Top 10 Indigenous Books (Curriculum Focus)

This document was curated by Matthew Michaud at Capilano University. Please contact him regarding inquiries and assistance concerning Indigenizing your curriculum.

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

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

**Potlatch as Pedagogy: Learning Through Ceremony** by Sara Davidson and Robert Davidson, 2018

“In 1884, the Canadian government enacted a ban on the potlatch, the foundational ceremony of the Haida people. The tradition, which determined social structure, transmitted cultural knowledge, and redistributed wealth, was seen as a cultural impediment to the government’s aim of assimilation.” (Portage & Main Press)

Sara Davison, PhD, is a Haida educator and scholar who works with teacher candidates to bring Indigenous content, perspectives, and pedagogies into their classrooms. Robert Davidson is one of Canada’s most respected and important contemporary artists. He is a master Haida carver of totem poles and masks, and printmaker.


Chelsea Vowel is Métis from manitow-sâkahikan (Lac Ste. Anne) Alberta. She is a writer, and educator whose work intersects language, gender, Métis self-determination, and resurgence.

**Decolonizing Education: Nourishing the Learning Spirit** by Marie Battiste, 2013

“Drawing on treaties, international law, the work of other Indigenous scholars, and especially personal experiences, Marie Battiste documents the nature of Eurocentric models of education, and their devastating impacts on Indigenous knowledge.” (University of Washington Press)

Marie Battiste, PhD, is a Mi’kmag from Unama’kik (Cape Brenton, Nova Scotia), and a graduate of Harvard and Stanford. She is the Academic Director or the Aboriginal Education Research Centre (usask), and a United Nations technical expert on the guidelines for protecting Indigenous heritage.

“Indigenous Storywork is the result of working closely with elders and storytellers, and it demonstrates how stories have the power to educate and heal the heart, mind, body, and spirit. It builds on the seven principles of respect, responsibility, reciprocity, reverence, holism, interrelatedness, and synergy that form a framework for understanding the characteristics of stories, appreciating the process of storytelling, establishing a receptive learning context, and engaging in holistic meaning-making.” (UBC Press) decolonizing

Jo-Ann Archibald, PhD, is professor of Educational Studies in the Faculty of Education at the UBC.

Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples by Linda Tuhiwai Smith, 1999

“From the vantage point of the colonized, the term 'research' is inextricably linked with European colonialism; the ways in which scientific research has been implicated in the worst excesses of imperialism remains a powerful remembered history for many of the world's colonized peoples. Here, an Indigenous researcher issues a call for the decolonization of research methods.” (Linda Tuhiwai Smith)

Linda Tuhiwai Smith, PhD, is Pro Vice-Chancellor Maori with responsibilities for Maori development at the University of Waikato as well as Dean of the School of Maori and Pacific Development and a professor of Education and Maori Development.

Unsettling the Settler Within: Indian Residential Schools, Truth Telling, and Reconciliation in Canada by Paulette Regan, 2010

“In Unsettling the Settler Within, Paulette Regan, a former residential-schools-claims manager, argues that in order to truly participate in the transformative possibilities of reconciliation, non-Aboriginal Canadians must undergo their own process of decolonization.” (UBC Press)

Paulette Regan’s work has focused on Aboriginal rights, Indigenous/non-Indigenous relations, and the legacy of Indian residential schools.

Research Is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods by Shawn Wilson, 2009

Describing “a research paradigm shared by Indigenous scholars in Canada and Australia, this study demonstrates how this standard can be put into practice. Portraying Indigenous researchers as knowledge seekers who work to progress Indigenous ways of being, knowing, and doing in a constantly evolving context, this examination shows how relationships both shape Indigenous reality and are vital to reality itself.” (Fernwood Publishing)

Shawn Wilson, PhD, is Opaskwayak Cree from northern Manitoba, Canada and now lives in Australia.

The Reconciliation Manifesto: Recovering the Land, Rebuilding the Economy by Arthur Manuel and Ronald M. Derrickson, 2017

“In this book Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson challenge virtually everything that non-Indigenous Canadians believe about their relationship with Indigenous Peoples and the steps that are needed to place this relationship on a healthy and honourable footing.” (Lorimer)
Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing by and about Indigenous Peoples by Gregory Younging, 2018

“Elements of Indigenous Style offers Indigenous writers and editors—and everyone creating works about Indigenous Peoples—the first published guide to common questions and issues of style and process. Everyone working in words or other media needs to read this important new reference, and to keep it nearby while they’re working.” (Brush Education Inc.)

Gregory Younging, a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation in northern Manitoba, is the publisher of Theytus Books, the first Indigenous-owned publishing house in Canada.