

July 2026 JTRAG Book List

Prepared & written by: Kip Ip
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QR Code Book List

- **Access:** ("[July 2026 Book List Link URL](#)"): Shared in the monthly JTRAG E-News.

- **Scope:** Practical, widely available resources that support learning, reflection, and group discussion. Updated monthly.

- **Contact:** If you have any questions about this book list, please contact the Library Reading Coordinator, Kip Ip (kip.ip@queensu.ca).

- **July focus note:** This July list centres on Anishinaabe teaching, treaty responsibility, Land Back, and practical reconciliation. It opens with John Borrows's *The Seven Cycles of Life* and John Olthuis's *On Dismantling Settler Colonialism*. Together, these books connect life, land, law, healing, Indigenous jurisdiction, and public responsibility. The list also supports JTRAG's preparation for the John Olthuis Kingston Visit in September 2026.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH (July 2026)

1. *The Seven Cycles of Life: Seeking Healing, Connection and Justice in Anishinaabe Teachings* (2026)

- **Author:** John Borrows, Anishinaabe legal scholar and writer, member of the Chippewas of the Nawash First Nation, and Loveland Chair in Indigenous Law at the University of Toronto.
- **Publication:** Penguin Random House Canada, 2026.
- **Synopsis:** Borrows began writing letters to his daughter when she was leaving home. Those letters grew into this memoir and meditation. The book moves through the seven Anishinaabe cycles of life, from the Good Life of childhood to the Elder Life. The cycles swirl together rather than follow a straight line. Borrows draws on the natural world, treaty law, and the teachings of his Elders. The result is a warm guide to living with intention, humility, connection, and justice.

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- Group Discussion: Discuss how a life-cycle teaching can shape healing, learning, and justice. Discuss how personal growth, law, land, and community responsibility belong together rather than apart.
- Rationale: Selected as a July Book of the Month because it gives JTRAG members a new and accessible way to learn from Anishinaabe teaching, lived experience, and treaty-minded responsibility. It also pairs naturally with John Olthuis's call for structural change.
- How to access: Open the publisher page, search your library catalog, or order through Canadian booksellers.
- URL: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/790499/the-seven-cycles-of-life-by-john-borrows/9781039013667>
- **Note:** This book is also listed below in Adults, C7. Indigenous Spirituality.

2. On Dismantling Settler Colonialism: An Insider's Perspective on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples (2025)

- Author: John A. Olthuis, founding partner and Senior Counsel at OKT | Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP, Member of the Order of Canada, and long-time Indigenous rights lawyer.
- Publication: University of Toronto Press, 2025. UTP Insights series.
- Synopsis: The three-part newsletter series Triple Portrait of John A. Olthuis depicts this book and its author: 1. The Settler Lawyer Who Was Told to Dismantle; 2. Fifty Years of Change on the Land; 3. The Bigger Fight and the Road Ahead. **Scan the QR code or open the link below to read the articles in the 2026 June News and Resources JTRAG.**

- URL: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1obaw-fgtGP-7zEiDV5WucNLzaFHXsrMN?usp=sharing>



QR Code News and Resources
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- Group Discussion: Discuss what “dismantling settler colonialism” can mean in local church and community life. Discuss how support for Indigenous jurisdiction, treaty responsibility, land relationships, and self-government differs from general support for reconciliation.

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- **Rationale:** Selected as a July Book of the Month to support JTRAG's preparation for the John Olthuis tour, September 24 to 29, 2026, and to keep the focus on concrete responsibility, not only good intention.
- **How to access:** Order through Canadian booksellers or search your library catalog. The publisher page is linked in Adults, C1. History, Truth, and Reconciliation.
- **Note:** This book is also listed below in Adults, C1. History, Truth, and Reconciliation.

CHILDREN

The Water Walker (2017)

- **Author:** Joanne Robertson, Anishinaabe kwe and member of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek.
- **Publication:** Second Story Press, 2017.
- **Synopsis:** This picture book tells the true story of Nokomis Josephine Mandamin and the Mother Earth Water Walkers. Nokomis walked around the Great Lakes to protect nibi, the water. The book teaches children that water is living, sacred, and everyone's responsibility.
- **Group Discussion:** Discuss why water must be cared for. Discuss how children can learn responsibility without fear, and how walking can become a public act of love and protection.
- **How to access:** Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- **URL:** <https://secondstorypress.ca/products/the-water-walker>

My Heart Fills with Happiness (2016)

- **Author:** Monique Gray Smith, of Cree, Lakota, and Scottish descent, illustrated by Julie Flett, Cree-Métis artist.
- **Publication:** Orca Book Publishers, 2016.
- **Synopsis:** A gentle board book written to support the wellness of Indigenous children and families. It invites young children and adults to notice everyday joys, such as warm bannock, sunshine, drumming, dancing, and holding hands. It supports gratitude, wellness, and family conversation.

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- Group Discussion: Discuss how happiness, memory, language, and family belonging support children's wellness. Ask each person to name one small thing that fills their heart.
- How to access: Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://www.orcabook.com/My-Heart-Fills-With-Happiness>

Go Show the World: A Celebration of Indigenous Heroes (2018)

- Author: Wab Kinew, Anishinaabe, member of Onigaming First Nation, illustrated by Joe Morse.
- Publication: Tundra Books, 2018.
- Synopsis: A rhythmic picture book that celebrates Indigenous heroes from many nations and eras. It moves from historical leaders to modern athletes, artists, and water protectors. Its message that Indigenous children and communities matter makes it a strong and hopeful read-aloud.
- Group Discussion: Discuss what makes someone a hero. Discuss why children need to see Indigenous heroes celebrated, and which local or family heroes children would add to the book.
- How to access: Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/557387/go-show-the-world-by-wab-kinew-illustrated-by-joe-morse/9780735262928/>

TEENS

Powwow Summer (2019)

- Author: Nahanni Shingoose, Saulteaux, originally from Roseau River First Nation, Manitoba.
- Publication: James Lorimer and Company, 2019.
- Synopsis: River, a teen of Ojibwe and settler heritage, spends the summer after graduation with her father's family. Powwows, family teaching, and new friendships open questions of

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identity and belonging. When racism reaches into her summer, River must decide how to respond and what her heritage means to her.

- Group Discussion: Discuss identity between cultures and the meaning of powwow as community and ceremony. Discuss how young people can respond to racism with support rather than silence.
- How to access: Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://formaclorimerbooks.ca/product/powwow-summer/>

Rez Ball (2023)

- Author: Byron Graves, Ojibwe and Lakota, born and raised on the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota.
- Publication: Heartdrum, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, 2023.
- Synopsis: Tre Brun carries the loss of his older brother while trying to lead his Red Lake high school basketball team toward a championship. This fast, readable sports novel holds grief, pressure, community pride, and hope together. It broadens the teen list with a contemporary American Ojibwe voice.
- Group Discussion: Discuss grief, expectation, and community pride. Discuss why sport can carry so much meaning for a community, and healthy ways young people can carry loss while still moving forward.
- How to access: Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://www.harpercollins.com/products/rez-ball-byron-graves>

Elatsoe (2020)

- Author: Darcie Little Badger, Lipan Apache writer, illustrated by Rovina Cai.
- Publication: Levine Querido, 2020.

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- Synopsis: Elatsoe lives in a world where ghosts, monsters, and family knowledge are real. When a relative is killed, she uses inherited knowledge, community care, and courage to seek the truth. The novel is a leading example of Indigenous futurism for young readers.
- Group Discussion: Discuss Indigenous futurism, family knowledge, and justice. Discuss why speculative fiction can carry cultural strength without becoming a simple lesson.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://birchbarkbooks.com/products/elatsoe>

Funeral Songs for Dying Girls (2023)

- Author: Cherie Dimaline, Métis writer from the Georgian Bay Métis Community.
- Publication: Tundra Books, 2023.
- Synopsis: A teen who lives beside a cemetery is caught between grief, loneliness, friendship, family story, and a possible haunting. The novel offers a moving way to discuss belonging and loss with mature teen readers.
- Group Discussion: Discuss grief, friendship, and family silence. Discuss how ghost stories can also speak about memory, love, and identity.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Funeral%20Songs%20for%20Dying%20Girls%20Cherie%20Dimaline>

ADULTS

C1. History, Truth, and Reconciliation

On Dismantling Settler Colonialism: An Insider's Perspective on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples (2025)

- **Note:** See Book of the Month above for the full entry.

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- URL: <https://utpdistribution.com/9781487569228/on-dismantling-settler-colonialism/>

Resurgence and Reconciliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Earth Teachings (2018)

- Author: Edited by Michael Asch, John Borrows, and James Tully.
- Publication: University of Toronto Press, 2018.
- Synopsis: This collection examines resurgence and reconciliation as two major ways of thinking about Indigenous-settler relations. It connects law, politics, ecology, treaty relationships, and the living earth. It also deepens the July focus, because John Borrows is one of its editors.
- Group Discussion: Discuss whether reconciliation can be meaningful without Indigenous resurgence and self-determination. Discuss how treaty relationships require changes in power, not only changes in attitude.
- How to access: Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://utpdistribution.com/9781487519933/resurgence-and-reconciliation/>

Peace and Good Order: The Case for Indigenous Justice in Canada (2019)

- Author: Harold R. Johnson, Cree writer, lawyer, and former Crown prosecutor, from the Montreal Lake Cree Nation in northern Saskatchewan.
- Publication: McClelland and Stewart, 2019.
- Synopsis: A short, direct book by a former Crown prosecutor who saw from the inside how Canada's justice system fails Indigenous people. Johnson sets out the history and the numbers. He then makes the case for Indigenous nations taking back responsibility for justice in their own communities.
- Group Discussion: Discuss what peace and good order should mean when Indigenous people do not experience justice equally. Discuss why over-incarceration is a treaty and jurisdiction question, not only a social problem.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.

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- URL:

<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Peace%20and%20Good%20Order%20Harold%20Johnston>

The North-West Is Our Mother: The Story of Louis Riel's People, the Métis Nation (2019)

- Author: Jean Teillet, Métis lawyer, writer, and great-grandniece of Louis Riel.
- Publication: Patrick Crean Editions, HarperCollins Publishers, 2019.
- Synopsis: A sweeping history of the Métis Nation, from the fur trade through the resistances, the road allowance years, and the modern fight for rights and recognition. It is detailed but readable. It fills an important gap for readers who know residential school history better than Métis history.
- Group Discussion: Discuss how Métis nationhood formed and endured. Discuss why Métis history is often missing from public learning, and what respectful recognition asks of communities in Ontario today.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=The%20North-West%20Is%20Our%20Mother%20Jean%20Teillet>

C2. Fiction

In Search of April Raintree (1983)

- Author: Beatrice Mosionier, Métis writer born in St. Boniface, Manitoba.
- Publication: First published by Pemmican Publications, 1983. Anniversary and critical editions are available from HighWater Press.
- Synopsis: Two young Métis sisters are taken from their parents and placed in Winnipeg foster homes. They grow toward very different understandings of who they are. This Canadian classic remains a clear and painful story about child welfare, racism, identity, and survival. Some scenes depict violence, so adult reading guidance is recommended.

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- Group Discussion: Discuss how the child welfare system shaped Métis and First Nations families. Discuss why the sisters choose different paths, and what has and has not changed since 1983.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=In%20Search%20of%20April%20Raintree%20Beatrice%20Mosionier>

All the Quiet Places (2021)

- Author: Brian Thomas Isaac, Syilx writer born on the Okanagan Indian Reserve in British Columbia.
- Publication: Brindle and Glass, an imprint of TouchWood Editions, 2021.
- Synopsis: A quiet, powerful debut novel told through the eyes of Eddie Toma, a Syilx boy growing up in the 1950s and 1960s in the British Columbia interior. Family love, poverty, school, and loss shape a childhood the reader is never allowed to look away from.
- Group Discussion: Discuss what the novel shows about everyday colonialism in one child's life. Discuss how fiction can build understanding that reports and statistics cannot.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://touchwoodeditions.com/products/all-the-quiet-places>

Moon of the Turning Leaves (2023)

- Author: Waubgeshig Rice, Anishinaabe writer from Wasauksing First Nation.
- Publication: Random House Canada, 2023.
- Synopsis: Years after the collapse of southern systems, a northern Anishinaabe community sends a group south in search of a more secure homeland. The novel is a sequel to Moon of the Crusted Snow, but it stands on its own for discussion about land, kinship, and survival.

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- Group Discussion: Discuss community responsibility, mobility, food, and leadership.

Discuss what survival means when outside systems can no longer be trusted.

- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.

- URL:

<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Moon%20of%20the%20Turning%20Leaves%20Waubgeshig%20Rice>

A Grandmother Begins the Story (2023)

- Author: Michelle Porter, Métis writer and scholar.

- Publication: Viking Canada, 2023.

- Synopsis: Five generations of Métis women, along with other voices, carry family story, humour, hurt, music, and love. The novel asks readers to listen to memory across time and across generations.

- Group Discussion: Discuss Métis family memory, women's voices, and intergenerational story. Discuss how humour and grief can live together in one family history.

- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.

- URL:

<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=A%20Grandmother%20Begins%20the%20Story%20Michelle%20Porter>

C3. Biography and Memoir

In My Own Moccasins: A Memoir of Resilience (2019)

- Author: Helen Knott, of Dane Zaa, Nehiyaw, and mixed European descent, from Prophet River First Nation in British Columbia.

- Publication: University of Regina Press, 2019.

- Synopsis: A memoir of addiction, sexual violence, and intergenerational trauma that moves honestly toward sobriety, ceremony, family, and strength. Knott writes with rare clarity about

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both harm and healing. Adult guidance is recommended for readers sensitive to themes of violence and trauma.

- Group Discussion: Discuss how colonial violence lands on women's lives. Discuss what recovery required in Knott's story, and how communities can support healing without demanding easy endings.
- How to access: Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://uofrpress.ca/Books/I/In-My-Own-Moccasins>

Namwayut: We Are All One: A Pathway to Reconciliation (2022)

- Author: Chief Robert Joseph, Gwawaenuk Elder, Hereditary Chief, residential school Survivor, and Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada.
- Publication: Page Two Books, 2022.
- Synopsis: A residential school Survivor and hereditary chief tells his life story. He shares what decades of grief, recovery, and leadership have taught him about forgiveness, shared humanity, and the long path of reconciliation. Namwayut means we are all one.
- Group Discussion: Discuss what forgiveness means and does not mean in Chief Joseph's account. Discuss how his vision of shared humanity can guide community relationships without softening truth.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Namwayut%20Chief%20Robert%20Joseph>

Life in the City of Dirty Water: A Memoir of Healing (2021)

- Author: Clayton Thomas-Müller, member of Mathias Colomb Cree Nation.
- Publication: Allen Lane, Penguin Random House Canada, 2021.
- Synopsis: Thomas-Müller writes about childhood, trauma, organizing, environmental justice, and healing. The memoir connects personal story with movement work and responsibility to land and community.

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- Group Discussion: Discuss healing, activism, addiction, and family. Discuss how public justice work can grow out of painful personal history without being reduced to it.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Life%20in%20the%20City%20of%20Dirty%20Water%20Clayton%20Thomas-Muller>

My Decade at Old Sun, My Lifetime of Hell (2016)

- Author: Arthur Bear Chief, of the Siksika Nation, with a preface by Judy Bedford and an afterword by Frits Pannekoek.
- Publication: Athabasca University Press, 2016. Free to read online through the publisher's open access program.
- Synopsis: Bear Chief gives a plain and painful account of abuse at Old Sun Residential School in Gleichen, on the Siksika Nation. He also describes the later burden of retelling that harm through legal and compensation processes. This is a hard but important Survivor memoir, and his unyielding spirit is present throughout.
- Group Discussion: Discuss testimony, Survivor courage, and institutional harm. Discuss why communities must handle residential school memoirs with care, humility, and time.
- How to access: Free online. Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://www.aupress.ca/books/120260-my-decade-at-old-sun-my-lifetime-of-hell/>

C4. Faith and Reflection

Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage (2021)

- Author: Steven Charleston, Choctaw elder and retired Episcopal bishop.
- Publication: Broadleaf Books, 2021.

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- Synopsis: Short meditations rooted in Native American spiritual tradition, written for readers moving through dark and uncertain times. The brief chapters work well as openings for meetings or as daily summer reading.
- Group Discussion: Read one meditation aloud to open each gathering. Discuss where hope comes from in Charleston's writing, and how courage differs from optimism.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Ladder%20to%20the%20Light%20Steven%20Charleston>

Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth (2022)

- Author: Randy S. Woodley, Cherokee descendant, theologian, farmer, and teacher.
- Publication: Broadleaf Books, 2022.
- Synopsis: Woodley offers one hundred short meditations and practices. They invite readers to reconnect with land, Creator, community, and the wider community of creation. The book is gentle, but it asks for real change in daily attention.
- Group Discussion: Choose one short reflection and one action. Discuss how church learning can become more rooted in place, humility, and relationship with creation.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Becoming%20Rooted%20Randy%20Woodley>

Rehearsals for Living (2022)

- Author: Robyn Maynard, a Black feminist writer and scholar, and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, a Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg writer, musician, and scholar.
- Publication: Knopf Canada, 2022.
- Synopsis: An exchange of letters written during the early pandemic years. The letters connect Black and Indigenous histories, land, policing, and the work of imagining livable

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futures. The book models honest correspondence across difference and joins reflection to responsibility.

- Group Discussion: Discuss what Black and Indigenous struggles share and where they differ. Discuss what solidarity can look like in practice, and consider letter writing as a group reflection practice.

- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.

- URL:

<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Rehearsals%20for%20Living%20Maynard%20Simpson>

C5. Poetry

I Place You Into the Fire (2020)

- Author: Rebecca Thomas, Mi'kmaw poet, a former Poet Laureate of Halifax, and the daughter of a residential school Survivor.

- Publication: Nimbus Publishing, 2020.

- Synopsis: Direct, teaching-minded poems about reconciliation, language, identity, and truth-telling. Many poems speak to settler readers with both firmness and care. The collection is accessible for groups new to contemporary Indigenous poetry.

- Group Discussion: Read two or three poems aloud. Discuss what the poems ask of settler listeners, and how poetry can teach without softening truth.

- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.

- URL:

<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=I%20Place%20You%20Into%20the%20Fire%20Rebecca%20Thomas>

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Creeland (2021)

- Author: Dallas Hunt, Cree, a member of Wapsewsiipi, Swan River First Nation, in Treaty 8 territory.
- Publication: Nightwood Editions, 2021.
- Synopsis: Poems grounded in Cree kinship, prairie places, everyday labour, and popular culture. Hunt resists romantic images of Indigenous life. He writes ordinary love, humour, and relation with land and family.
- Group Discussion: Discuss how the collection pushes against stereotypes. Discuss what everyday Indigenous joy adds to a reading list often weighted toward grief.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Creeland%20Dallas%20Hunt>

Treaty # (2019)

- Author: Armand Garnet Ruffo, Anishinaabe writer of Ojibwe heritage, who teaches at Queen's University in Kingston.
- Publication: Wolsak and Wynn, Buckrider Books, 2019.
- Synopsis: Ruffo uses poetry to think through treaties, history, memory, and responsibility. The collection connects personal observation with larger questions about nation-to-nation relationship and land. It is a strong companion to this month's treaty focus.
- Group Discussion: Read two or three poems aloud. Discuss how poetry can make treaty responsibility more immediate than policy language alone.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Treaty%20Armand%20Garnet%20Ruffo>

The Crooked Good (2007)

- Author: Louise Bernice Halfe – Sky Dancer, nêhiyaw poet and former Parliamentary Poet Laureate of Canada.

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- Publication: Coteau Books, 2007.
- Synopsis: A powerful poetry collection that draws on story, spirit, memory, family, and difficult history. Halfe's language asks readers to listen deeply rather than look for easy comfort.
- Group Discussion: Discuss how poetry can carry spiritual and family memory. Discuss what careful listening means when a poem does not explain everything directly.
- How to access: Search your library catalog, since the original publisher has closed.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=The%20Crooked%20Good%20Louise%20Bernice%20Halfe>

C6. Land and Activism

The Right to Be Cold: One Woman's Story of Protecting Her Culture, the Arctic and the Whole Planet (2015)

- Author: Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Inuk climate and human rights advocate, Officer of the Order of Canada, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee.
- Publication: Penguin Canada, 2015.
- Synopsis: A memoir and advocacy story that connects climate change to Inuit culture, food, safety, hunting, and human rights. Watt-Cloutier shows that the Arctic is a homeland, not a distant symbol. Climate justice, she argues, is a human rights question.
- Group Discussion: Discuss how climate change is experienced as a rights issue in the North. Discuss how southern communities can support Inuit-led priorities rather than setting the agenda.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=The%20Right%20to%20Be%20Cold%20Sheila%20Watt-Cloutier>

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Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper (2019)

- Author: Yellowhead Institute, a First Nations-led research centre at Toronto Metropolitan University; report by Hayden King and Shiri Pasternak.
- Publication: Yellowhead Institute, 2019. Free online report.
- Synopsis: This report explains land dispossession in Canada. It argues that Land Back is about restoring Indigenous jurisdiction, rights, and responsibilities. It gives readers a practical framework for understanding land, consent, and governance.
- Group Discussion: Discuss why land restitution and jurisdiction are central to reconciliation. Discuss what church and community groups should learn before speaking about Land Back publicly.
- How to access: Free online. Open the link.
- URL: <https://redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org/>

A Short History of the Blockade: Giant Beavers, Diplomacy and Regeneration in Nishnaabewin (2021)

- Author: Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg writer, musician, and scholar.
- Publication: University of Alberta Press, 2021.
- Synopsis: Simpson uses Nishnaabeg story, with the beaver as a relative, to think about blockades, diplomacy, regeneration, and Indigenous resistance. The book is short but conceptually rich.
- Group Discussion: Discuss why blockades may be acts of law, relationship, and life protection, not only protest. Discuss how settlers can learn before judging public resistance.
- How to access: Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://ualbertapress.ca/9781772125382/a-short-history-of-the-blockade/>

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Decolonizing Wealth: Indigenous Wisdom to Heal Divides and Restore Balance (second edition, 2021)

- Author: Edgar Villanueva, Lumbee author and philanthropy leader.
- Publication: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, second edition, 2021.
- Synopsis: Villanueva examines colonial patterns in philanthropy, money, and institutional power. He asks readers and organizations to treat resources as medicine. Money can help heal relationships when power is shifted responsibly.
- Group Discussion: Discuss how giving, grants, church budgets, and community resources can reproduce power or help repair harm. Discuss what it means to move resources with humility.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Decolonizing%20Wealth%20Edgar%20Villanueva>

C7. Indigenous Spirituality

The Seven Cycles of Life: Seeking Healing, Connection and Justice in Anishinaabe Teachings (2026)

- **Note:** See Book of the Month above for the full entry.
- URL: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/790499/the-seven-cycles-of-life-by-john-borrows/9781039013667>

Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations (2016)

- Author: Richard Wagamese, Ojibway from the Wabaseemoong Independent Nations in northwestern Ontario.
- Publication: Douglas and McIntyre, 2016.

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- Synopsis: Brief morning meditations gathered from Wagamese's own daily practice. They move through gratitude, humility, silence, ceremony, and joy. The short entries suit slow summer reading and make gentle openings for group gatherings.
- Group Discussion: Choose one meditation for each meeting. Discuss how stillness, gratitude, and ceremony can shape daily conduct and community life.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Embers%20One%20Ojibway%20Meditations%20Richard%20Wagamese>

The Trail of Nenaboozhoo and Other Creation Stories (2019)

- Author: Bomgiizhik Isaac Murdoch, Anishinaabe from Serpent River First Nation.
- Publication: Kegedonce Press, 2019.
- Synopsis: Traditional stories of Nenaboozhoo and creation, told by a respected storyteller and artist, and accompanied by striking artwork. The collection shows how story carries teaching, geography, law, and responsibility.
- Group Discussion: Discuss how creation stories carry law and responsibility. Discuss what respectful listening to sacred stories requires from readers outside the culture.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=The%20Trail%20of%20Nenaboozhoo%20Isaac%20Murdoch>

Our Knowledge Is Not Primitive: Decolonizing Botanical Anishinaabe Teachings (2009)

- Author: Wendy Makoons Geniusz.
- Publication: Syracuse University Press, 2009.

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- Synopsis: Geniusz contrasts how Anishinaabe botanical knowledge appears in academic records with how it is carried within Anishinaabe culture. The book supports careful thinking about knowledge, respect, and method.
- Group Discussion: Discuss why Indigenous knowledge should not be treated as primitive, extractable, or mere information. Discuss how respectful learning changes the learner's method and attitude.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Our%20Knowledge%20Is%20Not%20Primitive%20Wendy%20Makoons%20Geniusz>

The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative (2003)

- Author: Thomas King, writer and scholar of Cherokee and Greek descent.
- Publication: House of Anansi Press, 2003. CBC Massey Lectures.
- Synopsis: King explores how stories shape identity, politics, history, religion, and public imagination. The book is not a simple spirituality manual, but it helps readers understand why story carries responsibility.
- Group Discussion: Discuss how stories can heal, mislead, erase, or restore. Discuss what stories church communities tell about Canada, land, Indigenous peoples, and themselves.
- How to access: Open the publisher page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://houseofanansi.com/products/the-truth-about-stories>

C8. Faith-Based Resources

Wrongs to Rights: How Churches Can Engage the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2016)

- Author: Edited by Steve Heinrichs.
- Publication: Mennonite Church Canada, Intotemak, 2016.

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- Synopsis: A collection of short contributions from Indigenous and settler writers on what UNDRIP asks of churches. It continues the UNDRIP learning begun with the June OKT podcast, and it turns that learning toward concrete church practice.
- Group Discussion: Choose two or three short pieces to read together. Discuss which UNDRIP articles speak most directly to church life, and what implementation could look like locally.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL: <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/18343>

Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery (2008)

- Author: Steven T. Newcomb, Shawnee and Lenape scholar.
- Publication: Fulcrum Publishing, 2008.
- Synopsis: A foundational study of how the Doctrine of Christian Discovery entered law and public thinking, with lessons that reach across the border into Canada. It deepens earlier JTRAG readings on the Doctrine of Discovery with careful attention to religious language inside law.
- Group Discussion: Discuss how religious ideas became legal doctrine. Discuss what responsibility churches carry for naming and undoing that inheritance.
- How to access: Open the resource page or search your library catalog.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Pagans%20in%20the%20Promised%20Land%20Steven%20Newcomb>

Mamow Be-Mo-Tay-Tah: Let Us Walk Together (2009)

- Author: Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network, Canadian Council of Churches.
- Publication: Canadian Council of Churches, 2009. Online and print resource.

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- Synopsis: This ecumenical resource helps Canadian Christians engage with truth and reconciliation and understand the ongoing legacies of colonization. It is designed for learning, reflection, and action across denominations.
- Group Discussion: Discuss what it means to walk together as a treaty responsibility. Discuss how Christian communities can move from awareness to sustained local commitments.
- How to access: Open the Canadian Council of Churches resource page or download the free digital copy.
- URL: <https://councilofchurches.ca/product/mamow-be-mo-tay-tah-let-us-walk-together-digital/>

Christ Is a Native American (1995)

- Author: Achiel Peelman.
- Publication: Novalis and Orbis Books, 1995. Reprint editions are available.
- Synopsis: Peelman reflects on Christ, Indigenous cultures, mission history, and Native Christian identity. It is an older theological work, but it can help mature church readers consider culture, faith, and colonial assumptions with care.
- Group Discussion: Discuss where Christian language has supported Indigenous dignity, and where it has been used to erase culture. Discuss how churches can read older theology critically and humbly.
- How to access: Search your library catalog, a theological library, or a bookseller.
- URL:
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Christ%20Is%20a%20Native%20American%20Achiel%20Peelman>

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C9. Watch and Listen

Film: Trick or Treaty? (2014)

- Director: Alanis Obomsawin, Abenaki filmmaker, of the Odanak First Nation.
- Publication: National Film Board of Canada, 2014. Feature documentary, 84 minutes.
- Synopsis: This film examines Treaty 9 in northern Ontario, the gap between the written text and the oral promises Elders remember, and contemporary Indigenous political action. It is a strong companion to July's focus on treaty responsibility and Land Back.
- Group Discussion: Suitable for a summer film night. Discuss how treaties can be remembered differently by governments and Indigenous nations. Discuss what careful treaty learning requires before public comment or church action.
- How to access: Open the National Film Board page or search your library catalog. Rental, purchase, educational, or screening options may be available through the NFB.
- URL: https://www.nfb.ca/film/trick_or_treaty/

Podcast: Missing and Murdered: Finding Cleo (2018)

- Host: Connie Walker, Cree investigative journalist from Okanese First Nation in Saskatchewan.
- Publication: CBC Podcasts, 2018.
- Synopsis: An award-winning investigative series that follows a Cree family's search for their sister Cleo, taken from Saskatchewan during the Sixties Scoop. The series models patient, family-centred truth-telling. The episodes include accounts of violence and loss, so listeners should take care and listen with support.
- Group Discussion: Listen to the first episode together. Discuss the Sixties Scoop, what families carry when institutions lose children, and what respectful media attention looks like.
- How to access: Listen through CBC Listen or major podcast platforms. The link below opens Apple Podcasts.

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- URL: <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/missing-murdered-finding-cleo/id1166556648>

Podcast: Matriarch Movement

- Host: Shayla Oulette Stonechild, a Red River Métis and Nêhiyaw woman from Muscowpetung First Nation.
- Publication: Matriarch Movement podcast, ongoing.
- Synopsis: This podcast amplifies Indigenous voices from Canada, Turtle Island, and beyond. It centres matriarchs and Two-Spirit voices, language revitalization, wellness, sustainability, and reclamation. A recent episode features Leena Minifie, director of The Good Canadian, the May 2026 JTRAG Book of the Month.
- Group Discussion: Choose one episode connected to language, women's leadership, or land. Discuss how listening to living Indigenous voices can widen JTRAG learning beyond books alone.
- How to access: Open the podcast page or listen through a podcast platform.
- URL: <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/matriarch-movement/id1556354811>