

Selected Children's Fiction by Canadian Indigenous Authors Related to Truth and Reconciliation Themes

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This list accompanies the following papers and presentations:

Campbell S, Tan M, & Quaiattini, A. *Canadian Indigenous Children's Books Through the Lens of Truth and Reconciliation*. Developing Polar Networks: Ideas & Possibilities for the Future 27th Polar Libraries Colloquy, Rovaniemi, Finland, June 12, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3BG2HR70>

Quaiattini A., Tan M, & Campbell S. *The residential school experience through the eyes of Indigenous children's authors*. Poster presented at Rant and Roar / Tempête et Rugir: 2018 Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada (CHLA/ABSC) Annual Conference, Newfoundland, June 16, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R35X25T9N>

Tan M, Campbell S, & Quaiattini A. *The way forward in reconciliation through Indigenous-authored children's literature*. Paper presented at Rant and Roar / Tempête et Rugir: 2018 Canadian Health Libraries Association / Association des bibliothèques de la santé du Canada (CHLA/ABSC) Annual Conference, Newfoundland, June 18, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.7939/R3222RN11>

To be included in this list, books met the following criteria:

1. Canadian fictional work aimed at children or youth (0-18yo)
2. Canadian Indigenous author*, co-author, or illustrator
3. Contained Truth & Reconciliation-relevant content

*In a few exceptional cases, books by a non-Indigenous author were accepted, if the author clearly belonged to an Indigenous community or was writing on an Indigenous person's behalf with that individual's endorsement.

Titles are linked to reviews in the [Deakin Review of Children's Literature](#) when a review exists.

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The system of "birth alerts" across Canada perpetuates the removal of children from Indigenous families begun by residential schools. Pictured here: a historical report on residential schools released by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Darryl Dyck). October 1, 2019. British Columbia's ban on "birth alerts": A guiding light on the road to reconciliation. Mary Malebranche, University of Calgary. To make meaningful progress on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, all provinces and territories should promptly follow B.C. a Few children's authors can tackle the dark humour of being a mixed blood Indigenous kid, but Van Camp does it in *What's The Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses?* with buckaroo grit and poetic spirit in this funny, magnificently illustrated piece that has sparked many a conversation in our home. *The Elders Are Watching* (David Bouchard and Roy Henry Vickers). Recommended for grades K to 4. This is a new one, and it's one of many responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action – one of which is to begin education about the legacy of residential schools with children as early as kindergarten. *When We Were Alone* is a story about a difficult time in history, and merges exceptionally well into a story of empowerment and strength. When teachers do nothing, Indigenous children don't see themselves in their classrooms, and non-Indigenous children do not learn about this land's first and continuing inhabitants. Then, students implicitly learn that Indigenous people, knowledge, and perspectives are worth less, and they may continue to pass on the systemic injustices that have gotten us into this situation. The number of Indigenous authors is on the rise, and you can find classroom resources by Indigenous authors, including kits, books, and digital tools. As Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chair Justice Murray Sinclair said, "education, or what passed for it, got us into this situation, and education is what will lead us out." Teachers have great responsibility to move our society forward.