

## **Toronto Monthly Meeting Library Committee Booklist 2022**

Members of TMM assisted Billi Knight with booklist creation during 2020-2022, in hopes of highlighting some key books on topics of interest to Toronto Friends. Toronto Public Library owns all of these books; formats are listed under each book description.

### **Books on the Topic of Canadian Indigenous Issues**

#### **The Reconciliation Manifesto: Recovering the Land, Rebuilding the Economy**

by Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson

Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson challenge just about everything non-Indigenous Canadians know about their relationship with Indigenous peoples. Crucially, they demonstrate how Canadian governments are attempting to reconcile with Indigenous peoples without addressing the colonial structures that continue to disrupt the relationship. Instead, Manuel and Derrickson offer an illuminating vision of what Canada and Canadians need for true reconciliation.

**Print book and Daisy format**

#### **Indigenous Nationhood: Empowering Grassroots Citizens**

by Pamela Palmater

This book comprises of a collection of blog posts by lawyer, activist and academic, Pamela Palmater. Palmater offers a unique anti-racist, anti-colonial perspective on a variety of topics, including Indigenous identity, rights, and social issues such as missing and murdered Indigenous women, Canadian economics, identity, culture, poverty, and more. Palmater hopes to rebuild the connections between Indigenous peoples and their communities, local governments, and Canada for the benefit of future generations.

**Print book, eBook**

#### **The Education of Augie Merasty: a Residential School Memoir**

by Joseph Auguste Merasty with David Carpenter

A fisherman and trapper, Joseph Auguste (Augie) Merasty was one of an estimated 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children who were taken from their families and sent to government-run residential schools, where they were subject to forced “assimilation,” a loss of their native heritage, and rampant abuse. Even as he looks back on this painful part of his childhood and Canada’s history, Merasty’s sense of humour and warmth are prevalent throughout. Augie Merasty died at the age of 87 in 2017.

We encourage everyone to prioritize time on September 30 for learning and re-learning Indigenous history in Canada and paths toward reconciliation. Volunteer in your community, participate in local events, read books (such as those listed above) and engage in meaningful conversations. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation provides a formal and national opportunity to recognize the legacy of residential schools and we would like to honour this intention each year.

**Print book, eBook**

#### **The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America**

by Thomas King

The Inconvenient Indian is a sometimes humorous, sometimes dark, sometimes satirical look at the history of colonialism in Canada. Author Thomas King explores historical events from a different perspective, while also looking at the way Indigenous people are portrayed in the media and pop culture.

**Print book (regular edition and illustrated), eBook, eAudiobook, Daisy reader**

## **21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act**

Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality

by Bob Joseph

Since its creation in 1876, the Indian Act has dictated and constrained the lives and opportunities of Indigenous Peoples and is at the root of many enduring stereotypes. Bob Joseph's book comes at a key time in the reconciliation process, when awareness from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities is at a crescendo. Joseph examines how Indigenous Peoples can return to self-government, self-determination, and self-reliance—and why doing so would result in a better country for every Canadian. He dissects the complex issues around the Indian Act and demonstrates why learning about its cruel and irrevocable legacy is vital for the country to move toward true reconciliation.

**Print book, eBook**

## **A National Crime**

the Canadian Government and the Residential School System, 1879 to 1986

by John S. Milloy

"For over 100 years, thousands of Aboriginal children passed through the Canadian residential school system. Begun in the 1870s, it was intended, in the words of government officials, to bring these children into the "circle of civilization," the results, however, were far different. More often, the schools provided an inferior education in an atmosphere of neglect, disease, and often abuse. Using previously unreleased government documents, historian John S. Milloy provides a full picture of the history and reality of the residential school system. He begins by tracing the ideological roots of the system, and follows the paper trail of internal memoranda, reports from field inspectors, and letters of complaint. In the early decades, the system grew without planning or restraint. Despite numerous critical commissions and reports, it persisted into the 1970s, when it transformed itself into a social welfare system without improving conditions for its thousands of wards. A National Crime shows that the residential system was chronically underfunded and often mismanaged, and documents in detail and how this affected the health, education, and well-being of entire generations of Aboriginal children."--

**Print book, eBook**

## **A Knock on the Door**

by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

**Print book (edited and abridged), eBook, eAudiobook**

## **Secret Path**

By Gordon Downie

The story of Chanie Wenjack (misnamed Charlie by his teachers), a twelve-year-old boy who died in flight from the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School fifty years ago.

**Print book, eBook, eAudiobook,; also on cd and eMusic**

## **Books on The Topic of Environmentalism**

### **Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed**

By Jared Diamond

Brilliant, illuminating, and immensely absorbing, *Collapse* is destined to take its place as one of the essential books of our time, raising the urgent question: How can our world best avoid committing ecological suicide?

**Print Book, eBook, eAudiobook, Daisy reader**

### **The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming**

by David Wallace-Wells

In his travelogue of our near future, David Wallace-Wells brings into stark relief the climate troubles that await--food shortages, refugee emergencies, and other crises that will reshape the globe. But the world will be remade by warming in more profound ways as well, transforming our politics, our culture, our relationship to technology, and our sense of history. It will be all-encompassing, shaping and distorting nearly every aspect of human life as it is lived today.

Like *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Silent Spring* before it, *The Uninhabitable Earth* is both a meditation on the devastation we have brought upon ourselves and an impassioned call to action. For just as the world was brought to the brink of catastrophe within the span of a lifetime, the responsibility to avoid it now belongs to a single generation.

**Print book, eBook, eAudiobook, Daisy reader**

### **A Life on Our Planet: My Witness Statement and a Vision for the Future**

By David Attenborough, Jonnie Hughes

As a young man, I felt I was out there in the wild, experiencing the untouched natural world - but it was an illusion. The tragedy of our time has been happening all around us, barely noticeable from day to day - the loss of our planet's wild places, its biodiversity.

I have been witness to this decline. *A Life on Our Planet* is my witness statement, and my vision for the future. It is the story of how we came to make this, our greatest mistake - and how, if we act now, we can yet put it right.

**Print book, Large Print, Audio book on cd, eBook, eAudiobook, Daisy reader, cd Talking book**

### **How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need**

by Bill Gates

In this urgent, authoritative book, Bill Gates sets out a wide-ranging, practical - and accessible - plan for how the world can get to zero greenhouse gas emissions in time to avoid a climate catastrophe.

**Print book, Large Print, eBook, eAudiobook, Daisy reader**

### **No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference**

by Greta Thunberg

The ground breaking speeches of Greta Thunberg, the young climate activist who has become the voice of a generation, including her historic address to the United Nations.

**Print book (regular edition and illustrated), Large Print, eBook, eAudiobook**

## **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants**

by Robin Wall Kimmerer

As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on “a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise” (Elizabeth Gilbert).

**Print book, eBook, eAudiobook**

## **Silent Spring**

by Rachel Carson

First published by Houghton Mifflin in 1962, *Silent Spring* alerted a large audience to the environmental and human dangers of indiscriminate use of pesticides, spurring revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water. "Silent Spring became a runaway bestseller, with international reverberations . . . [It is] well crafted, fearless, and succinct . . . Even if she had not inspired a generation of activists, Carson would prevail as one of the greatest nature writers in American letters" (Peter Matthiessen, for Time's 100 Most Influential People of the Century).

**Print book, eBook, eAudiobook**

## **Books on the Topic of Systemic Racism in Canada**

### **The Skin We're In: A Year of Black Resistance and Power**

by Desmond Cole

A bracing, provocative, and perspective-shifting book from one of Canada's most celebrated and uncompromising writers, Desmond Cole. *The Skin We're In* will spark a national conversation, influence policy, and inspire activists.

**Print book, eBook, eAudiobook**

### **They Call Me George: The Untold Story of Black Train Porters and the Birth of Modern Canada.**

by Cecil Foster

After Indigenous displacement and Chinese labour allowed a shiny new railway to link a newly formed Canada, Black men denied other employment options rode them from coast to coast. These sleeping car porters spent weeks away from home tending to riders on Canada's new trains, often for no wages other than tips. Most passengers declined to learn their names, simply calling them all "George."

**Print book, eBook, Daisy reader**

### **Black Writers Matter**

Edited by Whitney French

An anthology of African Canadian writing, *Black Writing Matters* offers a cross-section of established writers and newcomers to the literary world who tackle contemporary and pressing issues with beautiful, sometimes raw, prose. As Whitney French says in her introduction, *Black Writing Matters* "injects new meaning into the word diversity [and] harbours a sacredness and an everydayness that offers Black people dignity."

**Print book, eBook**

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