

## Annotated Bibliography

Tanya Talaga. *Seven Fallen Feathers. Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City.* House of Anansi Press, 2017.

The tragic stories of seven young people whose lives were cut short in Thunder Bay, ON as a direct result of chronic racism, cultural genocide and lack of funding for education and health services for Indigenous children.

Doug Williams. *Michi Saagiig Nishinaabeg. This is Our Territory.*

An entertaining series of stories describing life in the Michi Saagiig Nishinaabeg territory as told by Doug Williams, elder, and knowledge keeper of Curve Lake First Nation who grew up with the benefit of his grandmother's and great uncle's knowledge of the land.

Thomas King . *An Inconvenient Indian. A Curious Account of Native People in North America.* Anchor Canada, 2012.

This is a great introductory read about the history of treaties and relationships between Native and Non-Native inhabitants of North America. With wit, dismay and hope, Thomas King gives us a personal look at what it means to be "Indian" in North America, helping us (settlers) begin to understand what it means to be on the receiving end of the ever-changing laws and practices governing our relationships with each other and the land.

Richard Wagamese. *One Native Life.* Douglas & McIntyre, 2008.

Any book by Richard Wagamese, an Ojibway from the Wabaseemoong First Nation in northwestern Ontario is worth reading. This one is a memoir about his life and is full of hope, despite hardships he experienced growing up. He finds peace in knowing his roots and deepening his connection with the land. He is remarkably tolerant of his settler neighbours. He authored

15 books including *Medicine Walk* and *Indian Horse*. Sadly he passed away in 2017.

*Honouring the Truth. Reconciling for the Future. Summary of the Final Report of Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.* Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015

Can be found and downloaded for free at

[http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Honouring\\_the\\_Truth\\_Reconciling\\_for\\_the\\_Future\\_July\\_23\\_2015.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Honouring_the_Truth_Reconciling_for_the_Future_July_23_2015.pdf)

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission uncovered the truth of the tragic history of Canada's Residential School System for Indigenous Children from pre-confederation to 1996 (when the last one closed). These children were abused emotionally, physically and sexually, and many did not survive which was all part of a systemic policy of genocide. It is also a story of resiliency and survival for those who had the courage to speak their truth.

From the Preface:

*"...shaming and pointing out wrongdoing were not the purpose of the Commission's mandate. Ultimately, the Commission's focus on truth determination was intended to lay the foundation for the important question of reconciliation. Now that we know about residential schools and their legacy, what do we do about it?"*

*Getting to the truth was hard, but getting to reconciliation will be harder. It requires that the paternalistic and racist foundations of the residential school system be rejected as the basis for an ongoing relationship. Reconciliation requires that a new vision, based on a commitment to mutual respect, be developed. It also requires an understanding that the most harmful impacts of residential schools have been the loss of pride and self-respect of Aboriginal people, and the lack of respect that non-Aboriginal people have been raised to have for their Aboriginal neighbours. Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem; it is a Canadian one. Virtually all aspects of Canadian society may need to be reconsidered. This summary*

*is intended to be the initial reference point in that important discussion. Reconciliation will take some time.”*

*Reclaiming Power and Place. The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.*

Found at [https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Executive\\_Summary.pdf](https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Executive_Summary.pdf)

This National Inquiry set out to explore the systemic causes of the over representation of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA in Canada, the exact number of which will never be determined. It explored the impact of colonization, racism, residential schools, the sixties scoop and arrived at a determination of genocide. The contributions to this report from family members of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA also highlighted the immense resiliency of this population. Change requires learning the truth and confronting racism in all levels of our social order.

There are 231 individual Calls for Justice directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries, and all Canadians.