

The CSRC Right Relations Team's Indigenous History Month Weekly Newsletter

June 7, 2023

BACKGROUND

Happy Indigenous History Month and welcome to our weekly newsletter dedicated to celebrating Indigenous creators! From now until the first week of July, the Right Relations Team will be presenting you with a weekly themed newsletter that provides you with resources that will help you recognize this month. Make sure you keep an eye out every Wednesday and participate in honouring the many vibrant and diverse Indigenous cultures living on and around Turtle Island.



Land Acknowledgement

The lands where we gather today, across this region, have been places of gathering for First Nations people as they camped and traveled across the land for generations beyond our knowing. Before people arrived from across the seas, these Nations lived, loved, raised children, and made a living. They lived in harmony with all that the Creator has made. We recognize those traditional sojourners in this land. We give thanks for them and for the lands which we inhabit today. We acknowledge that our history has come at a great cost to the Indigenous community, and we commit ourselves to be partners in healing and reconciliation.

Safe Space Statement

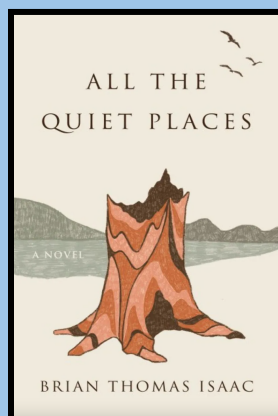
The Canadian Shield Regional Council Executive, as an affirming community is a safe place that welcomes and includes all people to gather and participate in the life and work of the regional council regardless of age, ability, race, cultural background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. In this space, all are welcome.

KNOWLEDGE

This week's theme is knowledge. It is important that Indigenous History Month and Indigenous People's Day are first and foremost a time of celebrating Indigenous peoples and cultures; however, it is important to educate yourself on the historical treatment of Indigenous people at the hands of settlers and oppressive forces. Doing this provides us with context on the modern day issues facing Indigenous communities, and helps us understand the perspectives and stories of Indigenous peoples. The aim of this week is to help you, as a reader, engage with works that discuss historical events from an Indigenous point of view, which will help expand your knowledge and understanding of the history of Turtle Island.

As always, you can find additional resources on the Canadian Shield Regional Council's website under the [Right Relation's Page](#), and on the [Right Relations Team's Facebook Page](#).

RECOMMENDED READS

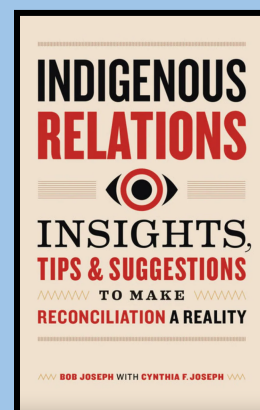


Fiction

This week, to fit with the theme of knowledge, we are recommending *All the Quiet Places* by Brian Thomas Isaac. This is a debut novel and a coming-of-age story about young Eddie Toma, who lives on the Okanagan Indian Reserve in British Columbia. Spanning from when Eddie is six years to the time he is a teenager, *All the Quiet Places* shows "what can happen when every adult in a person's life has been affected by colonialism."

Non-Fiction

If you're more of a non-fiction reader, we recommend *Indigenous Relations: Insights, Tips & Suggestions to Make Reconciliation a Reality* by Bob Joseph. This is a guide for those looking to participate in the act of reconciliation. It approaches topics such as the difference between hereditary and elected leadership, Indigenous Rights and Title, and the barriers Indigenous communities are currently facing. This is a great guide for non-Indigenous people looking to improve their personal relationships and business interactions with Indigenous people.

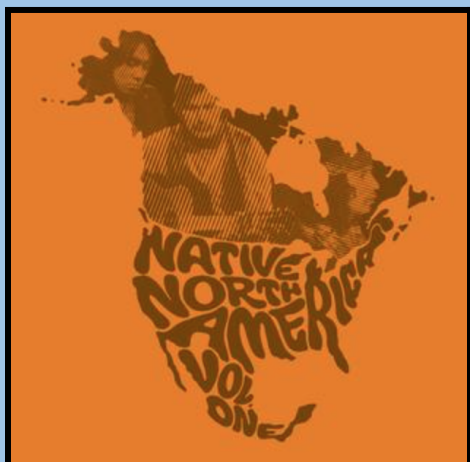


For more reading recommendations, check out the Right Relations Team's Summer Reading List.

PLAYLIST

1) Buffy Sainte-Marie, "Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee"

If you don't know who Buffy is, you're hugely missing out. She's been making music since the 60s and was an important part of the Greenwich Village music scene that birthed folk legends such as Joni Mitchell and Bob Dylan. She was the first Indigenous person to win an Oscar, was a regular feature on *Sesame Street* in the late 70s, and even had her music blacklisted by the US Government and the FBI for her protest songs and Indigenous activism. If you want to learn more about Buffy (and you should want to learn more!), a [documentary of her life](#) was released last year and is available to stream on Crave.



2) Willie Dunn, "I Pity the Country"

This is a condemnation of colonialism and anti-Indigenous racism. It has been covered numerous times, including by Leanne Betasamsake Simpson on her most recent album, *Theory of Ice*. Willie Dunn was a Mi'kmaq singer-songwriter from Montreal.

3) Shingoose, "Silver River"

Poetry by Duke Redbird. Shingoose was an Ojibwe singer from Winnipeg who regularly collaborated with Bruce Cockburn. As well as being a singer-songwriter, Shingoose also worked in

Aboriginal programming and policy development for TVOntario, Director of Education for the Canada Arts Foundation, and served as the chair of the Juno Awards committee administering the award for Aboriginal Album of the Year.

4) Tanya Tagaq, "Tongues"

A scathing, haunting track discussing the resiliency of Indigenous languages and cultures in the face of colonization. Tanya is an Inuk woman from Nunavut who infuses Inuit throat singing into electronic recordings. She won the 2014 Polaris Music Prize for her third album, *Animism*, and in 2018 she released her debut novel, *Split Tooth*.

5) Aysanabee, "We Were Here"

Aysanabee is an Oji-Cree singer-songwriter from Sandy Lake First Nation, just outside of Thunder Bay. This is an important song for this week's theme because it

discusses the process of reconciliation from an Indigenous perspective. It touches on the historical treatment of Indigenous peoples and why reconciliation does not always seem like a reality. It's a reminder that Indigenous communities are not required to accept the apologies of colonial institutions and that colonization continues to happen today. It's a representation of intergenerational trauma, and an important story to be heard. But through the pain and grief, Aysanabee continues to assert "we were here" — the resilient, diverse Indigenous diaspora will continue to exist despite the obstacles they have faced.

For more music and listening recommendations, check out our listening list, coming later this month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

North Bay

June 10 & 11 - Maamwi Kindaaswin (Learning Together) Pow Wow

This is a family-friendly, free event, taking place at Lee Park. It will include Indigenous vendors, dancing, traditional drumming, and two sunrise ceremonies. There will also be a community feast Saturday and a giveaway on Sunday. Grand entry is at noon on both days.



Throughout June - "Indigenous Ingenuity" Exhibit at the North Bay Museum

In partnership with Science North, this traveling exhibition will be at the North Bay Museum throughout June. It is a way to learn about how Indigenous innovations are helping the global community. It is family-friendly and the cost is included with regular admission.

Manitoulin Island

June 10 & 11 - Sheshegwaning First Nation's 26th Annual Pow Wow

Located on the Western portion of Manitoulin Island, off of Highway 540. Family-friendly, free event with dancing, drumming, crafts vendors, and food. Grand entry happens at 12pm on Saturday and 1pm on Sunday. There will also be entertainment Saturday evening in partnership with Imagine Native.

Sudbury

June 10 & 11 - Harvey Inlet First Nation's 20th Annual Inter-Tribal Pow Wow
Located on the French River Indian Reserve on the Pow Wow Grounds, South of Sudbury, off of Highway 69. Family-friendly, free event with dancing, drumming, and more. Grand entry is at 1pm and 7pm on Saturday and 12pm on Sunday. There will also be a Saturday feast at 5pm and a Giveaway on Sunday.

For a complete list of Ontario Pow Wows this year, check out [Northern Ontario Travel Magazine's guide](#).

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO CELEBRATE

Check out an Indigenous-owned museum or art gallery.

[The Woodland Cultural Centre](#) in Brantford is a great resource for learning more about Haudenosaunee language, culture, art, and history, and they offer virtual tours of the Mohawk Institute, a former residential school.

[The Bay of Spirits Gallery](#) in Toronto features paintings by esteemed Indigenous artists such as Norval Morisseau and Daphne Odjig.

[The Ahnisbabae Art Gallery](#) in Thunder Bay has an extensive collection of Indigenous fine art.

[The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation](#) on Manitoulin Island has a museum, gallery, theatre, and gift shop.

Watch an Indigenous film, short film, or documentary.

The National Film Board of Canada has an [extensive database of Indigenous movies and short films](#) that are free to watch. Our advice is to think about a subject you want to learn more about and watch a film that discusses that topic. Our recommendation to start you off are any of Alanis Obomsawin's documentaries, but especially [Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance](#).

Historica Canada put out a new [Heritage Minute](#) last year about Tom Longboat, the Onondaga long-distance runner who was one of the most celebrated athletes of the early 20th century.

Enroll in a University Indigenous History course.

[The University of Alberta](#) has a 12-lesson online course that takes about 21 hours to complete. It explores the histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous peoples. It is FREE and you can learn from the comfort of your home.

[The University of Toronto](#) also has a 6-week online course that takes about 13 hours to complete. It explores Indigenous ways of knowing and how they can benefit all Canadians. Once again, it is FREE and you can learn from the comfort of your home.