

The report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission made it clear that each of us should do something to promote understanding between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people as a key to reconciliation.

Each of the Indigenous speakers I have heard recently has suggested starting by educating ourselves. One way of doing that is by reading fiction and non-fiction by indigenous authors.

Recommended Books:

Richard Wagamese: *Medicine Walk, Indian Horse, For Joshua, One Native Life, One Story - One Song*

He has won many awards for his writing (fiction, non-fiction and poetry) and has been a journalist in print, radio and television.

James Bartleman: Our former Ontario Lieutenant Governor has written several books about growing up in a small community and being given the gift of a university education by a summer job employer.

Joseph Boyden: Several books

Joan Crate: *Black Apple* A novel about life in a Residential School through the eyes of a student who is taken there from a very child to after high school.

Thomas King: *The Inconvenient Indian*

Joseph August Merasty: *The Education of Augie Merasty*

Emmanuelle Walters: *Stolen Sisters:* The story of two missing girls, their families and how Canada has failed Indigenous Women

John Ralston Saul: *The Comeback* - an outsider's view that is informative. He explains why our federal governments have treated indigenous people so unjustly even very recently.

Speakers:

Joanna Birenbaum, Social Justice Lawyer - outlined the heart breaking impact of the residential school system on generations of families

Kim Stanton, LEAF - reviewed how a national inquiry should work regarding the truth and reconciliation process

Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop

People to be aware of:

Paul Martin: Former Prime Minister His Foundation has many excellent projects ongoing with indigenous youth