

INDIGENOUS LITERATURES

POETRY, GRAPHIC NOVELS, MEMOIRS, AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Disintegrate/Dissociate

Curved Against the Hull of a Peterhead

Un/inhabited

Witness, I am

500 Years of Resistance Comic Book

Dakwākāda Warriors

Red: A Haida Manga

This Place: 150 Years Retold

Heart Berries

A History of My Brief Body

In My Own Moccasins: A Memoir of Resilience

Paddling to Where I Stand: Agnes Alfred,
Qwiqwasutinuxw Noblewoman

Pimithaagansa / Dragonfly Kites

Kikî-Kîwê-Nikamôstamâtinân / We Sang You Home

Nijiikendam / My Heart Fills with Happiness

Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox

– and more –



Disintegrate/Dissociate

Arielle Twist

Arsenal Pulp Press (2019), English

Arielle Twist is a poet and sex educator who comes from George Gordon First Nation in Saskatchewan. Twist's experience and identity as a Nehiyaw (Cree), Two-Spirit, Indigenous Trans Woman shapes her first book of poetry, *Disintegrate/Dissociate*. Twist's work deals with experiences of grief and grieving, trauma, displacement, sex, relationships, and kinship through sparse, but visceral language to recover tenderness and imagine promising futures.

Recommended by Cristina Holman



Curved Against the Hull of a Peterhead

Taqralik Partridge

Publication Studio Guelph (2020), English

Curved Against the Hull of a Peterhead is the first book of poetry by Inuit and Scottish Canadian artist, curator, writer, and textile maker, Taqralik Partridge. Drawing from her spoken word background, Partridge takes on Inuit storytelling traditions, language (English, French, and Inuktitut), childhood, kinship, love, nature, colonization, collective uprising, and violence—dedicating odes to Colten Boushie, Philando Castile, and MMIWG. Partridge's poetry is visceral and personal, and as an artist, she seeks to subvert categorization.

Recommended by Kajola Moorewood



Un/inhabited

Jordan Abel

Talonbooks (2014), English

Nisga'a professor, writer, and poet Jordan Abel uses language extracted from ninety-one Western novels in the public domain found on Project Gutenberg as the source material for *Un/Inhabited*. Using these works as his starting point, Abel searched each found text for specific words that reference ideas of land, property, mapping, territory, and ownership. Each word becomes a microcosm that raises questions around the deployment, usage, and power at play between language and land.

Recommended by Emma Metcalfe Hurst



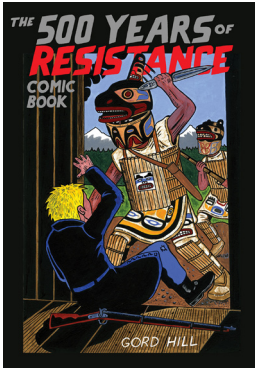
Witness, I am

Gregory Scofield

Nightwood Editions (2016), English

Red River Métis poet and artist Gregory Scofield's *Witness, I am* is a multifaceted book of poetry divided into three parts. The first section is titled "Dangerous Sound" which features (sound) poems about Indigenous identity and connection. The middle section is a retelling of "Muskrat Woman," a Cree creation story, that addresses MMIWG through the form of a long poem. The last section, "Ghost Dance," shares poignant, autobiographical poems which speak to larger, universal themes and experiences of Indigeneity.

Recommended by Tricia Logan



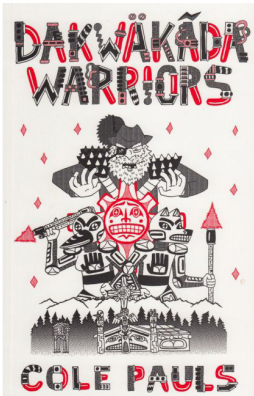
500 Years of Resistance Comic Book

Gord Hill

Arsenal Pulp Press (2010), English

Drawn by a Kwakwaka'wakw Nation writer and artist, this series of drawn stories are historically accurate depictions of Indigenous resistance to the European colonization of the Americas. The book begins with the Spanish invasion under Christopher Columbus and ends with the Six Nations land reclamation in Ontario in 2006.

Recommended by Emma Metcalfe Hurst
and Mandy Choie



Dakwākāda Warriors

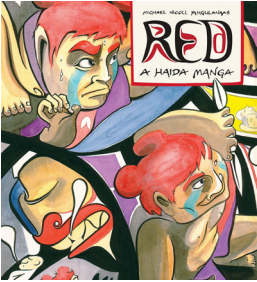
Cole Pauls

Southern Tutchone Conundrum Press (2019), English

Inspired by his desire to revitalize the ancestral language of Southern Tutchone, this Tahltan First Nation comic artist created a bilingual comic about two earth protectors saving the world from evil pioneers and cyborg sasquatches.

Recommended by Emma Metcalfe Hurst

GRAPHIC NOVELS



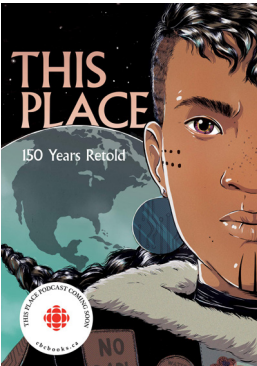
Red: A Haida Manga

Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas

Douglas & McIntyre (2014), English

Based on a classic Haida oral narrative and illustrated by a Haida Nation artist, this graphic novel details the story of Red, a leader whose thirst for revenge leads himself and his community to the precipice of destruction.

Recommended by Mandy Choie



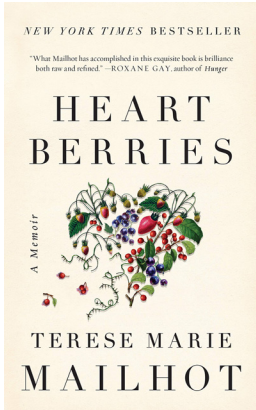
This Place: 150 Years Retold

Multiple Authors/Illustrators

Highwater Press (2019), English

Funded by Canada Council for the Arts' New Chapter initiative, this anthology includes works by ten Indigenous writers whose stories cover a wide range of topics, from psychic battles and time travel to surviving a post-apocalyptic world.

Recommended by Jenna Lawrence



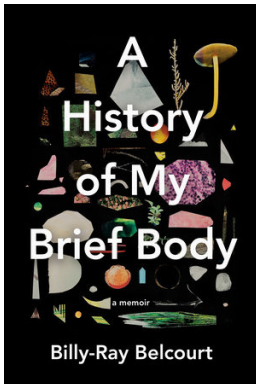
Heart Berries

Terese Marie Mailhot

Counterpoint Press (2018), English

This memoir of First Nation Canadian writer, Terese Marie Mailhot, from Seabird Island Band was written as a way out of trauma resulting from a profoundly difficult upbringing and many traumatic experiences throughout her life. Her account is poetic, fragmented, and evocative of her grappling with memory, pain, mental health, and reconciliation with her family, her community, and herself.

Recommended by Charlotte Leonard



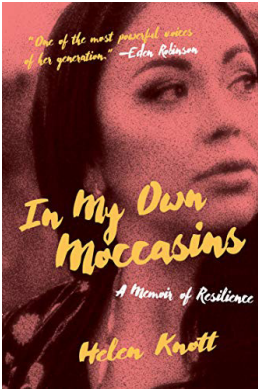
A History of My Brief Body

Billy-Ray Belcourt

Penguin Canada (2020), English

Billy-Ray Belcourt of the Driftpile Cree Nation reimagines the conventional memoir through experimentation with hybrid literary forms and incorporation of memories, encounters, reflections, and dreams. Through these intimate and emotional personal retellings, he documents his experience of queerness intersecting with indigeneity, and a way forward marked by resilience and joy in spite of ongoing colonial oppression.

Recommended by Grace McRae



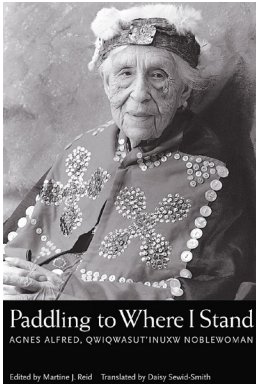
In My Own Moccasins: A Memoir of Resilience

Helen Knott

University of Regina Press (2019), English

Helen Knott, a poet-writer of Dane-Zaa, Nehiyaw, Metis, and European descent from the Prophet River First Nation presents a harrowing account of addiction, sexual violence, intergenerational trauma, and her journey towards healing and reclaiming her spirit, while exposing the legacy of colonialism. Her story ends on a hopeful and inspiring note, and demonstrates the power of resilience through ceremony, sisterhood, and family.

Recommended by Estelle Frank



Paddling to Where I Stand: Agnes Alfred, Qwiqwasutinuxw Noblewoman

Martine J. Reid and Daisy Sewid-Smith
(Editors/Translators)

UBC Press (2004), English

Through myths, history and personal reminiscences the memoirs of Agnes Alfred (c.1890-1992), a non-literate noble Qwiqwasutinuxw woman of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation, follow her experiences as a matriarch through times of immense change. This work is the first of its kind in presenting, firsthand, a Kwakwaka'wakw woman's accounts of traditional practices and the foundations of her culture.

Recommended by Clara Gimenez Delgado



Pimithaagansa / Dragonfly Kites

Tomson Highway
Julie Flett (illustrator)

Fifth House (2018), Cree/English

The second in Cree author Tomson Highway's Songs of the North Wind trilogy, *Pimithaagansa / Dragonfly Kites* illustrates the power of imagination through the story of two young Cree brothers and their family spending their summer by a lake in Northern Manitoba, chasing dragonfly kites through the landscape and into the night sky.

From UBC Education Library Booklists,
recommended by Maiya Letourneau



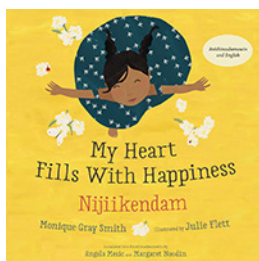
Kikî-Kîwê-Nikamôstamâtinân / We Sang You Home

Richard Van Camp
Julie Flett (illustrator)
Mary Cardinal Collin (translator)

Orca Book Publishers (2018), Plains Cree/English

Capturing the wonder of new parents welcoming young ones into the world, *Kikî-Kîwê-Nikamôstamâtinân / We Sang You Home* by Tłıchų Dene author Richard Van Camp celebrates the bond between parent and child through sweet and lyrical prose.

Recommended by Neah Ingram-Monteiro



Nijikendam / My Heart Fills with Happiness

Monique Gray Smith
Julie Flett (illustrator)
Angela Marie Uitz, Angela Mesic,
Margaret Noodin (translators)

Orca Book Publishers (2021), Anishinaabemowin/English

Referencing the feeling of warm sun, the smell of fresh bannock, and the feel of holding the hand of a loved one, *Nijikendam / My Heart Fills With Happiness* by Cree, Lakota, and Scottish author Monique Gray Smith, is a reminder to children to cherish moments of joy.

Recommended by Neah Ingram-Monteiro



Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox

Danielle Daniel

Anansi (2017), English

Prefaced by a brief note discussing the importance of totem animals in Anishinaabe culture, *Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox* by Anishinaabe, French, and Scottish author Danielle Daniel, shares the perspective of children who explain why they identify with different animals such as moose, beaver, or deer.

From UBC Education Library Booklists,
recommended by Maiya Letourneau

MORE

Poetry

NDN Coping

**Mechanisms: Notes
from the Field**

Billy-Ray Belcourt

I Am Still Too Much

Brandi Bird

**Eyes Bottle Dark with
a Mouthful of Flowers**

Jake Skeets

**Islands of
Decolonial Love**

Leanne Betasamosake
Simpson

**Burning in this
Midnight Dream**

Louise Bernice Halfe

**Residential Schools:
The Stolen Years (1993)**

Louise Bernice Half

**When My Brother
Was an Azte**

Natalie Diaz

Nature Poem

Tommy Pico

Graphic novels

**7 Generations:
A Plains Cree Saga**

David Robertson

UNeducation

Jason EagleSpeaker

**Pemmican Wars
(A Girl Called Echo #1)**

Katherena Vermette

Scott B. Henderson

(Illustrator)

**Moonshot: The
Indigenous Comics
Collection (Volume 1)**

Multiple artists

**The Outside Circle:
A Graphic Novel**

Patti Laboucane-Benson

Kelly Mellings (Illustrator)

**Surviving the City
(Volume 1)**

Tasha Spillet

Natasha Donovan

(Illustrator)

Fiction

Elatsoe

Darcie Little Badger

Monkey Beach

Eden Robinson

Son of a Trickster

Eden Robinson

The Break

Katherena Vermette

**Noopiming The
Cure for White Ladies**

Leanne Betasamosake

Simpson

**Future Home of
the Living God**

Louise Erdrich

Love Medicine

Louise Erdrich

The Round House

Louise Erdrich

Five Little Indians

Michelle Good

**Porcupines and
China Dolls**

Robert Arthur Alexie

Braiding Sweetgrass

Robin Wall Kimmerer

The Only Good Indians

Stephen Graham Jones

Split Tooth

Tanya Tagaq

There There

Tommy Orange

Children's books

Wild berries =

Pikaci-Mīnisa

Julie Flett

Earl N. Cook (translator)

**Gimanaadenim /
You Hold Me Up**

Monique Gray Smith

Danielle Daniel

(Illustrator)

THANK YOU

This zine was created for LIBR 564/ARST 585: Information Practice and Protocol in Support of Indigenous Initiatives.

Taught by Tricia Logan

Spring 2021

Thank you to the students of
LIBR 564/ARST 585 for your contributions.