Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books
Volume II
Pre-School to Adult

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NWT Literacy Council
Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books

The NWT Literacy Council is a not-for-profit organization with a mandate to promote and support literacy development in all the official languages of the NWT. For more information on our work or any aspect of literacy, you can contact us at:

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We are grateful to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Government of the Northwest Territories for funding this project through the Early Childhood Development Framework for Action and to the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, Human Resources and Social Development Canada.
Since our first *Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books* was published in early 2006, a large body of new work has been created by aboriginal authors, illustrators and translators. This volume contains many brand new books, as well as others that we weren’t aware of when the first volume was published or that have been suggested to us since then.

It is not a straightforward task to put together a list of aboriginal books. In particular, the issue of appropriation of voice is a sensitive one. It is difficult to know whether a book written about one culture by someone from outside that culture is an accurate depiction, no matter how sympathetic the author is. However, avoiding this problem is becoming easier as the number of books written by aboriginal people rather than about aboriginal people increases. We have tried to choose all of the books on this list carefully, and welcome any feedback that people may have.

As before, we looked primarily for books by Canadian authors and illustrators. However, there are many books written by people outside of Canada that are interesting and relevant to Canadians. This is especially true given that borders between aboriginal groups do not always coincide with national borders. We have also tried to include a wider selection of books that are relevant to northern readers, as well as books written in northern languages.

For a variety of reasons, we have included books that may be out of print:

- They may be reprinted at some time.
- Some programs may already have these books on their shelves.
- You may find them in the library.
- You may find second-hand books.
We have made a few changes to the format of this bibliography. For example, we have added a new category especially for books created by northern authors, translators and illustrators.

To make it easier to find the kinds of books you are looking for, we have also divided the material into three age categories: children, young adult and adult. However, these categories are not set in stone. For example, traditional stories that are easy enough for children to read have been included in the children’s section, but will probably be of interest to all ages. Most of the materials in aboriginal languages are targeted at children and are included in the children’s section, but are also useful for second language learners. Also, many books in the young adult section could be used with adult learners. We suggest that you review the materials before you use them to ensure that the language and content are appropriate for your group.

Please let us know:

- If your favourite books have not been included
- If we’ve included some books that you think should not be on this list, or
- If you see some mistakes.

We’ll make the changes in future editions.
When we know the origin of the material, we have indicated it using a symbol system:

- ![North](image)
  
  A northern aboriginal author, illustrator, storyteller or translator is involved.

- ![Canadian](image)
  
  A Canadian aboriginal author, illustrator, storyteller or translator is involved.

- ![Canadian Flag](image)
  
  A Canadian author, illustrator, storyteller or translator is involved.

- ![Aboriginal Flag](image)
  
  An aboriginal author, illustrator, storyteller or translator from outside Canada is involved.

- ![Global Flag](image)
  
  A non-Canadian, non-aboriginal author or illustrator is involved.
This section contains books for children, as well as books that are interesting to people of all ages, for example legends and traditional stories. It also contains a number of resources in aboriginal languages. While they are mostly geared towards children, they may also be useful for second language learners.


Age: 4-7
Language: Tłichǫ Yatìi (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Two children get dressed to go outside. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 1).


Age: 4-7
Language: Tłichǫ Yatìi (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; School
A girl describes her favourite things about going to school. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 1).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłíchǫ Yati (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

A boy picks different coloured flowers. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 1).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłíchǫ Yati (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction; Friendship

A story about two friends and how they help each other. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 2).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìi (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction; Families; Grandparents

A girl spends time with her Grandpa. They do all kinds of different things together. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 2).


Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìi (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction; Families

A girl introduces all of her family members. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 2).


Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìi (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction
A book about different kinds of animals that hide in the bush. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 3).


Age: 4-7
Language: Tłı̨chǫ Yati (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Holly and her family have fun playing with water toys. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 3).


Age: 4-7
Language: Tłı̨chǫ Yati (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction; Families

Holly makes breakfast for her family while they are sleeping. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 3).
Age: 4-7
Language: Tłíchọɔ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Two girls meet a hungry horse while taking a walk. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 3).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłíchọɔ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Two children watch a carver make a frog out of wood. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 4).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłíchọɔ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction
Holly spots an eagle while taking a walk with her family. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 4).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Eileen loves daffodils. She plants a bulb and waits to see what will happen. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 5).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Levi can’t find his cat Fluffy. Where could she be? Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 5).
Adams, Lorraine and Bruvold, Lynn.  Translator / Mary Rose Sundberg.  
Age: 4-7  
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)  
Subject: Children; Fiction  

Two girls go to visit their Grandma. She gives them each a pair of handmade moccasins. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 6).

Adams, Lorraine and Bruvold, Lynn.  Translator / Mary Rose Sundberg.  
Age: 4-7  
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)  
Subject: Children; Fiction  

A girl and her mother go on a picnic. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 6).

Adams, Lorraine and Bruvold, Lynn.  Translator / Mary Rose Sundberg.  
Age: 4-7  
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)  
Subject: Children; Fiction
Jeanna, Jeremy and Louie go fishing. But will they catch anything good to eat? Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 3).


Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction; Families

Martina helps her mom look after her baby brother. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 7).


Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Alysha gets a flat tire. How will she pump it up again? Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 6).
Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Chantal loses her raven necklace. Will she be able to find it? Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 7).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Bonkers always seems to be hungry. Where is all of his food going? Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 8).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction
The red fox is hungry. He searches for something good to eat. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 8).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatiï (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Jamie and Martina go to visit their grandma, but she is sick. The girls help to look after her. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 8).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatiï (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Kayla and Tiara’s mom sends them to the store. It is a long walk, but on the way they meet some friends. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 8).
Age: 4-7  
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìì (Weledeh dialect)  
Subject: Children; Fiction

Haley’s mom wants to bake a pie, but she has no blackberries. Haley and her sister go to pick the blackberries. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 9).

Age: 4-7  
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìì (Weledeh dialect)  
Subject: Children; Fiction

Jeremy and Louie find a tree fort in the forest. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 9).

Age: 4-7  
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìì (Weledeh dialect)  
Subject: Children; Fiction
Rachel’s grandma comes to school to show the students how to make the best bread. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 12).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłı̨chǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Jeremy and Louie go sliding. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 10).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłı̨chǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

When Annette’s cat Fluffy is injured, Annette has to look after her kittens. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 11).
Age: 4-7
Language: Tłîchǫ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Anthony is having a hard time seeing the board at school. He needs glasses! Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 11).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłîchǫ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Jeremy and Louie decide to sleep in their tree fort overnight. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 11).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłîchǫ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction
Amy shows Marly how to make a dreamcatcher. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 12).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłı̨chǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Ethan and Willem find some money on the playground. They want to buy popcorn, but does the money really belong to them? Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 13).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłı̨chǫ Yatiì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Amy and Keysha are best friends. When a new girl joins their class, Keysha volunteers to show her around and be her friend. But Amy feels left out. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 13).
Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìi (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Kayla and Tiara go to the park. When Kayla gets hurt, Tiara has a good idea. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 13).

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Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìi (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Hayley, Sharon and Emily go on a camping trip. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 14).

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Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìi (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction
Holly gets invited to a sleepover, but she is afraid to spend the night away from home. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 15).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłı̨chǫ Yatì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Dean goes fishing and helps to prepare the fish. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 15).

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłı̨chǫ Yatì (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Fiction

Natalee and Josh go on a dogsled ride. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features aboriginal children and families (level 16).
Adams, Lorraine and Bruvold, Lynn. Translator / Mary Rose Sundberg.  
Age: 4-7  
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatìì (Weledeh dialect)  
Subject: Children; Fiction  
Kelly teaches Martina how to dance so that she can surprise her mom at 
the powwow. Part of a series of levelled books for grade one that features 
aboriginal children and families (level 16).

Anderson, Grant S.  
ISBN 1-894717-34-1  
Age: 3-7  
Language: English  
Subject: Children; Poetry; Métis  
A collection of silly limericks for young children.

Andre, Alestine and Fehr, Alan.  
ISBN 1-896337-04-X  
Age: All  
Language: English and Gwich’in  
Subject; Non-Fiction; Plants; Ethnobotany
This book documents 32 species of plants, including their Gwich’in names (in Gwichya and Teetl’it dialects) and information on their traditional uses. It is illustrated with colour and black and white photographs.


Age: All Ages
Language: Gwich’in/English
Subject: Dictionary; Gwich’in

A dictionary of the Gwich’in language (Teetl’it and Gwichya dialects).


Age: All Ages
Language: English (Also available in Innuinaqtun, Inuvialuktun and Inupiatun)
Subject: Traditional Stories; Inuvialuit

This traditional story tells of a giant who carries a mountain out into the sea. He creates an island, so that small people have a good place to go hunting and sealing.

**Age:** 5-8  
**Language:** Cree/English  
**Subject:** Children; Fiction; Cree

Two little girls are watching a cow that gets away. They follow it into the bush and become lost, and must keep their wits about them to get home again.


**Age:** 5-10  
**Language:** Tłįchǫ Yati (Weledeh dialect)  
**Subject:** Children; Fiction; Tłįchǫ

A young boy wonders if Christmas will ever come.


**Age:** 5-10  
**Language:** Chipewyan  
**Subject:** Children; Fiction; Chipewyan
A young boy wonders if Christmas will ever come.

Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yati (Weledeh dialect) and English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Tłįchǫ

A young boy wants to be just like his grandpa. When he compares the chores that each of them do, he finds out that they are already similar.

Age: 5-10
Language: Cree
Subject: Children; Cree

Three men go for a boating trip on the Slave River, but they get more than they bargained for when they run into a mysterious creature.
**Beaver, Henry.** Translator / Sabet Biscaye. Illustrator / Larissa Lusty.  
Age: 5-10  
Language: Chipewyan  
Subject: Children; Fiction; Chipewyan  

Three men go for a boating trip on the Slave River, but they get more than they bargained for when they run into a mysterious creature.

**Biscaye, Therese.** Transcriber / Sabet Biscaye. Illustrator / Janet Pacey.  
Age: 4-8  
Language: Chipewyan  
Subject: Children; Traditional Stories; Chipewyan  

This story tells about the origins of weasels and mice. One day an old man is wandering alone. He meets a friendly old woman, but is soon trapped by her jealous grandchildren. A wolf helps him to get revenge.

**Blondin, George.** Translator / Mary Rose Sundberg. Illustrator / Archie Beaverho.  
Age: 8-Adult  
Language: English and Tłįchǫ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Traditional Stories; Tłı̨chǫ

In this traditional Dogrib story, people are starving because they have no fish. They call on a medicine man to save them. Includes audio CD.


Age: 8-Adult

Language: Tłı̨chǫ Yati (Weledeh dialect) and English

Subject: Children; Traditional Stories; Tłı̨chǫ

In this traditional Dogrib story, a young boy is having trouble sleeping at night. When his grandfather attempts to find out why, something strange happens. Includes audio CD.


Age: 4-7

Language: English

Subject: Children; Fiction; Cree

A young Cree boy doesn’t like going to school, and turns to his grandmother for comfort. She listens to his frustrations and shows him the value of school learning. Illustrated by Cree artist Allen Sapp.
**Bouchard, Dave.** 2002. Illustrator / Michael Lonechild. *Qu’appelle*
Vancouver, BC: Raincoast Books. ISBN
Age: 9-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Traditional Stories; Cree

This book tells the Plains Cree legend of Qu’Appelle. A young warrior must leave his fiancé to fight against the Blackfoot. After he leaves, she falls sick and dies. Elders say you can still here the warrior calling out for his bride.

Age: 2-8
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Inuit

After being abandoned by their group, an orphaned brother and sister must decide where they should live. After trying out life with the seals and the caribou, they decide to live in the night sky, where they become Brother Thunder and Sister Lightning.
Age: 7-12
Language: English and Tłîchǫ Yatìì (Dogrib)
Subject: Traditional Stories; Tłîchǫ (Dogrib)

Raven is always playing tricks. One day, he goes too far and snatches a piece of meat right out of a baby’s mouth. Bear and Wolf steal his beak, and he must think of a plan to get it back.

Age: 5-8
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Family; Métis

When Granny brings home a scrawny Christmas tree, her grandchildren make fun of it and throw it away. Granny is heartbroken. The next day, however, there is a surprise waiting for her.
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Age: All Ages
Language: English/ Tłı̨chǫ Yatì
Subject: Dictionary; Tłı̨chǫ

A dictionary of the Tłı̨chǫ (Dogrib) language, organized alphabetically. A searchable online version can be found at [http://www.tlicho.ling.uvic.ca](http://www.tlicho.ling.uvic.ca).


Age: 7-10
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Health; Métis

A young girl helps her mother prepare bannock. However, she learns that her diabetic grandfather can no longer eat the rich bannock. She and her mother create a healthier recipe that her grandfather can enjoy too. Includes two recipes.


Age: 7-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Non-Fiction; Ojibwe

The second book in a series that follows a 19th century Ojibwe family living on an island in Lake Superior. Omkayas is now nine years old, and
her life is changing rapidly. When a group of distant relations arrives from the east, it signals the beginning of the government pressure on the family to move west.

Age: 7-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Ojibwe

Set in 1847, this book tells the story of four seasons in the life of an eight-year old Ojibwe girl. We follow Omakayas as she builds a birchbark house with her family, harvests wild rice, collects maple syrup and plays with her family and friends.

Age: 5-8
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Ojibwe

Growing up in an isolated home in North Dakota, the blue enamel woodstove was the centre of the author’s family’s life. Living as an adult in the city, she feels that something is missing.
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Age: 7-12

Language: English

Subject: Children; Non-Fiction; Art; Inuit

This book highlights eight pieces of Inuit art in different media. The authors provide information about the artists, techniques, materials, geography and the stories and legends that accompany each piece.


Age: 8-12

Language: English

Subject: Children; Fiction; Sports; Soccer; Métis

Samantha knows that she can handle both playing on her soccer team and a starring role in her school play. Unfortunately, the family rule is that she can only do one activity at a time. She tries to hide her two activities from her family and teammates, with disastrous results.
Age: 8-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Sports; Hockey; Métis

When their family moves from Québec to Calgary, life is turned upside down for twin brothers Evan and Bryn. Evan, a former hockey star, falls in with a bad crowd. Bryn, the quiet musical one, finds himself on the ice trying to impress a girl who prefers hockey to piano playing.

Age: 8-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Sports; Hockey; Métis

When Aiden is given community service for bullying another player on his team, he doesn’t know what he’s getting into. His task is to be a companion for Eric, a blind hockey player for the Calgary Seeing Ice Dogs, a blind hockey team.
Age: 8-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Sports; Hockey; Métis

Leigh is hoping to win the championship with her new all-girls hockey team. But things get complicated when her best friend starts skipping practice and her coach adds a know-it-all boy to the team.

Age: 8-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Sports; Basketball; Métis

Matthew Eagletail had a great life until his mother remarried. Now he has to put up with a new father, new house, new school and five new siblings. To make matters worse, he has to quit his basketball team. He says he’ll never play for the team at his new school, but will his new sister be able to change his mind?

Age: 8-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Sports; Hockey; Métis
Leigh is a top player and the only girl on her hockey team. Although she knows she doesn't quite belong on the team, she’s willing to tough it out. The real problem is that she has to keep playing hockey a secret from her mom.

**Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre.** 2006. *Havaktiit Inuuniarviptingni.*
Inuvik, NT: Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre.
Age: 3-6
Language: Innuinaqtun
Subject: Children; Jobs; Inuvialuit

This book shows pictures of people who do different jobs, and the titles of their jobs in Inuinnaqtun.

**Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre.** 2006. *Savaktit Inuuniarviptingni.*
Inuvik, NT: Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre.
Age: 3-6
Language: Inuvialuktun
Subject: Children; Jobs; Inuvialuit

This book shows pictures of people who do different jobs, and the titles of their jobs in Inuvialuktun.
Inuvik, NT: Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre.
Age: 3-6
Language: Inupiatun-Uummarmiutun.
Subject: Children; Jobs; Inuvialuit

This book shows pictures of people who do different jobs, and the titles of their jobs in Inupiatun-Uummarmiutun.

Age: All
Language: English
Subject; Traditional Stories; Inuit

This book was created as the result of an oral history project in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. It tells the story of a time when people lived forever and spoke the same language as animals, and how this time came to an end.

Age: 3-5
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Health
As Charlie helps his Grandma around the house, she tells stories about how to take care of the earth. Part of the Caring for Me Series.

Age: 3-7
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Environmentalism; Anishinabe

Wasey and her mother go on a trip to the sugar bush. Wasey learns how to make maple syrup, and how logging can affect the sugar bush.

Age: 3-5
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Health

A story about little quail, who learns lessons about laughing, crying, anger, happiness, fear, trust and love from his family. Part of the Caring for Me Series.
Age: 7-10
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Cherokee-Seminole

Six short stories about Ray, a Cherokee-Seminole Boy who lives with his grandfather in Chicago.

Age: 8-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Cree

This is the story of Lawrence, a young Cree boy living in Alberta during World War II. His father is serving overseas. When army runaways threaten his family, Lawrence’s traditional skills are called upon to protect them.

Winnipeg, MB: Pemmican Publications Inc.
Age: 3-7
Language: English
Subject: Children; Traditional Stories; Anishinabe
This is the newest book in the Nanabosho and Friends series. In this story, a grandmother explains to her granddaughter how the porcupine got its quills.


Age: 4-8
Language: Cree and English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Cree

Georgina remembers growing up with her aunt and the activities they did in the springtime. Includes audio CD.


Age: 4-8
Language: Chipewyan
Subject: Children; Fiction

Georgina remembers growing up with her aunt and the activities they did in the springtime.
Age: 4-8
Language: Cree and English
Subject: Children; Fiction

Georgina remembers the chores that she and her aunt did together every Saturday.

Age: 4-8
Language: Chipewyan
Subject: Children; Fiction

Georgina remembers the chores that she and her aunt did together every Saturday.

Age: 5-10
Language: Available in English, Innuinaqtun, Inuvialuktun and Inupiatun
Subject: Children; Non-Fiction; Inuvialuit
This is a book of prints of traditional items, such as fish weirs, tents and tools. Each item is labelled with its name.


Age: 5-9
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Traditional Stories; Inuit

A collection of ten Inuit stories from across the Arctic.


Age: All Ages
Language: Bush Cree/English
Subject: Dictionary; Bush Cree

Includes many words organized by subject, for example animals, fish, days of the week, weather, etc. Also includes a pronunciation guide and an audio CD.
Age: 3-5
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Health

A nurse visits Annie’s classroom. She teaches the children about healthy foods and eating habits. Part of the Caring for Me series.

Age: 3-5
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Health

David is scared when his aunt starts yelling. His mom explains that she has an alcohol problem, and the importance of making healthy choices. Part of the Caring for Me series.

Age: 3-5
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Health
Tony gets a bead stuck up his nose. He goes to the doctor and finds out how to take care of his eyes, ears, nose and mouth. Part of the Caring for Me series.

Age: 3-5
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Health

Tony, Rainey Jennifer and Mavis learn lessons about how to play safely at home and at school. Part of the Caring for Me series.

Age: 5-10
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Cowichan

A granddaughter watches her grandmother as creates a cowichan sweater, from the sheepskin to the completed sweater.
Age: 7-9
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Coast Salish

Bobby wants to enter a fishing derby and win a brand new bike, but he has no boat, money or time.

Toronto: Groundwood Books. ISBN 9780888995896
Age: 7-10
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction: Métis

The story of a Métis boy living at Fort William, on Lake Superior, during the height of the fur trade. Everyone at the Fort is waiting for the fur traders to come home, at which time they will have a big celebration. When the boy takes the canoe out to hunt rabbits, he has an adventure.

Iqaluit: Nunavut Literacy Council.
Age: 4-7
Language: English/Inuktitut
Subject: Children; Fiction; Inuit

Two girls help their grandmother to tell stories.
Age: 4-8
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Traditional Stories; Yup’ik

This Yup’ik story tells how, long ago, there were only dry, tasteless crowberries to eat. But a young girl has a plan to make the tastiest, juiciest berries grow.

Age: 4-8
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Traditional Stories; Yup’ik

Amik is so hungry that he eats everything in sight, from a tiny minnow to a whale. When he gets home, he is too big to enter his house! With the help of his grandmother’s needle and a little bit of magic, he shrinks back to his normal size and provides food for the whole family.

Age: 7-12
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatii (Dogrib)
Subject: Children; Fiction; Tłįchǫ
This is the Tłı̨chǫ language version of *Idaa Trail: In the Steps of our Ancestors*. It follows Etseh and Etsi and their three grandchildren on a month-long canoe trip from Behchokǫ to Hottah Lake in the NWT. Their journey follows a trail the Tłı̨chǫ have used for generations.

Age: 8-Adult
Language: English/North Slavey
Subject: Non-Fiction; History; Dene

An illustrated book honouring the lives of Slavey elders.

Age: 8-Adult
Language: English and Tłı̨chǫ Yatiì
Subject: Traditional Stories; Tłı̨chǫ (Dogrib)

This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of how Yamozha, the Dene lawmaker, forgets a promise to his wife, which causes her to turn into a giant beaver. He chases her all over Denedeh, shaping the land into its current form as he goes. Audio CD Included.

*The Creation of the Barrenlands and the Couple inside the Mountain/Dàanì Hozìì Hółį eyits'ô Dàanì Weyìits'atåa Wegodiì Hòlį.* Tłįchǫ Community Services Agency.

Age: 8-Adult

Language: English and Tłįchǫ Yatìì

Subject: Traditional Stories; Tłįchǫ (Dogrib)

A young wife is left alone while her husband, a medicine man, goes hunting. A mysterious hunter arrives and urges her to run away with him, and she agrees. Her husband chases them all over the land, until they finally take refuge inside a mountain.


Age: 5-9

Language: Tłįchǫ/English

Subject: Dictionary; Tłįchǫ

An illustrated Tłįchǫ/English dictionary designed especially for elementary students.
Age: 4-7
Language: Tłįchǫ Yatii (Weledeh dialect)
Subject: Children; Animals; Tłįchǫ (Dogrib)

A boy and his grandfather talk about what kinds of animals live in the bush.

Age: Birth-3 and parents
Language: English
Subject: Babies; Lullabies

This board book for newborns and very young children contains a lullaby to read aloud and beautiful photographs of babies with their parents.

Age: 9-12
Language: English/North Slavey
Subject: Slavey
Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books

This book tells about how Slavey people in the Sahtu region lived long ago. While the text is simple enough for young readers, the cultural information is of interest to all ages.

Age: 5-10
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Cree

When Shawna moves from Manitoba to British Columbia, she misses everything about her old home, especially her Meshom (grandpa). She gets a great birthday surprise when he arrives for a visit, with many lessons to teach her.

Age: 9-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Non-Fiction

Told from the perspective of Julie-Ann André, a Gwichya Gwich’in from Tsiigehtchic, Northwest Territories. She shares the story of her family and the land that they live on.
ISBN 978-1897252-32-1
Age: 9-12
Language: English
Subject: Children; Non-Fiction

Told from the perspective of Tom McLeod, an 11-year-old storyteller from Aklavik, Northwest Territories. He tells about making bannock, trapping muskrats, hunting ducks and why the ducks are disappearing.

ISBN
Age: 3-6
Language: English
Subject: Children; Fiction; Ojibwe

This uniquely illustrated book depicts wild horses running across the plains, chasing buffalo and finally settling down for the night.  Winner of the 2006 Governor General’s Award for Illustration.
Aboriginal Books for Young Adults

This section contains books for young adults. Many would also be excellent for adult learners.

Age: 14+
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Fiction; Time Travel; Spokane

After being bounced from foster home to foster home, Zits is ready to give up on life. When he gets shot in the head after becoming involved in a bank shooting, he travels back in time to inhabit different bodies during moments of violence in American history.

Age: Young Adult
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Humour; Spokane
Junior, a budding cartoonist, leaves the reservation to attend a private suburban high school. The text is interspersed with cartoons that reflect his experiences with bullies, basketball and being the only Indian at an all-white school.

Age: 12-16
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Death; Cree

When Alex is willed a piece of land in rural Manitoba by her estranged father, she meets Lonny, whose family has lived on the land for generations. Both must deal with ghosts from their pasts.

Age: 10-15
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Non-Fiction; Sports; Hockey; Multiple Nations

The true story of a bantam hockey team made of the best First Nations and Métis players in Manitoba, which goes on to play in a championship tournament in England.
Age: 14-Adult
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Short Stories; Multiple Nations

A collection of 21 winning entries from the Dominion Institute’s Aboriginal Youth Challenge writing competition. Chosen by a jury of some of Canada’s best-known aboriginal writers, these writings come from all across Canada, including two from the Northwest Territories.

Age: 10-14; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Biography; Multiple Nations

The stories of ten outstanding aboriginal women from across Canada who have worked to raise the profile of aboriginal culture. Includes a profile of Nunavut singer Susan Aglukark.
Age: 10-14
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Historical Fiction; Métis

When Henry runs away from his farm near Winnipeg to search for his father, he doesn’t expect that he’ll end up riding the rails across the prairies. He learns how to decode the secret signs left by hobos as he overcomes dust storms, grasshoppers and the police in this 1930s adventure.

Age: 11-14
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Métis

When an RCMP summer student comes to live with January’s family, strange things start to happen. First of all, her traditional beliefs clash with Jan’s. And is she involved in the grizzly bear poaching that starts soon after she arrives?
Age: 10-14
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Historical Fiction; Métis

Belle and Sarah are the worst enemies in the small Saskatchewan community of Batoche. Each girl wants to be the bell-ringer at the new Anglican mission, and will do anything to stop her rival from gaining the position. When the 1885 rebellion breaks out, however, they must work together to save their families.

Age: 11-14
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Métis

When January, a Métis teenager, finds out that her brother is the prime suspect in a series of motorcycle thefts, she sets out to find the real culprit. To solve the mystery, she must push her own bike to the limits and work around the less-than-helpful police.

Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Maori
When a young girl is born to the grandson of a Maori chief, he sees her as useless; she cannot lead the group as a boy could. Her other family members, however, notice her strange powers and resemblance to the mythical Whale Rider after whom she was named. Throughout the book, the girl must struggle to prove her worth as a leader to the group and especially to her great-grandfather.

Age: 12-15
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Inuit

When baby wolverine is cursed by an out-of sorts shaman, everything starts to go wrong. Banished to the barren lands, wolverine must struggle to return to his home and his family.

Age: 12-16
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Horror; Cherokee-Seminole

Quincie and her uncle are on the verge of opening a new vampire-themed restaurant when the chef is murdered, apparently by a werewolf. Not
only do they have to find a new chef, but Quincie begins to have suspicions about her best friend and romantic interest, a half-werewolf.


Age: 10-14
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Grief; Cherokee-Seminole

After the death of her best friend, Kassidy shuts herself off from the world. When her aunt’s Indian Summer Camp provokes controversy, however, she decides to photograph the campers for her local paper. She must decide how involved to become with the camp and the other campers.


Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Mohawk

A coming-of-age story about Sam, a half-Mohawk boy from a reserve near Hamilton, Ontario. His life seems to consist of nothing but violence and tragedy, beginning his mother’s murder when he is six. He finally leaves the reserve to attend art school, but becomes involved in a problematic relationship with a much-older waitress.

Age: 13-16
Language: English
Subject: Young Adults; Fiction; Short Stories; Multiple Nations

A collection of short stories about aboriginal youth who grow up between two cultures.


Age: 12-16
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Historical Fiction; Algonquian

It’s 1959. After being kicked out of residential school, Nishish returns to his reserve in northern Québec. He finds he doesn’t really fit in there anymore, and jumps at the chance to live with a white foster family in the city. Just as he seems ready to fulfil the stereotype of a down-and-out urban Indian, a girl named Pinamen helps to bring him back to the reserve and his true identity.
Age: 13-18; Suitable for Adult Learners  
Language: English  
Subject: Youth; Comic Books; Gambling  

At first, playing poker seems like a harmless way to fit in at her new school. But it soon becomes more than a hobby for Brianna.

Age: 13-18; Suitable for adult learners  
Language: English  
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Reluctant Readers; Coast Salish  

Everything in Vince’s town is divided: white people on one side, First Nations on the other. When he becomes attracted to a girl from the local reserve, he has to reconsider his loyalties. Part of a series of high-interest books for teens reading below grade level.

Age: 12-16  
Language: English  
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Coast Salish
Jane has always been the good kid in her family; she gets good grades, doesn’t smoke or drink and never misses school. But her reputation changes when she has a baby at 14.


Age: 12-16  
Language: English  
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Residential Schools; Coast Salish

A fictional account of five children and their time spent at the Kuper Island Residential School.


Age: 14-18  
Language: English (French version available under the title *Sans bon sang*)  
Subject: Young Adult; Historical Fiction; Métis

Born to a Québécoise mother and a Cree father, Martha is caught between two worlds. At first she tries to hide her Métis heritage, but learns that fitting in doesn’t have to mean denying your true identity.
Age: 13-18; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Youth; Comic Books; Suicide Prevention

Even though he’s a talented artist, Kyle is depressed. He’s bullied at school and tired of the alcohol abuse he sees around him. After he contemplates suicide, an elder helps him realize that he still has things to live for.

Age: 13-18; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Youth; Comic Books; Health; Diabetes

Ricky’s family is so busy that they don’t usually have time to prepare healthy meals. But when they get a preview of where their eating habits are leading them, they decide to change.

Age: 10-14; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Youth; Non-Fiction; Sports; Multiple Nations
Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books

This book profiles 13 successful Canadian aboriginal athletes in a wide variety of sports such as figure skating, skiing, bowling and car racing. Includes a profile of Nunavut hockey player Jordin Tootoo.

Age: 10-14; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Youth; Non-Fiction; Multiple Nations

A collection of biographies of aboriginal men from across Canada who have shown courage and determination in their chosen paths, often in the face of adversity. Included are profiles of a fireman, surgeon, teacher and many chiefs and community leaders.

Age: 12-14
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Ojibwe

Abby has always lived in town with her grandparents, but when her grandpa becomes ill she must move back to her mother’s house on the reserve. She has to get used to a new stepfather, an annoying half-brother, classmates who don’t seem very interested in her and a totally different way of life. With the help of a puppy, however, she starts to find her place on the reserve.

Age: 12-16
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Fiction; Ojibwe

Janine has returned to her small community after several years in the city to find herself caught between two cultures. She becomes involved with Fred, who still leads a traditional lifestyle. To complicate matters, Weesquachak shows up in a variety of forms, causing trouble and excitement.


ISBN 9781894778398
Age: 14+
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Non-Fiction; Ojibwe

A coming-of-age story about growing up on the streets. The main character discovers that belonging to a group is not always worth the danger and pressure it can bring. The author wrote this novel when she was only 14.
Age: Young Adult
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Drama; Ojibwe

16-year-old Tiffany is upset to find out that her Dad is renting out a room to a creepy European stranger. Little does she know that he is actually an Anishinabe vampire who has returned to his ancestral home.

Age: Young Adult
Language: English
Subject: Young Adult; Historical Fiction; Blackfoot

Set in Montana in the 1860s, this novel tells the story of Fools Crow, a young Blackfoot man. Tensions are growing between the Blackfoot and the white settlers, and traditional ways are quickly disappearing. When Fools Crow becomes the leader of his tribe, he must make the decision whether to fight or assimilate.
Age: Youth; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Non-Fiction; Careers; Policing; Métis

This booklet introduces us to Jennifer, Holly and Kim Mueller, three sisters who have become RCMP officers. Part of the Career Path Choices series, which showcases young aboriginal Canadians who have interesting careers.

Age: Youth; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Non-Fiction; Careers; Dentistry; Anishinabe

This booklet introduces us to Dennis Hewitt, a dentist in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. Part of the Career Path Choices series, which showcases young aboriginal Canadians who have interesting careers.

Age: Youth; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Non-Fiction; Careers; Music; Mohawk
This booklet introduces us to Derek Miller, a Juno award-winning guitarist and songwriter from the Six Nations reserve in Ontario. Part of the Career Path Choices series, which showcases young aboriginal Canadians who have interesting careers.
Aboriginal Books for Adults

This section contains books for adults, including some for adult learners. Many will also be of interest to older teens.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Non-Fiction; History; Dene

A history of important moments in Dene history. Using archival documents, interviews, oral history, archaeological findings and linguistic studies, Kerry Abel provides a response to what she sees as a narrow and ethnocentric existing version of Dene history.

ISBN 978-0969712060
Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Multiple Nations
The first anthology of its kind, *Skins* features indigenous writings from all over the world. Included are short stories by well known authors from Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Fiction; Short Stories; Spokane

A second collection of darkly humorous short stories, many of which take place on the Spokane Reservation in Washington State.

Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Fiction; Spokane

A serial killer is scalping white men in Seattle. John Smith, a native man adopted by a white family, is barely holding on to his sanity. Racial tensions mount as a local radio personality urges whites to seek revenge.

ISBN 0-8021-4190-0
Age: Adult
Legendary delta bluesman Robert Johnson arrives on the Spokane Reservation, on the run from the devil and long believed dead. He gives his guitar to local misfit Thomas Builds-the-Fire, and a magical journey begins.

Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Fiction; Short Stories; Spokane

The first collection of critically-acclaimed short stories by Spokane author Sherman Alexie.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Non-Fiction; History; Inuvialuit
This illustrated history of the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic focuses on what makes the Inuvialuit culturally and politically distinct from the Inuit of the eastern arctic.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Non-Fiction; Education; Storytelling

Based on research conducted with Coast Salish Elders and storytellers, this book investigates methods of bringing storytelling into educational contexts.

Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Fiction; Chipewyan

This book tells the story of a Métis girl growing up with her adoptive grandmother near Fort Resolution in the 1950s. Despite social problems in the community and an absent mother, the girl has many happy times as her loving grandmother teaches her about living on the land.
Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Traditional Stories; Dene

This is a collection of stories, both old and new, about Dene people gifted with medicine power. Blondin examines its origins and role in Dene society, explaining the differences between medicine power that one is born with and medicine power that is learned or given. He urges people to preserve this vital part of the Dene way of life.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Fiction; N’laka pamux

A narrative about a young man struggling with philosophical questions and fitting in to the dominant culture.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult Learners; Non-Fiction; Crafts; Anishinaabe
This book includes instructions for craft projects such as cornhusk mats, moccasins, ash baskets and cradleboards, which are meant to be completed with a group of adult learners. Each craft is accompanied by related literacy and numeracy activities.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Adult Education; Anishinabe

This handbook for literacy practitioners focuses on learner-centred instruction. It gives suggestions for incorporating the Anishnabe worldview and culture into the curriculum.

Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Biography; Métis

In this autobiography, Campbell describes what it is like to grow up as Métis woman in Canada. Focussing on the history of the Métis as well as stories from her own life, this book has become a classic of Canadian aboriginal literature.
**Canadian Teachers’ Federation.** *Many Voices, Many Journeys.* 2007.
Age: Adult  
Language: English  
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Education

A collection of stories, poetry and art that reflects the different journeys taken by aboriginal teachers in Canada. This volume includes a story by NWT teacher Rebecca Aylward of Hay River.

Age: Adult  
Language: English  
Subject: Adults; Free Verse; Multiple Nations

This free verse narrative, which takes the form of a conversation between two tricksters on a canoe journey, explores the relationship between colonized and colonizers.
Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Drama; Métis

A collection of three plays that represent the diversity of Métis theatre in Canada. Includes *Age of Iron* by Marie H. Clements, *Confessions of an Indian Cowboy* by Margo Kane and *Percy’s Edge* by Greg Daniels.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Drama

Two plays about young native people who move off their reserves to seek better lives in downtown Vancouver.

ISBN:
Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Fiction; Métis
Naomi, a chambermaid in a downtown hotel, occupies herself by imagining the lives of five different guests who pass through the hotel. By observing and looking for clues, she pieces together elaborate fantasies about their lives.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; History; Inuit

A history of whaling in the eastern arctic, from the perspective of the Inuit who lived there. This book is based on oral history collected about the whalers who arrived and changed the lives of the people forever. Illustrated with drawings and archival photographs

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Fiction; Ojibwe

When Faye goes to appraise a family estate, she isn’t surprised to find a cache of valuable Ojibwe artifacts. She is surprised, however, when she can hear the sound of the drum without even touching it. She is taken on a journey through the history of the drum.
**Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books**


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Adult Learners; Non-Fiction; Anishinabe

This workbook for adult learners includes short readings about aboriginal culture and history, with lessons and activities to accompany each reading.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Adult Learners; Non-Fiction; Anishinabe

This second workbook for adult learners includes short readings about aboriginal culture and history, with lessons and activities to accompany each reading.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Fiction; Short Stories; Poetry; Ojibway

A collection of 44 short stories, poems and songs from all across the United States and Canada.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Non-fiction; Residential Schools

The personal stories of 14 women from all across Canada who attended residential schools. Includes one story from the Northwest Territories.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Drama; Cree/Métis

The story of a Métis man who has hidden or erased all traces of his Cree heritage from his life. He promises his wife on her deathbed that he will share the truth with his family.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Clothing; Inuit

A history of the clothing made by Caribou and Copper Inuit, which includes archaeological material, archival and contemporary photographs, illustrations and the knowledge of contemporary seamstresses.

Hart, Elisa J, with the assistance of Inuvialuit Co-researchers. 2001.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Non-Fiction; Oral History; Caribou; Inuvialuit

The result of an oral history project conducted with Inuvialuit elders, this book documents the history of reindeer herding in the Mackenzie Delta.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Drama; Cree
A play about how aboriginal people in British Columbia lost their hunting and fishing rights, land and language. The play follows four women as they prepare for a visit by Wilfred Laurier to the Thompson River Valley in 1910.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Biography; Alaska

Howard Luke, an elder from Fairbanks, Alaska, tells about his life, traditional activities and the necessity of respect for elders.

Age: 16+; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Residential Schools; Multiple Nations.

This is a collection of poetry, reports, creative non-fiction, essays and artwork by 26 residential school survivors from across Canada. The contributors reflect on their experiences and the lasting effects that residential schools had on their lives.
Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Environmentalism; Ojibwe

This book looks back to a time when scientific knowledge was learned outdoors, through observation of natural phenomena, and was passed on orally. The author invites us to spend time observing the amazing natural rhythms and cycles of the earth.

Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Fiction; Fantasy; Ojibwe

The first in a trilogy of aboriginal fantasy novels, this book follows Tarsa, a fearless Kyn warrior who dwells in the Everland. The Everland’s rich bounty and mysterious secrets have attracted the attention of men, and the Kyn must decide whether to hold on to their land and their ways or to join the world of men.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Fiction; Short Stories; Cherokee

A collection of 20 humorous short stories that mix contemporary and traditional perspectives. Stories include *Where the Borg Are*, which explains how the Indian Act relates to the Prime Directive, and the title story, in which a vacationing businessman watches a night-time migration of Indians over Bay Street.


Age: Adult
Language: English/ Gwich’in
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Traditional Knowledge; Place Names; Gwich’in

A list of Gwich’in place names in the Mackenzie Delta area, along with translations, their associated stories, legends, trails, campsites and resources, and a map of the region.

**Age:** Adult  
**Language:**  
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Traditional Knowledge; Place Names; Gwich’in

A list of Gwich’in place names in the Arctic Red River area, along with translations, their associated stories, legends, trails, campsites and resources, and a map of the region.


**Age:** Adult  
**Language:** English  
**Subject:** Adults; Theatre; Multiple Nations

The first anthology of First Nations plays to be published in Canada. Includes plays by Thomson Highway, Drew Hayden Taylor, Marie Clements and others.


**Age:** Adult
Combining interviews with Inuit Elder with the record kept by arctic explorers and others, this book documents Inuit astronomy, star lore and explanations of atmospheric phenomena.

Age: 
Language: English  
Subject: Non-Fiction; Traditional Knowledge; Chipewyan

This book describes a project that aimed to revive the art of making spruce root baskets in the NWT, using artefacts and archival photographs as guides. It includes detailed instructions and photographs of the process.

Age: All Ages  
Language: English  
Subject: Non-Fiction; Botany; Traditional Knowledge; Multiple Nations
This book describes the traditional uses by different groups of over 200 plants from Canada’s boreal forest. Illustrated with colour photographs, it contains information contributed by over 100 elders from small communities across northern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.


Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Biography; Métis

This mixture of poetry and prose writing chronicles the author’s struggle to free herself from violence and be taken seriously as a Métis person and an academic.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Anthology; Delaware

A series of essays about aboriginal literature in Canada. The author looks at works by well-known authors, examining common themes and ideas.

Age: 16+

Language: English

Subject: Adults; Adult Learners; Multiple Nations

A collection of poetry and prose writing by adult literacy students from across Ontario.


Age: 16+

Language: English

Subject: Adults; Adult Learners; Multiple Nations

A second collection of poetry and prose writing by adult literacy students from across Ontario.


Age: 16+

Language: English

Subject: Adults; Adult Learners; Multiple Nations
A third collection of poetry and prose writing by adult literacy students from across Canada.


- **Age:** Adult
- **Language:** English
- **Subject:** Adults; Non-Fiction; Inuit

This book describes all aspects of the seal hunt, from its spiritual significance to the use of seal products. The book includes many photographs of Inuit art that reflect the importance of seal hunting. The author lives in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut.


- **ISBN:** 0-7868-8784-2
- **Age:** 16+
- **Language:** English
- **Subject:** Adult; Australian Aboriginal

The amazing true story of three Australian aboriginal girls who were taken away from their parents to a government camp in the 1930s. Forced to live under harsh conditions and abandon their culture, the three girls escape and must complete a 100-mile journey back home along a rabbit-proof fence.
Age: 13-Adult; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Adult Learners; Health; Suicide; Anishinabe

Bobby is struggling with his friend’s recent suicide. This story focuses on warning signs and help for suicide prevention. Part of the Healthy Life Series, which shares both traditional and western health information through stories.

Age: 13-Adult; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Adult Learners; Health; Anishinabe

Like many other aboriginal people, Ivan has diabetes. This story shows how he takes control of his disease. Part of the Healthy Life Series, which shares both traditional and western health information through stories.

Age: 13-Adult; Suitable for adult learners
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Adult Learners; Health; Anishinabe
When Jenny plans to have a baby, she makes sure that she does everything possible to give the baby a good start. Part of the Healthy Life Series, which shares both traditional and western health information through stories.


**Age:** Adult  
**Language:** English  
**Subject:** Adults; Biography; Inuit

A biography of Peter Pitseolak, the first Inuit photographer. This book contains his own personal narrative (translated from syllabics), interviews and many of his photographs. It documents from an insider’s perspective the last days of a nomadic lifestyle in the Cape Dorset area.

**Age:** 13-Adult  
**Language:** English  
**Subject:** Adult; Adult Learners; Mental Health

Although she is a responsible parent and has a good job, Mary struggles with stress. This story includes medical information on depression and
emotional wellness. Part of the Healthy Life Series, which shares both traditional and western health information through stories.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Non-Fiction; Anishinaabe


Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Fiction; Haisla

This thriller takes place on Vancouver’s downtown east side. Tom, despite his cleaned-up girlfriend and newborn daughter, is drawn into his controlling cousin Jeremy’s world of drugs, prostitution and extortion. The situation turns dangerous when Tom is accused of talking to the police.
**Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books**

Age: 16+  
Language: English  
Subject: Adult; Fiction; Haisla

Set in Kitimat, BC, this book follows a 19-year-old girl’s search for her brother, who was lost in a fishing accident. Her quest to make sense of his death becomes a spiritual journey as well as a search for truth.

Age: 16+  
Language: English  
Subject: Adult; Fiction; Short Stories; Haisla

A collection of three disturbing but powerful short stories and a novella.

ISBN 978-1551927879  
Age: Adult  
Language: English  
Subject: Adults; Poetry; Métis

In this volume of poetry, Scofield explores his family’s Métis roots as well as his estranged father’s Jewish heritage.
Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Métis

Taken away from his mother when he was five and sent to live with a succession of extended family and strangers, Gregory Scofield never felt like he belonged. This feeling was heightened when he found that he didn’t really fit into either the white or the Cree community.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Berger Inquiry; Pipeline; Dene

In this collection, stories about life on the land in the Mackenzie Valley that were told to Judge Berger as he travelled from community to community in the mid-70s are interwoven with the authors reflections as a CBC cameraman during the Berger Inquiry.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Biography; Music; Métis

The autobiography of Canadian country musician Ray. St. Germain. Quickly earning a reputation as “Winnipeg Elvis,” he performed with many country legends. Later, he produced and hosted many popular TV variety shows, including “My Kind of Country,” “Big Sky Country” and “Rhythms of the Métis.” Following his long and varied career, this autobiography is filled with humour and hard-won wisdom.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Non-Fiction; Education

A guide for aboriginal students pursuing post-secondary education. It addresses topics such as academics, economics, family, health and well-being.
Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Residential Schools; Health

This book looks briefly at the history and intergenerational effects of the Canadian residential school system, and demonstrates positive approaches to healing and developing healthy families and communities.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Drama; Ojibwe

When a group of German developers plans to build an “OjibwayWorld,” theme park on an Ontario reserve, hilarious conflicts ensue. Part of the “Blues” series, which displays stereotypes of aboriginal people in Canada.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Drama; Ojibwe
Jason, a Métis Canadian, is paid an unexpected visit by Harry, a non-native American who claims to be his half-brother. He wants Jason to be compatibility-tested to donate a kidney to their dying father, a man Jason has never known.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adult; Non-Fiction; Humour; Multiple Nations

A hilarious collection of writings by Canadian aboriginal writers and comedians about aboriginal humour. Includes chapters by Thomson Highway, Thomas King, Don Kelly and others.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Non-Fiction; Family; Inuit

This book documents stories from the lives of three generations of women from Pond Inlet, Nunavut.
Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Fiction; Ojibwe

Four homeless people seek refuge in a movie theatre, where they become stuck during a freak storm. Their lives are changed forever when they find a winning lottery ticket.

Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Fiction; Ojibwe

A rodeo star suffers a devastating accident and must return to his family ranch. Meanwhile, a city kid involved in a bank robbery must choose between jail and spending time on the same ranch. Aided by the strength and traditional spirituality of the family, the two begin to recover and form an unlikely friendship.
Age: 16+
Language: English
Subjects: Adults; Fiction; Ojibwe

The story of two boys growing up in a small Ontario town; one is white, the other Ojibwe adopted by a white family. Their life stories intersect as they find out that being Ojibwe is a journey and not a state you are born into.

Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Fiction; Ojibwe

The story of a drifting Ojibwe man who returns to his reserve. With the help of an old man named Keeper, he begins to learn what it means to be Ojibwe.

Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject; Adult; Non-Fiction; Biography; Gwich’in
The story of Velma Wallis, born in 1960 in Fort Yukon, Alaska as the sixth of thirteen children. After their father’s death and their mother’s descent into alcoholism and depression, Velma and her siblings must fend for themselves in a community caught between traditional and modern lifestyles.


**Age**: 14+

**Language**: English

**Subject**: Adults; Fiction; Traditional Stories; Athapaskan

Bird Girl, a young hunter, is ordered to marry and settle down. Rather than conform, she decides to leave the tribe. Daagoo, a dreamer, leaves his group to find the mythic land of the sun. Their stories intertwine many times as they face life alone in the bush.


**Age**: Adult

**Language**: English

**Subject**: Adults; Non-Fiction; Cooking; Gitk’san

Focussing on west coast dishes, this cookbook offers 120 easy-to-follow recipes with accompanying photographs. The authors offer many hints on finding ingredients that are specific to the west coast, as well as
substitution suggestions. Other recipes, like chowder and bannock and jam, can be made and enjoyed anywhere.


Age: Adult
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Biography; Alaska; Inuit

The author recounts the story of her mother’s life growing up in a pre-contact Alaskan village. Everything changes, however, when she meets a white man out on the tundra. They eventually marry, and this book follows their life together in a rapidly changing world.


Age: 16+
Language: English
Subject: Adults; Biography; Métis

The true story of Georgina Williams, who was raised in a New Brunswick reformatory where she was virtually a slave. Her courageous escape at age 18 marked the beginning of change in her life.
Annotated Bibliography of Aboriginal Books

You can help us! This is not a complete or authoritative list of books that have Aboriginal content. You can help us by adding items to the list, or by asking us to remove any that you think should not be there – for whatever reason. Fill in as much information as you can. If you don’t know it all, don’t worry; we can usually track it down. You can add extra pages if you need to.

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