

JTRAG Book List

January 2026

Prepared by: Kip Ip, JTRAG Library Coordinator (kip.ip@queensu.ca)

Access (Google Drive): Please use the link ([JTRAG Book List January 2026](#)) shared in the monthly JTRAG e-news to open the current version.

Scope: Practical, widely available resources that support learning, reflection, and group discussion. Updated monthly.

Update note: This month, a new category, Indigenous Spirituality, has been added. If you cannot find any book, podcast, or video listed in this list, please contact Kip Ip at kip.ip@queensu.ca.

Format note: For each book, the publication year is shown beside the title. For nonfiction works that discuss history and public policy, the publisher is also listed.

Book of the Month (January 2026)

52 Ways to Reconcile: A Guide to Walking with Indigenous Peoples on the Path to Healing (2025)

- **Author:** David A. Robertson
- **Publication:** McClelland & Stewart, 2025
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** Short, practical actions and reflection prompts that support learning, relationship building, and everyday change.
- **URL:**
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=52%20Ways%20to%20Reconcile%20David%20A.%20Robertson>
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Strong fit for congregational or community discussion.

Note: This Book of the Month entry is also thematically connected to Category C1 below.

Categories

Children

Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story (2021)

- **Author:** David Alexander Robertson and Scott B. Henderson
- **Publication:** Portage & Main Press (HighWater Press), 2021
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A short, accessible graphic story that introduces residential school history and its impact in a sensitive way.

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- **About:** A story of a survivor, told in a format that supports learning and conversation for families and mixed-age groups.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for family discussion and intergenerational learning.
- **URL:** <https://www.portageandmainpress.com/Books/S/Sugar-Falls>

Teens

Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City (2017)

- **Author:** Tanya Talaga
- **Publication:** House of Anansi Press, 2017
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A powerful and carefully reported account that supports serious reflection on racism, systems, and youth loss.
- **About:** An investigation into the deaths of Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay, written in a clear style for general readers.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for guided youth and adult discussion.
- **URL:**
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Seven%20Fallen%20Feathers%20Tanya%20Talaga>

The Marrow Thieves (2017)

- **Author:** Cherie Dimaline
- **Publication:** Cormorant Books (Dancing Cat Books imprint), 2017
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A well-known Indigenous young adult novel that supports discussion about identity, survival, and future vision.
- **About:** A dystopian story about Indigenous youth, resilience, and the protection of culture and memory.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Strong for teen groups and school discussions.
- **URL:**
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/744474/the-marrow-thieves-by-cherie-dimaline/>

Adults

C1. History and Truth and Reconciliation

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (2015)

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- **Author:** Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- **Publication:** Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015 (online)
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A short, direct set of calls that provides a shared reference point for action and accountability.
- **About:** The official Calls to Action, available online.
- **How to access:** Free online. Open the link.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Practical for study groups and action planning.
- **URL:**
<https://nctr.ca/about/history-of-the-trc/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-of-canada-calls-to-action/>

Executive Summary: Final Report on the Missing and Disappeared Indigenous Children and Unmarked Burials in Canada (2024)

- **Issuer:** Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools
- **Publication:** Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor, 2024
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** An executive summary of the Independent Special Interlocutor's final report on missing and disappeared Indigenous children and unmarked burials associated with Indian Residential Schools. It summarizes key findings and obligations, helping readers understand why this work matters and what responsible next steps can look like.
- **About:** A free online report that connects closely to Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action 71 to 76 and to current discussions about records, investigations, and respectful commemoration.
- **How to access:** Free online. Open the link.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for guided discussion and for preparing questions before a speaker event.
- **URL:** <https://osi-bis.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/3.OSI-Executive-Summary.pdf>

A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2015)

- **Author:** Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC)
- **Publication:** University of Manitoba Press, 2015
- **Published:** December 2015
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A concise, accessible distillation of key TRC findings about residential schools. Strong for readers who want a grounded historical and policy overview.

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- **About:** Draws from TRC materials to summarize the history, school experience, legacy, and reconciliation, including Calls to Action and supporting context for discussion.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for guided group reading and facilitated discussion.
- **URL:** <https://uofmpress.ca/books/a-knock-on-the-door>

Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery (2019)

- **Author:** Mark Charles and Soong Chan Rah
- **Publication:** InterVarsity Press, 2019
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A clear explanation of historical ideas that shaped colonial policy, written for a general audience.
- **About:** A study of the Doctrine of Discovery and its continuing impacts.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Useful for guided group discussion.
- **URL:**
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Unsettling%20Truths%20Mark%20Charles%20Soong%20Chan%20Rah>

52 Ways to Reconcile: A Guide to Walking with Indigenous Peoples on the Path to Healing (2025)

- **Note:** See Book of the Month above for the full entry.

Listening to Indigenous Voices: About This Guide (Jesuit Forum learning guide) (2021)

- **Issuer:** Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice
- **Editors:** Victoria Blanco, Jayce Chiblow, Mark Hathaway, Anne Marie Jackson (Jesuit Forum)
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A free online guide that introduces the purpose and structure of the Jesuit Forum Listening to Indigenous Voices series. It explains why listening is an ethical and practical starting point for reconciliation, and it outlines how each session combines short readings, reflection questions, and actions that can be used in a congregation or small group. The guide also describes the advisory and editorial process and encourages participants to approach the material with humility, care, and willingness to change. Use this entry when your group wants a clear pathway from learning to discussion and next steps.
- **How to access:** Free online. Open the link.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Designed for group sessions.

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- **URL:** <https://jesuitforum.ca/sessions/about-this-guide/>
- **Newsletter note:** Featured this month. The synopsis text above was shown in the newsletter.

On Dismantling Settler Colonialism: An Insider's Perspective on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples (2025)

- **Author:** John A. Olthuis
- **Publication:** University of Toronto Press, 2025
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A clear and challenging book that argues reconciliation requires more than goodwill or symbolic gestures. Olthuis draws on decades of legal, policy, and community experience to explain how settler colonial systems shape land, law, education, and public institutions. He invites readers to examine assumptions, recognize ongoing power imbalances, and support Indigenous self-determination in practical ways. The writing is suitable for thoughtful adult readers. It works well for guided discussion when a group wants to move from general support to concrete questions about responsibility, change, and next steps.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Strong fit for policy, law, and reconciliation discussions.
- **URL:**
<https://www.thenile.co.nz/books/john-a-olthuis/on-dismantling-settler-colonialism/9781487569228>
- **Newsletter note:** Featured this month. The synopsis text above was shown in the newsletter.

C2. Fiction

The Break (2016)

- **Author:** Katherena Vermette
- **Publication:** House of Anansi Press, 2016
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A well-written Canadian novel that supports empathy and discussion about community, harm, and resilience.
- **About:** A story of an Indigenous family and community, told through multiple voices, with themes of violence, healing, and responsibility.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for an adult book group discussion.
- **URL:** <https://houseofanansi.com/products/the-break>

The Bone Thief (2025)

- **Author:** Vanessa Lillie

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- **Publication:** Berkley, 2025
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A suspense-driven mystery that follows an archaeologist investigating the disappearance of a Native teen. It can prompt discussion about community memory, institutions, and how history is handled.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for an adult book group discussion.
- **URL:**
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=The%20Bone%20Thief%20Vanessa%20Lillie>

The Whistler (2025)

- **Author:** Nick Medina
- **Publication:** Berkley, 2025
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A contemporary Indigenous horror novel that blends suspense with cultural themes. It can support discussion of myths, fear, and the impact of harmful forces on families and communities.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for an adult book group discussion.
- **URL:** <https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=The%20Whistler%20Nick%20Medina>

C3. Biography and Memoir

Who We Are: Four Questions for a Life and a Nation (2022)

- **Author:** The Honourable Murray Sinclair
- **Publication:** McClelland & Stewart, 2022
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A highly accessible reflection on leadership, truth, and responsibility, from a prominent Canadian public figure.
- **About:** A memoir and public reflection that frames reconciliation through questions about identity, values, and future direction.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Strong for adult discussion.
- **URL:** <https://www.amazon.ca/Who-We-Are-Questions-Nation/dp/077109910X>

Stoneface: A Defiant Dene (2023)

- **Author:** Stephen Kakfwi
- **Publication:** Caitlin Press, 2023

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- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A first-person account of a northern Indigenous leader, with clear insights on governance, community, and lived history.
- **About:** A memoir that connects personal story, northern life, and public service, written for general readers.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Useful for community and leadership discussion.
- **URL:** <https://goodminds.com/products/stoneface-memoir-of-a-defiant-dene>

North of Nowhere: Song of a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner (2024)

- **Author:** Marie Wilson
- **Publication:** House of Anansi Press, 2024
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A clear, personal account of reconciliation work, written for a general audience, with strong relevance for reflection and discussion.
- **About:** A memoir and reflective narrative from a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner, connecting lived experience, listening, and the long work of repair.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Especially useful for congregations, community groups, and book group sessions.
- **URL:** <https://houseofanansi.com/products/north-of-nowhere>

C4. Faith and Reflection

Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys: A Native American Expression of the Jesus Way (2015)

- **Author:** Richard Twiss
- **Publication:** InterVarsity Press, 2015
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A reflective resource that supports thoughtful discussion on faith, culture, and identity.
- **About:** A faith-based perspective that centres Indigenous experience and critiques cultural distortion.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for guided discussion in faith communities.
- **URL:** <https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Rescuing%20the%20Gospel%20from%20the%20Cowboys%20Richard%20Twiss>

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C5. Poetry

This category will be expanded with community suggestions.

C6. Land and Activism

Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis and Inuit Issues in Canada (2016)

- **Author:** Chelsea Vowel
- **Publication:** Portage & Main Press, 2016
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A direct, plain language guide that supports learning, vocabulary, and practical understanding.
- **About:** Short chapters that explain key terms, history, and common questions.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Very suitable because the chapters are short and topic-focused.
- **URL:** <https://www.portageandmainpress.com/Books/I/Indigenous-Writes>

Turtle Island: The Story of North America's First People (2017)

- **Author:** Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger
- **Publication:** Annick Press, 2017
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A widely used overview that is clear and suitable for general readers.
- **About:** A history and overview of Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island, written for a broad audience.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for introductory group study.
- **URL:** <https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Turtle%20Island%20The%20Story%20of%20North%20America%27s%20First%20People%20Yellowhorn%20Lowinger>

Turtle Island: Foods and Traditions of the Indigenous Peoples of North America (2025)

- **Author:** Sean Sherman
- **Publication:** Clarkson Potter, 2025
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** Connects food, land, and Indigenous knowledge through recipes and cultural context. It is a practical way to learn about Indigenous foodways with respect and care.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.

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- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Works well for a community meal, recipe selection, or discussion about land-based knowledge.
- **URL:**
<https://search.worldcat.org/search?q=Turtle%20Island%20Foods%20and%20Traditions%20Sean%20Sherman>

C7. Indigenous Spirituality

Scope: Indigenous teachings and reflections on land, relationship, gratitude, identity, and spiritual life.

Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God (2020)

- **Author:** Kaitlin Curtice
- **Publication:** Brazos Press, 2020
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A personal and accessible reflection that connects Indigenous identity, belonging, and spirituality.
- **About:** A memoir and reflection on identity, community, and faith, written for general readers.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for careful, respectful discussion.
- **URL:**
<https://www.amazon.ca/Native-Identity-Belonging-Rediscovering-God/dp/1587434318>

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants (2013)

- **Author:** Robin Wall Kimmerer
- **Publication:** Milkweed Editions, 2013
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A widely read, reflective book that blends relationship to land, gratitude, and Indigenous knowledge in an accessible style.
- **About:** Essays that connect plants, place, and teachings about reciprocity and responsibility.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for book group sessions.
- **URL:** <https://milkweed.org/book/braiding-sweetgrass>

C8. Faith-Based Resources for Reconciliation Learning

Scope: Faith community resources that support reconciliation learning, reflection, and group discussion.

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The First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament (2021)

- **Author:** Terry M. Wildman
- **Publication:** InterVarsity Press, 2021
- **Synopsis and Why Read:** A well-known translation that can support reflection and discussion about language, worldview, and meaning.
- **About:** An Indigenous translation and retelling of the New Testament, created to support Indigenous readers and broader learning.
- **How to access:** Search Amazon.ca, or borrow from a library or Libby, if available.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for a faith community study.
- **URL:** <https://www.firstnationsversion.com/>

C9. Watch and Listen

Scope: Films, videos, and other audio or visual resources that can support learning, reflection, and group discussion.

Film: *If an Owl Calls Your Name (Wisdom of the Ancestors Series)*

- **Issuer:** The Eternal Song
- **Synopsis and Why Watch:** A documentary in the Wisdom of the Ancestors series that centres on Indigenous Elders, healing, ceremony, land, and language. Helpful in discussing the impacts of residential schools and pathways of healing.
- **About:** A film resource suitable for a guided group viewing, followed by facilitated reflection and discussion.
- **How to access:** Free online. Open the link.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for group viewing and reflection with a facilitator.
- **URL:** <https://theeternalsong.org/owl>

Video: *The Truth and Reconciliation Commission ten years out: A conversation with commissioner Marie Wilson*

- **Issuer:** Scotiabank YouTube channel
- **Synopsis and Why Watch:** A professional interview that reflects on progress and ongoing implementation challenges after the TRC final report. Useful for reflection on accountability and next steps.
- **About:** A public video interview that can be used as a short viewing selection, followed by a guided discussion.
- **How to access:** Free online. Open the link.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Suitable for congregational or community discussion with a facilitator.
- **URL:** <https://youtu.be/JiO-DKN-1sA?si=ygDsqcHaF91uU8Fv>

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Video: Indigenous and Christian Perspectives on Faith, Forgiveness and Reconciliation (Bridging Cultures Series)

- **Authors:** The Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred and the Rev. Dr. Richard Topping
- **Synopsis and Why Watch:** A video dialogue that helps faith communities begin respectful conversations about the intersection of Indigenous spirituality and Christian perspectives on reconciliation.
- **About:** A recorded presentation featuring shared reflections and theological insights, designed to support learning and discussion in a church or small group setting.
- **How to access:** Free online via YouTube.
- **Group Discussion:** Yes. Designed for parish-level or small-group viewing and discussion.
- **URL:** <https://youtu.be/4HCYDwtABXs?si=84iuNVBdYL0GEN-c>