. Along the way, the two teenagers are captured by renegades, help save Dutch colonists from homes destroyed by a hurricane and aid in averting a takeover of the Mohican capital by invaders.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 5-9
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH
Index/Bibliography: No/No
2008 128 pp. 5”x7”
maps
ISBN: 9781552662748 $12.95 PA
fernwoodpublishing.ca

Les Sept enseignements sacrés/Niizhwaaswigagiikwewin
De la femme bison blanc
David Bouchard & Joseph Martin
Kristy Cameron
Éditions des Plaines

Aboriginal spiritual teachings are shared in this French language picture book and DVD set. Bouchard, the celebrated Métis author, and Martin, an expert on indigenous spirituality, collaborate to express the teachings found throughout Aboriginal cultures. Cameron, a Métis artist, provides detailed paintings. The oral tradition is honoured on the DVD; the text is read aloud in a choice of English, French, Ojibwe, Bush Cree, Chipewyan or South Slavery. The multi-media presentation incorporates the Native American flute music of Georgia-born Swampfox.

This book is also available in English.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4-12, TEACHER RESOURCE
SUBJECT AREAS: FRENCH, SCIENCE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 32 pp. 7.25”x10.25”
colour illustrations
ISBN: 9782896110476 $24.95 HC
plaines.ca

Yamoria the Lawmaker
Stories of the Dene
George Blondin
NeWest Press

This written record of Dene history and culture includes accounts of residential schools and other aspects of cultural change. Traditional survival techniques, respect for animals, and the importance of singing and dancing are referenced. The value of Dene laws, which are clearly explained, form the heart of the book. An important element in the book is Medicine Power and the ways it has been used over centuries – as protection from enemies and illness, for assistance with the hunt or as a way to connect with the spirit world. Some sections are direct transcriptions of the words of elders.

Caution: Some accounts contain violence. Inferred criticisms of the Christian church may offend some. Some views e.g. that women must obey their husbands, are outdated.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 4-12
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
1997 240 pp. 6”x9”
b/w photographs
ISBN: 9781896300207 $24.95 PA
newestpress.com
All That We Say is Ours
Gujjaaw and the Reawakening of the Haida Nation
Ian Gill
Douglas & McIntyre

Haida Gwaii is the ancient homeland of the Haida nation. In the 1970s, after enduring 70 years of aggressive logging, the Haida joined forces with environmentalists in a battle to save the islands. Guujaaw, an artist, who later became president of the Council of the Haida Nation, emerged as a catalyst in the conflict, which escalated beyond blockades to legal challenges, and on to claims against the federal and provincial governments for their entire Haida traditional territory. The narrative also gives voice to first-person accounts and conveys the excitement of reasserting responsible personal and political control for traditional lands and resources.

Comment: Gill is the president of Ecotrust Canada and a seasoned print and television reporter. He has authored several books.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 10-12
SUBJECT AREAS: LAW
Index/Bibliography: No/Yes
2009 316 pp. 6"x9"
ISBN: 9781553651864 $34.95 HC
dmplbooks.com

America’s Gift
What the World Owes to the Americas and their First Inhabitants
Käthe Roth & Denis Vaugeois
Baraka Books

Originally published in French, this fascinating book is an exploration of the contributions that have been made by the Americas and the First Nations of the Americas to the world. While its main body is devoted to an alphabetical glossary of these contributions, things that the European newcomers adopted into their lives and then took back to Europe when they returned, it also gives a general outline of the contact and colonization history of North and South America. Many of the entries give extensive explanations of how that particular object, word or idea has played a role in the rest of the world after becoming widespread. Vaugeois was Quebec’s Minister of Cultural Affairs from 1978-81.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 10-12
SUBJECT AREAS: HISTORY, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/Yes
2009 276 pp. 5.5"x8.75" b/w drawings, photographs & diagrams
ISBN: 9780981240527 $24.95 PA
barakabooks.com

Anishnaabe World
A Survival Guide for Building Bridges between Canada and First Nations
Roger Spielmann
Perry McLeod-Shabogesic & Tim Steven
Your Scrivener Press

Having lived for eleven years in the Algonquin community of Pikogan in northwest Quebec and currently teaching in the Native Studies department at the University of Sudbury, Spielmann understands Aboriginal peoples. Written in an engaging and humorous style, this easy-to-read, non-academic book explores native and non-native relations. The guide provides answers to stereotypical questions and dispels longstanding misconceptions. Students will learn a great deal about the history of relations between Aboriginal peoples and the government of Canada, and the cultural differences between natives and non-natives. Spielmann also wrote You’re So Fat: Exploring Ojibwe Discourse.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 9-12
SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 9-12, TEACHER REFERENCE
SUBJECT AREAS: HISTORY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL STUDIES
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES, VISUAL ARTS
Index/Bibliography: No/Yes
2009 205 pp. 5.25"x7.25" line drawings
2009 191 pp. 8"x10.5" b/w illustrations, b/w & colour photographs
ISBN: 9781896350370 $18.95 PA
ISBN: 9780920397534 $29.95 PA
yourscrivenerpress.com

Art and Cold Cash
Art and Cold Cash
Collective, ed.
YYZ Books

This art book is the documentation of a research study carried out by three southern and two northern (Inuit) artists. Their goal was to explore the evolution of art making and participation in the money economy of Inuit artists from Baker Lake, Nunavut. They also compare the historical and social factors that shaped the Inuit art business over the last 50 years and compare it to how southern artists operate in the cultural industry. How art is perceived and valued by Inuit and non-Inuit artists and critics is explored. The documentation contains photographs of events, installations and art pieces, interviews with Inuit artists, overviews of installations/exhibitions, essays and transcripts of conversations. Contributors include curators, artists, community members and participants in the research project.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 9-12, TEACHER REFERENCE
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES, VISUAL ARTS
Index/Bibliography: No/Yes
2009 191 pp. 8"x10.5" b/w drawings, photographs
ISBN: 9780920397534 $29.95 PA
yyzartistsoutlet.org
Guyatt’s novel, set during the War of 1812, is based upon the heroic deeds of Billy Green, an 18-year-old, living in Stoney Creek, Upper Canada. Green, who wants to join the British army against his father’s wishes, observes American troops moving towards Burlington Heights. Green penetrates enemy defences to reach British General Harvey to report the American approach. Harvey, with Green’s assistance as scout, attacks the American encampment at Stoney Creek during the night, sending the American troops fleeing. A secondary plot involves Green’s love for Sarah, the daughter of Samuel Foote, an American supporter. Guyatt describes First Nations involvement in the war by including John Norton, Six Nations Chief, as one of his characters.

Guyatt is best known as host of Comedy at Club 54. He wrote Racing to Murder.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 10-12, TEACHER RESOURCE
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2010 240 pp. 6”x9”
b/w photographs, maps
ISBN: 9781894974929 $19.95 PA
heritagehouse.ca

Evans, noted suicidologist, investigates self-destructive behaviours of Canada’s Aboriginal youth. Exploring how the friction between native and white society has caused young Canadian Aboriginals to have the highest global suicide rates, the book revolves around the tragic life of Benjamin Chee Chee, a gifted Ojibway artist who committed suicide at age 33. Evans parallels Chee Chee’s struggle with the widespread feelings of despair and addictive tendencies facing many young Aboriginals. Evans postulates that as many Aboriginal peoples experience life on the fringes of society, they feel victimized. He has worked in Aboriginal communities for 25 years.

Evans is a professor emeritus at the University of Waterloo.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 12, GUIDANCE
SUBJECT AREAS: PSYCHOLOGY
Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2010 208 pp. 6”x9”
b/w reproductions
ISBN: 9780773526877 $34.95 HC/
9780773537590 $22.95 PA
mqup.ca

Evans is a professor emeritus at the University of Waterloo.
Circumstances

Alter Photographs
Captain James Peters’ Reports from the War of 1885

Michael Barnholden
Talon Books

This large format book provides the first ever photographs taken in the heat of battle and a unique but limited perspective on the second Northwest Rebellion, led by Louis Riel in what is now Saskatchewan. Capt. Peters of the Canadian militia was not only an artillery commander, but also a photographer and correspondent for a newspaper. Although he had little knowledge of the grievances of the Métis, he saw immediately that the Canadian government response was heavy-handed. His observations are biased nonetheless. The introductory essay introduces the idea of “second self” that was used convince Aboriginal peoples to allow themselves to be drawn or photographed.

Caution: Includes some racist comments.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 10-12
TEACHER RESOURCE
SUBJECT AREAS: BC FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 12, HISTORY, JOURNALISM, PHOTOGRAPHY, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/Yes
2009 144 pp. 8”x10”
b/w photographs
ISBN: 9780889226210 $35.00 HC
talonbooks.com

Edward S. Curtis

Above the Medicine Line
Portraits of Aboriginal Life in the Canadian West

Rodger D. Touchie
Heritage House

Edward S. Curtis was a well known photographer who became an ethnographer of many Aboriginal nations in western Canada and the United States. This is the story of his life and how documented information about nations such as the Coast Salish, Sikiska and the Kwa’kwaka’wakw unfolded between 1900 and 1930. This book provides excellent information about ethnographers’ bias and the tension created between preserving the cultures and creating an image of the “noble savage”. Information about specific nations describes battles, daily routines and ceremonies. The author succeeds in identifying historical bias.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 11-12
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, BC FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 12, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2010 192 pp. 6”x9”
b/w photographs, maps
ISBN: 9780774816243 $85.00 HC/9780774816250 $32.95 PA
heritagehouse.ca

Finding Dahshaa

Self-Government, Social Suffering, and Aboriginal Policy in Canada

Stephanie Irbacher-Fox
UBC Press

Finding Dahshaa describes self-government negotiations as they unfolded between Canada and the Dehcho, Deline, and Inuvialuit and Gwich’in peoples. By contrasting the negotiation meetings with the descriptions of Dene moosehide-tanning, the author shows why Canada’s Aboriginal Policy has failed to alleviate the causes of social suffering in the North, and should itself change. Based on case studies of three self-government negotiations that took place in the NWT between 1998 and 2008, the author’s critical analysis focuses on the relationship between ongoing injustices experienced by indigenous peoples and self-government.

This title was shortlisted for several awards.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 11-12
SUBJECT AREAS: CIVIC STUDIES, LAW, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2009 192 pp. 6”x9”
b/w photographs, maps
ISBN: 9780774816243 $85.00 HC/9780774816250 $32.95 PA
ubcpress.ca

First Nations, First Thoughts

The Impact of Indigenous Thought in Canada

Annis May Timpson, ed.
UBC Press

This book challenges the thesis of Tom Flanagan’s provocative book First Nations? Second Thoughts [2000]. The 14 contributors examine the impact of Aboriginal thought on public discourse in Canada. The topics presented enable both indigenous and settler populations to reconsider interpretations of Canada’s history as well as the present status of indigenous peoples. Cultural, political, economic and museum viewpoints are critiqued. Readers are encouraged to recognize and embrace indigenous thought and perspectives related to cultural perceptions, inclusion, negotiation and legislation. Topics include validating historical experiences, and the importance of oral history as well as photographic records, governance matters and decolonization.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 11-12
SUBJECT AREAS: LAW, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2009 233 pp. 6”x9”
b/w photographs
ISBN: 9780774815512 $85.00 HC/9780774815529 $32.95 PA
ubcpress.ca

Canadian Aboriginal Books for Schools 2010 – 2011 • www.books.bc.ca
SECONDARY

The Frog Lake Reader
Myrna Kostash
NeWest Press

Kostash recounts the tragic events of the Frog Lake Massacre in 1885 where, under the leadership of Wandering Spirit, Big Bear’s war chief, a number of Plains Cree descended upon the village of Frog Lake, Alberta, killing nine white settlers and taking others hostage. Months later those who were convicted of the killings were hanged. The massacre at Frog Lake was precipitated by the adverse effects of colonization: Cree dislocation, starvation and un-kept promises by the government. Eyewitness testimonials, historical accounts, memoirs, contemporary newspaper reports, poems and excerpts from novels, as well as Kostash’s personal interpretations provide some answers to the controversial events. Includes Further Reading, Biographies of Cited Writers and a Chronology of Events.

Caution: Some violence, racist terms in historical context and sexual references.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 10
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2009 258 pp. 6.5”x9”
b/w photographs & illustrations, map
ISBN: 9781897126462 $26.95 PA
newestpress.com

Gabriel Dumont Speaks
Michael Barnholden, trans.
Talon Books

Dumont’s memoirs, spoken by him and transcribed by a friend in 1888/1903, lay unpublished until their “rediscovery” in 1971. This first English translation has an important difference: rather than using the original 3rd person voice, Barnholden has used the 1st person so that Dumont’s own voice can be heard. This translation of oral history provides a crucial viewpoint concerning the events of a pivotal time in Canadian history. Along with the translation is a “Métis Timeline” giving significant dates [from 1669 to Dumont’s death in 1906] and data related to Métis history and Dumont’s life. A chronology of Dumont’s life, his roles and leadership for his people and his work with Riel in the 1885 “Rebellion” and later, in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show are provided.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 9-12
SUBJECT AREAS: BC FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 12, LAW, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 96 pp. 5.5”x8.5”
b/w photographs & illustrations
ISBN: 9780889226258 $16.95 PA
talonbooks.com

Gumption and Grit
Women of the Cariboo Chilcotin
Sage Birchwater, ed.
Caitlin Press

This book contains 35 stories of endurance, grit and determination. Divided into three sections: Early Days, Coming Later and Coping, it reveals changing social conditions. The first section recounts stories of women who became ranchers and guide outfitters, who raced horses, lived in isolation and who endured traumatic childbirths. First Nations women are highlighted in this section as being independent, wise matriarchs. In the second section a teacher, aviation business owner, artist and RCMP officer, are featured; their stories reflect the gumption needed in this corner of BC. The last section contains biographies and autobiographies of women who suffered from alcoholism, debilitating diseases, and sexual and physical abuse. This is the first volume of the Extraordinary Women series.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 8-12,
TEACHER RESOURCE
SUBJECT AREAS: BC FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 12, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 196 pp. 7”x10”
b/w photographs & illustrations
ISBN: 9781894759373 $24.95 PA
caitlin-press.com

High Slack
Waddington’s Gold Road and the Bute Inlet Massacre of 1864
Judith Williams
New Star Books

High Slack explores the 1864 killing of a party of road builders by a group of Chilcotin, the subsequent pursuit and their apprehension by government-organized volunteers. Sometimes referred to as the Chilcotin War, the author indicates the Chilcotin were justified in defending their territory from encroachment, and that “[t]he terrible massacre was caused by the ill treatment of the Indian women by Mr. Waddington’s party who were making the road.” Utilizing a technique of creative non-fiction, the narrative reveals a variety of elements to the story and allows the reader to determine their relative importance. Written and oral histories of the events are contrasted with the author’s impressions to reveal what is both an exciting story and an interesting glimpse of life in the BC Interior in the 19th century.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 10-12
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES

Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
1997 128 pp. 8”x9”
b/w photographs & maps
ISBN: 9780921586456 $16.00 PA
newstarbooks.com
I Knew Two Métis Women
The Lives of Dorothy Scofield and Georgina Houle Young
Gregory Scofield
Gabriel Dumont Institute

Scofield’s collection of poetry pays tribute to the two women who had the greatest impact on his life, his mother and his aunt. Scofield recounts the many challenges his family faced during his childhood including poverty, addiction, sexual abuse, violence and prejudice. Despite many adversities, Scofield paints a picture of a loving family. He describes his mother dancing around the house and remembers the love his mother demonstrated toward him. Woven into the poems are lyrics from familiar country and western songs and the Cree language. Includes two CDs containing poetry readings and country music performed by Métis musicians.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 11-12
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH
Index/Bibliography: No/No
2009 138 pp. 8.75”x5.75” 2 CDs
ISBN: 9780920915950 $35.00 PA
gdins.org

The Life of Helen Betty Osborne
A Graphic Novel
David Alexander Robertson
Madison Blackstone
HighWater Press

This is the heart-wrenching true story of Helen Betty Osborne as told through the eyes of a boy writing a school report. The graphic novel tells how Betty was a victim of racism, rape and discrimination not only on the night of her death but throughout her life. Canada’s historical attitudes towards Aboriginal peoples and society’s indifference are also part of the tale. The events of the night of her death in 1971 are recapped including details of her residential school experience and the closeness she shared with her friends.

Robertson, an Aboriginal author, is also writing the 7 Generations series of graphic novels.

Caution: Includes the use of “squaw” and “Indian” to highlight prejudice.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 9-12
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/Yes
2008 36 pp. 7”x9”
2 b/w & colour photographs, maps
ISBN: 9780968965344 $21.00 PA
highwaterpress.com

The Lil’wat World of Charlie Mack
Dorothy Kennedy & Randy Bouchard
Talon Books

Ethnographers Bouchard and Kennedy have written this book as a tribute to Lil’wat elder and storyteller, Charlie Mack (1899-1990). For more than 20 years they listened to and learned from Mack's life story and the Lil’wat stories he told, stories combining history, myth and life experiences. After recording Mack’s renditions, originally in his native language, the transcriptions became the basis for not only this book but also an earlier (1977) BC Archives publication, Lillooet Stories. Lil’wat values and view of the world are presented both in a biographical sketch of Mack’s life and in Mack’s English translations. Among the stories are those that relate to the origin of the world, the Great Flood, along with stories about Coyote and His Son, Beaver and Frog, Mosquito and Thunder, Raven, Black Bear and Grizzly Bear, and the Girl who Became a Dog.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 9-12
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2010 240 pp. 6.75”x9.75”
2 b/w photographs, map
ISBN: 9780889226401 $24.95 PA
talonbooks.com

Memories, Myths, and Dreams of an Ojibwe Leader
William Berens, as told to A. Irving Hallowell
Jennifer S.H. Brown & Susan Elaine Gray, eds.
McGill-Queen’s University Press

This book recounts the life of the chief of the Berens River Band in the Lake Winnipeg area, from 1917 to 1947. Over a decade Berens imparted a great deal of information to anthropologist Hallowell, much of it through stories that gave concrete expression to aspects of Ojibwe culture and their world view. Hallowell meticulously preserved those stories and memories until his death in 1974. Berens freely related personal dreams and experiences that held special significance for him. As well, Berens shared traditional myths of the Ojibwe and Cree’s rich oral tradition.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 10-12
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: Yes/Yes
2009 288 pp. 6.25”x8.75”
b/w & colour photographs, maps
ISBN: 9780773535862 $80.00 HC/9780773536050 $29.95 PA
mqup.ca
SECONDARY

The Middle of Everywhere
Monique Polak
Orca Book Publishers

In this novel, fifteen-year-old Noah leaves his home in Montreal to spend a school term with his father, a teacher in a remote northern Quebec Inuit village. At first, he cannot understand why anyone would want to live in such a bleak place “in the middle of nowhere”. As he gradually gets to know the people and their ways, Noah develops an appreciation of the Inuit way of life. The less-than-perfect Noah sometimes makes poor choices that lead to dangerous situations. He nearly gets his father’s husky killed, has encounters with a bully and a polar bear, loses a five-year-old boy in a snowstorm, and retrieves a severed thumb from the snow. He also falls in love. Readers will become aware of Inuit history and culture while being entertained by this fast-paced, well written story.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 8-12
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
ISBN: 9781554690909 $12.95 PA
orcabook.com

Noah’s Last Canoe
The Lost Art of Cree Birch Bark Canoe Building
Doug Evans
Great Plains Publications

This book, a step-by-step documentation of the building of a traditional birch bark canoe, is a rare record preserving one of the vanishing skills and ingenious engineering feats of the First Nations people. Few can build a canoe in a traditional manner and “even fewer can recall the myths, songs and other cultural associations”. Noah’s birch bark canoe was used by the Cree who resided in the regions of northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It is lightweight, resilient, strong and hydrodynamic. The canoe was used by explorers, missionaries, scientists, government agents, tourists and sportsmen, and was the ideal vehicle for the vast systems of waterways that link the seasonal camping and hunting grounds.

The Manitoba Museum endorsed this book.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 8-12
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No/No
2008 108 pp. 7.5”x5.5”
colour photographs
ISBN: 9781894283823 $24.95 HC
greatplains.mb.ca

Out of the Depths
The Experiences of Mi’kmaw Children at the Indian Residential School at Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia
Isabelle Knockwood with Gillian Thomas
Roseway Publishing

In 1936, Mi’kmaw Isabelle Knockwood was enrolled in a residential school in Nova Scotia. While at the school, she was forbidden to speak her native language, play with her siblings or visit with her parents except on Sundays. Days were spent learning how to be a good white child and working in the school kitchen or laundry. Knockwood was not, however, subjected to the physical and sexual abuse that many of her schoolmates endured. In this third edition, Knockwood draws on her own memories as well as the memories of her classmates.

Caution: Some profanity and graphic descriptions of abuse. Use of the term “Indian” in the context of the times.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 6-10
SUBJECT AREAS: ENGLISH, HISTORY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: Yes/No
2001 176 pp. 6”x9”
b/w photographs
ISBN: 9781896496290 $18.95 PA
fernwoodpublishing.ca

The Quadra Story
A History of Quadra Island
Jeanette Taylor
Harbour Publishing

The Quadra Story is a detailed and readable history of the island that Taylor came to live on in the 1970s. She worked in the Campbell River Museum where she was privy to the personal recollections of descendents of First Nations and settler families who played key roles in Quadra’s history. She also drew upon archaeological records, diaries, newspaper articles, photographs and books to carefully reconstruct the island’s history. The book traces the story of the island from the interactions among First Nations groups pre-contact, through the arrival of George Vancouver in 1792, the first settlers, the Dirty Thirties and ends with life on Quadra today.

Taylor is the author of River City: A History of Campbell River and the Discovery Islands and Tidal Passages.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 9-12,
TEACHER REFERENCE
SUBJECT AREAS: BC FIRST NATIONS STUDIES 12, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: Yes/No
2009 272 pp. 6”x9”
b/w photographs, maps
ISBN: 9781550174953 $32.95 PA
harbourpublishing.com
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### Red
**A Haida Manga**

**Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas**  
Douglas & McIntyre

Yahgulanaas has created a new form of writing in *Red: A Haida Manga* by combining the Japanese manga style layout with Haida art images and story. Red is a Haida orphan who grows up to be the chief of his village, but he also has many unhappy emotions that guide his life. raiders kidnap his only family, his sister Jaada, and he is driven by anger and revenge to try to rescue her. In so doing, he endangers his community and destroys his sister’s new life. This manga is read in the Western not Japanese style and the order of graphics is a bit confusing at times.

Yahgulanaas is a Haida artist and author who also wrote *Flight of the Hummingbird*.

**Suggested Audience:** 8-12

**Subject Areas:** BC First Nations Studies, English, Social Studies, Visual Arts

**Index/Bibliography:** Yes  
2009 120 pp. 8”x8.75”  
colour illustrations  
ISBN: 9781553653530 $28.95 HC  
dmpibooks.com

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### Solitary Raven
**The Essential Writings of Bill Reid, 2nd Expanded Edition**

**Robert Bringhurst, ed.**  
Douglas & McIntyre

*Solitary Raven,* a collection of essays, lectures and poems written by Haida artist, Bill Reid. These 32 pieces of writing discuss such topics as the efforts to preserve Haida totem poles, the effect of smallpox on the First Nations of BC and conventions of traditional Haida art. Interspersed through this second edition, are photographs and reproductions of Bill Reid’s artwork. Includes notes at the end of each chapter and a chronology of Bill Reid’s life. Bringhurst provides an extended commentary and notes to the text. Bill Reid was best known as the sculptor of such pieces as *Raven and the First Humans* and *Spirit of the Haida Gwaii.* He was a contributor to *The Raven Steals the Light* (1984).

**Caution:** Use of the term “Indian”.

**Suggested Audience:** 10-12

**Subject Areas:** English, Social Justice, Social Studies, Visual Arts

**Index/Bibliography:** Yes  
2009 240 pp. 7.5”x8.5”  
b/w & colour photographs, b/w reproductions  
ISBN: 9781553654483 $24.95 PA  
dmpibooks.com

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### Soulis Joe’s Lost Mine
**A Newfoundland Memoir**

**Gary Collins**  
Flanker Press

Collins traces the harrowing events of Mi’kmag explorer Soulis Joe’s life in 18-century Nova Scotia and Newfoundland where Joe explores the province, trapping and living off the land. Joe discovers a vein of silver, which becomes his legendary silver mine. In 2008, Collins joined up with Al Keaton, one of Joe’s descendents, and together they search for the lost mine. As well as telling Joe’s story, Collins relates the history of the Mi’kmaq; discusses the art and history of prospecting in Newfoundland, focusing on generations of Mi’kmag peoples who were prospectors; and describes the province’s mineral wealth and industry. Collins has crafted an intriguing chapter in Newfoundland history.

Collins is the author of *Cabot Island* and *The Last Farewell.*

**Caution:** Includes racist terms in historical context.

**Suggested Audience:** 10-12

**Subject Areas:** Earth Sciences, Social Studies

**Index/Bibliography:** Yes  
2010 224 pp. 5.5”x8.5”  
b/w photographs & maps  
ISBN: 9781897317389 $17.95 PA  
flankerpress.com

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### Stone
**Book 1 of 4 in the 7 Generations series**

**David Alexander Robertson**  
Scott B. Henderson  
HighWater Press

This black and white graphic novel is the first in a series that attempts to bridge the gap between a troubled modern young man and by following unknown Aboriginal heritage from the 19th century to the present day. As Edwin recovers in hospital after swallowing pills, his mother tells him a story from two hundred years ago about Stone and his brother Bear, two Plains Cree men. Bear is killed in a raid. Stone follows through on his promise to his brother to undertake the thirst dance and become a warrior. He then sets out to exact revenge on his brother’s killer. At the end, Stone returns to his pregnant wife. This is a thin, stapled book.

**Caution:** Addresses subjects of attempted suicide, murder, revenge and violent rituals.

**Suggested Audience:** 10-12

**Subject Areas:** English

**Index/Bibliography:** Yes  
2010 32 pp. 6.5”x10”  
b/w drawings  
ISBN: 9781553792277 $12.95 PA  
highwaterpress.com

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**CANADIAN ABORIGINAL BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS 2010 – 2011 • WWW.BOOKS.BC.CA**
Stoney Creek Woman
The Story of Mary John, Tenth Anniversary Edition
Bridget Moran
Arsenal Pulp Press

Mary John’s biography is a significant contribution to First Nations women’s literature. Originally written in 1988, it is now in its 15th printing. This remarkable Carrier woman (1913-2004) was a respected elder, midwife, counsellor and educator who fought tirelessly to improve conditions and opportunities for First Nations people and to revive cultural traditions. In 1997 John was awarded the Order of Canada for outstanding service to her community; for fostering significant economic, social and political change on reserves; bridging understanding between cultures; and for preserving and promoting First Nations culture and language.

Moran, a social worker, and Mary John became politically active together in the 1950s. Moran also wrote Judgment at Stoney Creek.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 9-12
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: Yes
1997 170 pp. 5.7"x8.5" b/w photographs
ISBN: 9781551520476 $19.95 PA
arsenalpulp.com

Tecumseh’s Bones
Guy St-Denis
McGill-Queen’s University Press

Shawnee chief Tecumseh was killed at the 1813 Battle of the Thames during the War of 1812 and it is believed that his remains were hidden to thwart American attempts to claim them as a prize of war. Tecumseh’s Bones examines both the myth and facts surrounding Tecumseh’s death and burial, as well as efforts by citizens to build a monument to this great chief, a monument that was not dedicated until 150 years after his death. Includes a chronology and extensive notes. Tecumseh’s Bones was the 2006 winner J.J. Talman Award from the Ontario Historical Society.

Caution: Use of the term “Indian”.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 10-12
SUBJECT AREAS: HISTORY, SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: Yes
2010 286 pp. 6"x9" b/w photographs, maps & illustrations
ISBN: 9780773537316 $29.95 PA
9780773528437 $44.95 HC
mqup.ca

The Totem Pole
An Intercultural History
Aldona Jonaitis & Aaron Glass
Douglas & McIntyre

This work dispels common misconceptions that totem poles are objects of religious reverence or works of art. Even the name “totem pole” is a misnomer, as the animals depicted are family crests, not totems. A pole is a “mnemonic device,” a living record of a chief’s extended family history, and memorializes “the lavish potlatch that celebrated the pole’s raising…” The book also explores the influences of colonialism, the development of the form, and the evolving functions of totem poles from the 18th century to the present. The carving and raising of totem poles are also part of the cultural revival of Pacific Northwest First Nations people.

Jonaitis is the director of the University of Alaska Museum of the North. Glass teaches anthropology of art, museums and material culture.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 10-12
SUBJECT AREAS: SOCIAL STUDIES
Index/Bibliography: No
2010 384 pp. 8.5"x11" b/w & colour photographs, colour reproductions, maps
ISBN: 9781553654216 $60.00 HC
dmpibooks.com

Urbanizing Frontiers
Indigenous Peoples and Settlers in 19th-Century Pacific Rim Cities
Penelope Edmonds
UBC Press

This book examines the interactions between and experiences of indigenous peoples and European settlers in emerging urban areas during the 19th century, with particular focus on Victoria, BC and Melbourne, Australia. The book contains considerable discussion of racism and the language that accompanies it. Densely written and informative, the author explores how colonization proceeded in two places documenting the similarities and differences.

Caution: Includes a discussion of the role of sexual relations and violence in relationships between settlers and Aboriginal women.

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE: 11-12,
TEACHER REFERENCE
SUBJECT AREAS: COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS, SOCIAL JUSTICE
Index/Bibliography: Yes
2005 24 pp. 9.5"x12"
16 b/w drawings, maps & photographs
ISBN: 9780774816212 $85.00 HC/
9780774816229 $35.95 PA
ubcpress.ca
Withershins

Susan Rocan
Great Plains Publications

Withershins is a ritual where someone runs around a church three times. In this novel, Michelle is challenged by her friend, Jason, to do just that, and is transported to 1846 Manitoba. A medicine man tells her she was expected as "she would then return home to teach the lost ones". The natives teach her how to make moccasins and snowshoes, how to trap and skin rabbits and how to show respect to nature by performing certain rituals. At Fort Garry she assists the regimental doctor and the kitchen staff of the main house. She also experiences romance. Eventually she does get back to her own time, but only after she experiences a few months of what life is like a century and a half ago. She then follows her own family tree to native and Métis roots.

Caution: Explicit descriptions of a trapped animal's death and its skinning. Includes a childbirth scene where the baby is stillborn.

Suggested Audience: 8-12
Subject Areas: English, Social Studies

Index/Bibliography: No/No
2010 216 pp. 5.5"x8.5"
ISBN: 9781894283755 $12.95 PA
greatplains.mb.ca
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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program for this project.