

October 2026 JTRAG Book List

Prepared and written by: Kip Ip
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- **Access:** Open the monthly JTRAG Reading and Book Lists using this Link or QR Code.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zRninf0svLBSYcHHeb1cSGj10TFsxbi>



**QR Code Book
List**

Shared in the monthly JTRAG E-News. Save the link for future issues.

- **Scope:** Resources for learning, reflection, and group discussion. Updated monthly.
- **Contact:** For questions or help finding a resource, contact Kip Ip, JTRAG Library Reading Coordinator, at kip.ip@queensu.ca.
- **October focus:** This list continues truth and reconciliation learning beyond September 30. Indigenous voices guide reflection on family, faith, land, and economic relationships. The two featured books and one film offer different starting points. Choose what suits your interests and time.

- **JTRAG News and Resources:** Open the Monthly Bulletin using this link or QR code.

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



**JTRAG Monthly
Bulletin**

The Joint Truth and Reconciliation Action Group (JTRAG) publishes a monthly e-bulletin with community updates, reconciliation news, and resources to support readers' personal reconciliation journeys with Indigenous peoples.

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BOOKS OF THE MONTH (October 2026)

1. Wearing a Broken Indigene Heart on the Sleeve of Christian Mission (2025)

- **Author:** The Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation.
- **Publication:** CMU Press, 2025. Scholarly theology; 208 pages.
- **Synopsis:** Lansdowne examines Christian mission and proposes an Indigenous intercultural theology. She asks what can be life-giving in Christian faith after the harm it has caused. Her argument centres Indigenous peoples' authority to interpret faith and develop their own theologies.
- **Group Discussion:** Who has authority to interpret faith in Lansdowne's account? What does her approach ask churches to reconsider?
- **Rationale:** A focused choice for readers exploring faith, mission history, and churches' relationships with Indigenous peoples.
- **How to access:** CommonWord lists borrowing and purchase options. Ask your library about interlibrary loan, or search Libby, Amazon.ca and Internet Archive by title and author. Check borrowing eligibility and stock.
- **URL:** <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/28550>
- **Publisher information:** <https://www.cmu.ca/cmu-press/>
- **Note:** Also indexed in C8. Faith-Based Resources.

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2. Indigenomics: Taking a Seat at the Economic Table (2021)

- **Author:** Carol Anne Hilton, a Hesquiaht woman of Nuu-chah-nulth descent.
- **Publication:** New Society Publishers, 2021. Nonfiction; 272 pages.
- **Synopsis:** Hilton challenges accounts of Indigenous economic dependency. She examines business, wealth, land, and decision-making through relationships and community well-being. Her account connects economic participation with Indigenous self-determination.
- **Group Discussion:** How does Hilton define wealth? Which examples help explain her distinction between economic inclusion and Indigenous decision-making?
- **Rationale:** A second book choice that broadens this month's learning from faith and historical testimony to economic relationships.
- **Reading Guide:** Moderately demanding general nonfiction, with economic and legal concepts. Begin with the Introduction and Chapter 2, "The Nature of Indigenous Wealth." Read one chapter at a time; no full-book commitment is expected.
- **How to access:** Read the free excerpt on the publisher's page first. Ask your public library about a copy or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca and Internet Archive; access and formats vary.
- **URL:** <https://newsociety.com/book/indigenomics/>
- **Note:** Also indexed in C6. Land and Activism.

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3. Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair (2021)

- **Filmmaker:** Written, directed, and produced by Alanis Obomsawin; featuring Murray Sinclair.
- **Publication:** National Film Board of Canada, 2021. Documentary; 29 minutes.
- **Synopsis:** Obomsawin brings together Sinclair's World Peace Award acceptance speech and residential-school Survivor testimony. The film links his work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to the need to understand and accept difficult truths about Canada's past and present.
- **Group Discussion:** What is the difference between hearing a difficult truth and accepting it? What questions remain for your group after viewing?
- **Rationale:** A short, Survivor-centred starting point for truth and reconciliation learning, with time left for reflection and discussion.
- **Content Note:** Residential-school history and harm. Preview before a group screening and allow quiet time afterward.
- **How to access:** Open the NFB's full documentary on YouTube for personal viewing. Regional restrictions may apply. Confirm permission before a public screening.
- **URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F70t2mTwyEE>
- **Note:** Also indexed in C9. Watch and Listen.

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CHILDREN

Colour Through Me (2025)

- **Author:** Sierra Rosa-Lynn Clarke Marinelli, an Anishinaabe author and illustrator from Hollow Water First Nation.
- **Publication:** Indigenous Education Press, 2025. Picture book; Kindergarten to Grade 3.
- **Synopsis:** Inspired by her son's use of colours to communicate, Clarke Marinelli explores how art can express feelings when words are difficult to find. The book invites creativity and different ways of being understood.
- **Group Discussion:** Choose a colour for a feeling. What helps someone feel understood? Children may respond through words, pictures, or silence.
- **How to access:** Order through Indigenous Reflections or ask a public library about a copy. Search Libby, Amazon.ca or Internet Archive by title and author; a digital edition is not confirmed.
- **URL:** <https://indigenousreflections.ca/collections/indigenous-education-press/products/colour-through-me>

It's Time to Lend a Hand (2025)

- **Author:** Ceperah Mearns and Jeremy Debicki; illustrated by Nuria Muro Gio.
- **Publication:** Inhabit Media, 2025. Picture book; ages 3 to 5.
- **Synopsis:** Siasi helps her father with fishing nets, keeps her younger sister safe on her bicycle, and helps at home. Everyday family activities introduce Inuit values of helping others and contributing to community.
- **Group Discussion:** What useful help can a young child offer? How do giving and receiving help strengthen a family?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://inhabitmedia.com/2025/05/13/its-time-to-lend-a-hand/>

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TEENS

Walking in Two Worlds (2022 paperback edition)

- **Author:** Wab Kinew.
- **Publication:** Tundra Books, first published 2021; paperback edition, 2022. Young adult fiction.
- **Synopsis:** Bugz is shy offline and powerful in an online game. Her friendship with Feng, a newcomer from China, raises questions about belonging, prejudice, family, and life across two worlds.
- **Group Discussion:** When does an online community offer belonging or cause harm? What does friendship ask of Bugz and Feng?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/646609/walking-in-two-worlds-by-wab-kinew/>

Righting Canada's Wrongs: Inuit Relocations: Colonial Policies and Practices, Inuit Resilience and Resistance (2026 paperback edition)

- **Author:** Frank James Tester and Krista Ulujuk Zawadski.
- **Publication:** James Lorimer & Company, paperback edition, 2026. Nonfiction; ages 13 to 18.
- **Synopsis:** Photographs, documents, and first-person accounts examine forced Inuit relocations from the 1950s to the 1990s, their effects on families, and Inuit resilience and resistance.
- **Group Discussion:** Examine one photograph and its caption. Whose decisions shaped relocation? What do Inuit accounts add to this history?
- **Content Note:** Forced relocation and family separation. Adult guidance is recommended.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://lorimer.ca/childrens/product/righting-canadas-wrongs-inuit-relocations/>

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ADULTS

C1. History, Truth, and Reconciliation

But Have We Arrived? (2026)

- **Author:** Suzanne Morrisette, a Red River Métis artist, curator, and scholar.
- **Publication:** ARP Books (Arbeiter Ring Publishing), 2026. Scholarly nonfiction.
- **Synopsis:** Morrisette examines recognition and inclusion in the arts. Linking cultural institutions with Indigenous rights and political power, she asks whether greater visibility has brought meaningful change.
- **Group Discussion:** When a museum includes Indigenous art, who controls the decisions? How does representation differ from decision-making authority?
- **How to access:** Ask ARP Books or your library about this September 2026 release. Also search Libby, Amazon.ca and Internet Archive; library and digital availability may be limited.
- **URL:** <https://arpbooks.org/product/but-have-we-arrived/>

Unsettling the Settler Within: Indian Residential Schools, Truth Telling, and Reconciliation in Canada (2011 paperback edition)

- **Author:** Paulette Regan; foreword by Taiaiake Alfred.
- **Publication:** UBC Press, first published 2010; paperback edition, 2011.
- **Synopsis:** From a settler perspective, Regan challenges Canada's peaceful national image. She asks non-Indigenous readers to examine their assumptions and hear Indigenous accounts without reproducing colonial relationships.
- **Group Discussion:** What assumptions does Regan ask settlers to examine? How can a group listen when testimony challenges familiar histories?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://www.ubcpress.ca/unsettling-the-settler-within>

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C2. Fiction

Wabanang, Daughter of the Stars: An Anishinaabe Novel (2022)

- **Author:** Judii Merle.
- **Publication:** Crossfield Publishing, 2022. ISBN 9781990326066.
- **Synopsis:** Janey seeks to understand her grandmother Wabanang's life and family harm connected to residential school. A fictional journey into the past explores language, memory, and belonging.
- **Group Discussion:** How does the granddaughter's search connect family memory and identity? What can fiction reveal, and what requires historical evidence?
- **Catalogue Note:** The linked catalogue uses "An Anishinaabe Granddaughter's Search for the Truth." Match Judii Merle and ISBN 9781990326066.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://surrey.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S71C1019410>

Ahshíá:ton (You Should Write It) (2023)

- **Author:** Jules Delorme.
- **Publication:** BookLand Press, 2023. Short stories.
- **Synopsis:** Mohawk teachings, community, memory, and encounters between people and animals shape these stories. Humour and difficult experiences sit together, offering more than a single story of loss.
- **Group Discussion:** Choose one relationship. How do humour, memory, or an animal's presence change its meaning?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://www.indigo.ca/products/ahshia-ton-you-should-write-it>

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C3. Biography and Memoir

Becoming a Matriarch: A Memoir (2023)

- **Author:** Helen Knott, from Prophet River First Nation.
- **Publication:** Knopf Canada, 2023.
- **Synopsis:** After losing her mother and grandmother within just over six months, Knott faces grief, sobriety, and changing family responsibilities. She considers leadership without losing herself in others' needs.
- **Group Discussion:** What allows someone to lead while grieving? How can family responsibility include boundaries, rest, and care for oneself?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://forestofreading.com/becoming-a-matriarch/>

The Fire Still Burns: Life In and After Residential School (2023)

- **Author:** Sam George, a Squamish Elder, with Jill Yonit Goldberg, Liam Belson, Dylan MacPhee, and Tanis Wilson.
- **Publication:** Purich Books, an imprint of UBC Press, 2023.
- **Synopsis:** George recalls abuse at St. Paul's Indian Residential School and its consequences, including addiction and imprisonment. He also describes healing and cultural reconnection.
- **Group Discussion:** What did healing require beyond leaving school? How can readers honour testimony without expecting a reassuring ending?
- **Content Note:** Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, addiction, and imprisonment. Choose a supported setting for discussion.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://www.ubcpres.ca/the-fire-still-burns>

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C4. Faith and Reflection

The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World (2024)

- **Author:** Robin Wall Kimmerer; illustrated by John Burgoyne.
- **Publication:** Scribner, 2024.
- **Synopsis:** Kimmerer begins with the serviceberry to explore gratitude, exchange, and shared abundance. She contrasts a gift economy with habits of competition and hoarding, asking how communities might organize life around reciprocity.
- **Group Discussion:** What does your group receive without buying it? How might you return care without treating a gift as a transaction?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Serviceberry/Robin-Wall-Kimmerer/9781668072240>

Wînipêk: Visions of Canada from an Indigenous Centre (2024)

- **Author:** Niigaan Sinclair, an Anishinaabe writer from St. Peter's / Little Peguis.
- **Publication:** McClelland & Stewart, 2024.
- **Synopsis:** Through stories and observations about Winnipeg, Sinclair examines the city's history, Indigenous contributions, and responses to injustice. Local experiences open larger questions about treaties, inclusion, and Canada's future.
- **Group Discussion:** What becomes visible when a city is understood as an Indigenous centre? Which local histories deserve closer attention?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://books.google.com/books?id=fvrQEAAAQBAJ>

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C5. Poetry

(Re)Generation: The Poetry of Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm (2021)

- **Author:** Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm; selected and introduced by Dallas Hunt.
- **Publication:** Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2021.
- **Synopsis:** Selected poems explore Indigenous creativity, relationships, colonial violence, desire, and continuity. Akiwenzie-Damm reflects on obligations to one another and the wider living world.
- **Group Discussion:** Read one poem aloud and pause. How do its relationships complicate a simple story of suffering or recovery?
- **Content Note:** Adult poetry, including sexuality and colonial harm. Choose poems appropriate to the group.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Books/9/Re-Generation>

Anishinaabe Songs for a New Millennium (2024)

- **Author:** Marcie R. Rendon, White Earth Ojibwe.
- **Publication:** University of Minnesota Press, 2024.
- **Synopsis:** Rendon's poem-songs connect ancestral voices with the present and future. Memory and attention to the senses carry Anishinaabe life forward rather than confining it to the past.
- **Group Discussion:** Which images connect generations? How can readers honour these poem-songs without assuming permission to use them in ceremony?
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://www.upress.umn.edu/9781517917432/anishinaabe-songs-for-a-new-millennium/>

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C6. Land and Activism

Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition (2014)

- **Author:** Glen Sean Coulthard, a Yellowknives Dene scholar.
- **Publication:** University of Minnesota Press, 2014. Advanced adult reading.
- **Synopsis:** Coulthard questions whether recognition by the colonial state can undo dispossession. Drawing on political theory and Indigenous movements, he examines self-recognition, land, and Indigenous practices as foundations for a different political relationship.
- **Group Discussion:** How does Coulthard distinguish recognition from self-recognition? Discuss the evidence and reasoning behind his argument.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://www.upress.umn.edu/9780816679652/red-skin-white-masks/>

Indigenomics: Taking a Seat at the Economic Table (2021)

- **How to access:** See featured selection 2 above for the full description and access guidance.
- **URL:** <https://newsociety.com/book/indigenomics/>

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C7. Indigenous Spirituality

One Drum: Stories and Ceremonies for a Planet (2019)

- **Author:** Richard Wagamese.
- **Publication:** Douglas & McIntyre, 2019.
- **Synopsis:** Wagamese draws on Ojibway teachings and his own difficult journey to reflect on humility, respect, courage, and connection. He describes how spiritual practice helped him find hope and a stronger relationship with others.
- **Group Discussion:** What does humility change in a relationship? Read this as Wagamese's personal sharing, not a universal Indigenous guide. Consider permission and local protocols before adopting practices.
- **How to access:** Ask your library about borrowing or interlibrary loan. Also check Libby, Amazon.ca for purchase, or Internet Archive for records and previews; availability varies.
- **URL:** <https://douglas-mcintyre.com/products/9781771622295>

The Good Mind (2026)

- **Author:** Karennan'owwe Dr. Karen Hill, a Mohawk physician from Six Nations of the Grand River.
- **Publication:** Ojistoh Publishing, 2026. Memoir; ISBN 9780968710654.
- **Synopsis:** Hill tells her mother's life story, beginning with her childhood on Six Nations of the Grand River during the Depression. The stories connect spiritual teachings, daily conduct, family, and relationships across differences.
- **Group Discussion:** How do ordinary actions make teachings visible? What can a family portrait communicate that an abstract explanation cannot?
- **How to access:** Order directly from Ojistoh Publishing or ask your public library about a copy. Search Libby, Amazon.ca, or Internet Archive by title and author; digital availability is not confirmed.
- **URL:** <https://ojistoh.ca/books/the-good-mind/>

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C8. Faith-Based Resources

Wearing a Broken Indigene Heart on the Sleeve of Christian Mission (2025)

- **How to access:** See featured selection 1 above for the full description and access guidance.
- **URL:** <https://www.commonword.ca/ResourceView/82/28550>

Missionary Conquest: The Gospel and Native American Cultural Genocide (1993)

- **Author:** George E. Tinker.
- **Publication:** Fortress Press, 1993. United States mission history; adult theology.
- **Synopsis:** Through four missionary case studies, Tinker examines Christian missions and cultural harm among Native American peoples. He challenges celebratory accounts of mission and considers their effects on language, culture, and community. This United States study offers a comparison for Canadian readers.
- **Group Discussion:** How does Tinker distinguish intention from consequences? Keep the United States and Canadian histories distinct when comparing them.
- **How to access:** The Internet Archive record below restricts full-text access. Ask a public library about a copy or interlibrary loan. Check Libby for a licensed edition, or Amazon.ca for print or ebook purchase.
- **URL:** <https://archive.org/details/missionaryconque0000tink>

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C9. Watch and Listen

Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair (2021)

- **How to access:** See featured selection 3 above for the full description and access guidance.
- **URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F70t2mTwyEE>

Video: Dechinta Liwe Camp: Fishing and Governance on Dene Land (2021)

- **Filmmaker and Source:** Morgan Tsetta, Dene filmmaker; Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, Northwest Territories, Canada.
- **Publication:** Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning, 2021. Short documentary; approximately 14 minutes.
- **Synopsis:** At a winter fish camp on Great Slave Lake, participants learn through fishing, preparing food, and sharing time on the land. The film introduces Dene knowledge, relationships, and community responsibilities through everyday practice.
- **Group Discussion:** How do Elders and relationships with the land guide learning? What would it mean to support an Indigenous community's educational priorities without taking control of them?
- **Context:** The camp is in Chief Drygeese Territory, the homeland of the Yellowknives Dene. Dechinta describes its education as learning from and with the land, not simply holding classes outdoors. This is a local example, not a universal model.
- **How to access:** Watch the full short film free on Dechinta's YouTube channel. The program page below links to the same film and a companion field guide.
- **URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuB6JHx1jy0>
- **Program information:** <https://www.dechinta.ca/liwe>