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Beverley McLachlin
The Legacy of a Supreme Court Chief Justice

Ian Greene and Peter McCormick

From medically assisted death legislation to greater recognition of aboriginal rights, McLachlin contributed a rich legacy to Canada.

As a judge, Beverley McLachlin has had an unequalled impact on Canadian life. She is exceptional for her unique ability to stand up for the values and beliefs that reflect the best of Canada and Canadians.

As chief justice, she led the way to assisted suicide legislation, far greater recognition of aboriginal rights and title, allowing safe injection sites for drug users and many other changes that have had a dramatic impact on Canadian life. Less well known is her work to modify the way the Supreme Court judges work together to emphasize collegiality and to encourage judges on the court to pay closer attention to real-world information about the issues they are considering.

Her courageous action to defend the independence of the court and her own personal integrity when it was attacked by Stephen Harper — an incident discussed and documented in this book — underline her strength of character and integrity.

This book sketches Beverley McLachlin’s experiences growing up in rural Alberta, attending university, becoming a lawyer and then a judge. At a time when governments were seeking qualified women for senior positions in Canada’s courts, she was selected by politicians, both Liberal and Conservative, to fill progressively higher positions. Ian Greene and Peter McCormick focus on her time on the Supreme Court, offering readers a balanced, informed perspective on the role she defined for herself, remarkable for her prodigious work and the clarity of her decisions. Their background as leading Canadian writers on the role of the judiciary in Canada allows them to offer an independent and readable appreciation of her contributions to Canadian life.

IAN GREENE is a University Professor Emeritus at York University, where he has taught public policy and administration since 1985. He was the founding director of York’s Masters program in Public Policy, Administration and Law. Greene’s most recent book is Honest Politics Now (with David P. Shugarman). He is also the author of The Charter of Rights and Freedoms. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.

PETER MCCORMICK has taught at Lakehead University, the University of British Columbia and the University of Lethbridge where he was chair of the Department of Political Science for many years. He retired in 2015. He is the author of Supreme at Last. He lives in Lethbridge, Alberta.

www.formaclorimerbooks.ca • LORIMER • 3
**BlackBerry Town**

How high tech success has played out for Canada’s Kitchener-Waterloo

Chuck Howitt

*An insightful new history of the BlackBerry innovation and its revolutionizing impact on the community of Kitchener-Waterloo*

The smartphone was an incredibly successful Canadian invention created by a team of engineers and marketers led by Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie. But there was a third key player involved — the community of Kitchener-Waterloo. In this book Chuck Howitt offers a new history of BlackBerry which documents how the resources and the people of Kitchener-Waterloo supported, facilitated, benefited from and celebrated the achievement that BlackBerry represents.

After its few short years of explosive growth and pre-eminence, BlackBerry lost its market to digital juggernauts Apple, Samsung and Huawei. No surprises there. Like Nokia and Motorola before it, BlackBerry was eclipsed. Shareholders lost billions. Thousands of employees lost jobs. Bankruptcy was avoided but the company’s founding geniuses were gone, leaving an operation that today is only a fragment of what had been. For Kitchener-Waterloo — as Chuck Howitt tells the story — the BlackBerry experience is a mixed bag of disappointments and major ongoing benefits. The wealth it generated for its founders produced two very important university research institutes. Many recent digital startups have taken advantage of the city’s pool of talented and experienced tech workers and ambitious, well-educated university grads. A strong digital and tech industry thrives today in Kitchener-Waterloo — in a way a legacy of the BlackBerry experience.

Across Canada, communities hope for homegrown business successes like BlackBerry. This book underlines how a mid-sized, strong community can help grow a world-beating company, and demonstrates the importance of the attitudes and decisions of local institutions in enabling and sustaining successful innovation.

Canada has a lot to learn from BlackBerry Town.

*CHUCK HOWITT was a reporter for the local daily newspaper, the Waterloo Region Record, until his recent retirement. He covered Research In Motion, the maker of BlackBerry, and other business stories for the newspaper. For this book he went back to his sources, and to more than 50 Kitchener-Waterloo residents whom he interviewed for their perspectives on the BlackBerry experience. This is his first book. He lives in Kitchener.*
No Holds Barred
From the factory floor to renegotiating NAFTA, challenging GM and defining a new kind of union for Canadians

Jerry Dias with Tim Harper

A riveting, behind-the-scenes account of what it means to fight for workers’ rights in today’s world

Jerry Dias is a new kind of union leader, and he’s the president of a new kind of union. Jerry tells the story of how he went from dropping out of first year university to facing down Donald Trump’s treasury secretary and refusing to live with General Motors’ ruthless decision to shut down Oshawa’s iconic assembly plant.

Jerry describes his career as a union activist and his surprise election as president of the newly-formed Unifor which was created out of two of the largest Canadian unions of private sector workers, an organization with 300,000 members. His leadership style is unabashedly in your face — whether it’s rivals in his own union, other union leaders, or company management. Jerry is a strong advocate of union political activity — but not as a no-questions-asked NDP loyalist.

When the federal Liberals invited him to advise on the NAFTA renegotiations with the Trump administration, he leapt at the chance to push for an agreement that took account of workers’ interests. In his account we see Chrystia Freeland in action — as well as the US negotiators, with Trump cabinet members pulling strings.

During the same period, Unifor was negotiating with the big US auto manufacturers. Jerry and his union targeted GM, and won an agreement where GM committed to keeping the key Oshawa plant open to 2020. It seemed like a huge win at the time. Jerry describes the devastating developments that followed in late 2018, when GM renounced their agreement and announced the shutdown that many Unifor members always thought was in the cards.

JERRY DIAS is the son of Guyanese immigrants. He grew up in a union household, and started working at Toronto’s De Havilland aircraft plant when he was twenty. He soon got active in the Canadian Auto Workers and ultimately went to work for the union fulltime. He was elected president of Unifor in 2013. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.

TIM HARPER has been a journalist for forty years, thirty-four of which were spent with The Toronto Star. He ran bureaus in Vancouver, Washington and Ottawa and spent more than five years writing a national affairs column syndicated from coast to coast. His previous book, coauthored with Alok Mukherjee, was Excessive Force, on the politics of the Toronto police force. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.
Westbank Millionaire

Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson

The tell-all story of one of Canada’s most controversial — and wealthiest — Indigenous leaders

Ron Derrickson’s story is one you would least expect: An Indigenous kid grows up in poverty on a British Columbia reserve and defeats all the odds to become an internationally respected entrepreneur and millionaire.

Along the way Derrickson was elected Chief of the Westbank Reserve six times, turned his reserve into one of the wealthiest in the country, won logging rights for his people, received the honourary title of Grand Chief from the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, and gave millions of dollars in support of Indigenous artists, writers, and activists fighting for both land rights in Canada and international recognition of the human rights injustices that Canada has committed against Indigenous peoples.

Equal parts memoir, Indigenous rights manifesto and entrepreneurial success story, this book tells one man’s story of how he turned oppression and racism on its head and won prosperity for himself and his community by "beating the white man at his own game."

GRAND CHIEF RONALD DERRICKSON served as Chief of the Westbank First Nation from 1976 to 1986 and from 1998 to 2000. He was made Grand Chief by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs in 2012. Grand Chief Derrickson is one of the most successful Indigenous business owners in Canada. He is also a residential school survivor, has been the target of 17 federal investigations, a Royal Commission, defamation, an assassination attempt, and numerous lawsuits. As a businessman, he has been a successful rancher, real estate investor, developer and financier of alternative energies. He divides his time between his home in Kelowna, British Columbia, and Kyiv, Ukraine.

Of related interest

The Reconciliation Manifesto: Recovering the land, rebuilding the economy

Arthur Manuel and Grand Chief Ronald Derrickson

WINNER - Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize
Canadians and the Chinese Labour Corps in the First World War
The Untold Story

Dan Black

The untold story of Chinese labourers who were transported secretly from China across Canada to the Western Front in the First World War

During the First World War, more than 80,000 Chinese labourers were secretly transported from China across Canada to the Western Front where they built bridges and roads, repaired tanks, unloaded supplies, and then, after the war, cleaned up the grisly battlefields. Though the use of Chinese labourers for the war has been known, the story of their journey and their work, and the role of Canadians in recruiting and transporting them, has not been fully told — until now.

In Canadians and the Chinese Labour Corps in the First World War, Dan Black, co-author of Old Enough to Fight, describes the perilous journey taken by the Chinese labourers from their remote villages in China, across the North Pacific, the vast country of Canada from Vancouver to Halifax, and across the North Atlantic to the battlefields of Europe, and then back again. For political reasons — it was a time of deep discrimination against the Chinese in Canada — and to prevent them from escaping, the Chinese labourers were locked into cattle cars and forbidden to disembark during the journey. The Canadian public, too, was kept in the dark about the trains. But their experience is indelibly evident — in graves across the country from Vancouver Island to Thunder Bay, and Petawawa to Halifax.

One Canadian in particular plays a central role in this story — Captain Harry Livingstone, a small-town doctor from Listowel, Ontario. Livingstone joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1917, at the age of 28. His first assignment was to go to northeast China to a recruitment depot, where he examined poor, young Chinese men to ensure they were fit for service. He later joined them on their journey across the North Pacific to a quarantine station on Canada’s West Coast.

Drawing on the diaries written by Livingstone, and the letters of the Canadian missionaries who served as temporary officers with the corps in Europe, Dan Black traces the experience of the Chinese Labour Corps and sheds new light on the mistreatment and racism they faced in Canada and in wartime Europe.

DAN BLACK has written and edited hundreds of articles on Canada’s military, past and present. He is the former editor of Legion Magazine and the co-author of Old Enough to Fight: Canada’s Boy Soldiers in the First World War and Too Young To Die: Canada’s Boy Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen in the Second World War, with John Boileau. Dan lives outside of Ottawa, Ontario.
Black Cop
My 36 years in police work, and my career-ending experiences with official racism

Calvin Lawrence with Miles Howe

A revealing, often-shocking, first-person account of the racism embedded in police organizations in Canada

Calvin Lawrence became a cop at age twenty. He was recruited by the Halifax police department at a time of heightened racial tension in the city. From the start, some fellow African Canadians wondered if he had sold out. White citizens wondered whether a black Canadian even belonged in the job. Calvin takes readers into his confidence as he learns to navigate as a beat cop, and how to deal with racism in the community — and worse, in the police force itself.

Lawrence leaves Halifax to join the RCMP. He holds nothing back as he shares his experiences about basic training in Regina, followed by a stint as Newfoundland’s only black Mountie. He is pegged for undercover work there, but before long his cover is blown. RCMP stereotyping leads him into Toronto’s notorious drug squad as an undercover police officer, and then to years in elite Mountie squads protecting prime ministers and presidents.

Throughout his career Calvin experiences hostility and racism within the force — completely contrary to the official values and image of the RCMP. Standing up for his rights gets him blacklisted for advancement, and ultimately leads him to clinical depression arising from workplace hostility and mistreatment.

As a seventh-generation Canadian, Calvin Lawrence has written a book which lays bare key failures of Canadian police organizations. Even today they operate on the basis that only white Canadians are entitled to the rights promised to all by the rule of law and the Canadian Charter of Rights.

CALVIN LAWRENCE joined the Halifax police department in 1969. As an amateur boxer, he was slated to represent Canada at the 1976 Olympics, which ended after opposition from his police force. He joined the Mounties, where he served in detachments in Holyrood, Newfoundland; Toronto, Ontario; Edmonton, Alberta; Regina, Saskatchewan; and Ottawa, Ontario. He received numerous citations and awards for his service, including a 25-year service medal and was a long-time member of the Association of Black Law Enforcers. When his career was stymied by Mountie officials, he lodged a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission. His case resulted in a confidential settlement and he was awarded a veteran’s disability pension. He now lectures on police issues, teaches boxing and participates in several volunteer organizations. He lives in Ottawa.

MILES HOWE is currently a PhD candidate and an instructor at Queen’s University at Kingston, Ontario. A former freelance journalist based out of Halifax, he is also the author of 'Debriefing Elsipogtog: The Anatomy of a Struggle. Miles currently resides in Kingston.
Mining Country
A people’s history of Canada’s mines and miners

Arn Keeling and John Sandlos

An extensively-illustrated book focusing on one of Canada’s key industries — the mines, the workers and the towns

Mining has a significant presence in every part of Canada — from east to west coasts to the far north. This book tells the stories of the people and companies who pushed mining into new territories, created new towns and generated jobs by the thousands. It highlights the experiences of those who lived and worked in mining towns across the country, as well as the rise of major mining companies and the emergence of Toronto and Vancouver as centres of global mining finance. It also addresses the effects mining has had on Indigenous communities and the environmental changes and challenges that have accompanied mining at every step.

Mining Country is richly illustrated with more than 150 photos drawn from every period of the industry’s history up to the present.

The story begins with the development of copper mining and trading networks among pre-contact Indigenous groups in Canada. Industrial scale mining of iron and coal emerged in Quebec and Nova Scotia in the eighteenth century. The book describes the growth of mining towns in northern Ontario, Quebec and western Canada in the nineteenth century, and the famous Cariboo and Klondike Gold Rushes.

Demand for strategic minerals and metals during the Second World War and the Cold War pushed development into remote northern regions. The most recent period embraces the Northwest Territories diamond rush and controversial expansion into Ontario’s “Ring of Fire” region.

Much has been written about the history of individual mining towns, mine workers and their unions and mining companies. This book offers a readable account of the full scope of this industry’s story, in words and a collection of carefully researched and selected visuals.

ARN KEELING is a historical geographer at Memorial University of Newfoundland. His teaching and research focuses on the environmental-historical geography of Western and Northern Canada. In recent years, his research has explored the historical and contemporary encounters of northern Indigenous communities with large-scale resource developments. He lives in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

JOHN SANDLOS teaches history at Memorial University of Newfoundland. With a Ph.D. on northern wildlife, he has devoted much of his research in the past decade to mining history. He is the author of Hunters at the Margin: Native People and Wildlife Conservation in the Northwest Territories. He lives in St. John’s, Newfoundland.
Stompin’ Tom Connors
The myth and the man — an unauthorized biography

Charlie Rhindress

An unauthorized biography of the Canadian legend that is Stompin’ Tom Connors

Stompin’ Tom Connors is a Canadian legend. There are very few Canadians who don’t know the foot-stompin’ patriot in the cowboy hat who sang almost exclusively about the country he loved and called home. But there is much more to Tom Connors than “Bud the Spud” and “The Hockey Song.” This biography paints the picture of an intelligent, stubborn, creative, cantankerous and thoughtful man who created a character that would be embraced by Canadians from coast to coast. This is the story of the man behind Stompin’ Tom.

CHARLIE RHINDRESS is the author of I’m Not What I Seem, the best-selling biography of Rita MacNeil, which was shortlisted for Best First Book at the Atlantic Book Awards. He is also an actor, writer, director and producer who has worked on more than one hundred theatre productions over the past thirty years. From artistic producer at Eastern Front Theatre to co-founder of Live Bait Theatre, Charlie has acted or directed at theatres across the country and appeared in a number of films and television programs, including Trailer Park Boys, Mr. D., Red Rover and Haven. His plays have been produced by Neptune Theatre, Theatre Orangeville, Live Bait Theatre, Ship’s Company Theatre, Mulgrave Road Theatre and Theatre NorthWest, among others. His two published scripts are The Maritime Way of Life, which was nominated for a Canadian Comedy Award as Best New Play, and Flying On Her Own, based on the life of Rita MacNeil. He currently resides at Amherst, Nova Scotia.
Adventures in Bubbles and Brine

East coast practitioners of fermentation-based food and drink — from beer and wine to cheese and sauerkraut

Philip Moscovitch

Explore Nova Scotia as Philip Moscovitch unearths the province’s rich heritage and recent successes of fermentation-based food and drink

There is something seemingly magical about fermentation — microscopic organisms acting on fruits, vegetables and grains and completely transforming their properties. Fermentation produces wonderful flavours, connects us to local producers, is good for our health and is a direct link with local cultures — both the culture steeped in history and tradition, and the microscopic live cultures embedded in our fermented foods.

Philip Moscovitch travelled Nova Scotia to discover today’s practitioners of the art of food fermentation. He found traditional sauerkraut makers still at work on Tancook Island and cider makers working with old techniques and 100-year-old apple varieties. But he also found dozens of newly-established breweries and wineries, sausage makers bringing French traditions to the province, and cheese makers creating innovative and unique local cheeses. He offers sample recipes featuring local ingredients to allow for experimenting in the kitchen with products that are not all that complicated to make, and which lend themselves to endless variations.

This book introduces the new wave of fermenters in Nova Scotia who are creating delicious products using local ingredients, and encourages readers to try fermentation for themselves.

PHILIP MOSCOVITCH is a freelance writer, editor and broadcaster with a passion for telling stories and helping people and organizations communicate. He writes for adults on a wide range of topics including mental health, sports, agriculture, food, politics, technology and the arts. For fourteen years, Philip wrote the beloved “Daisy Dreamer” comic for Chickadee magazine. He is a regular contributor to Saltscapes, writing an oral history column for the older residents of Atlantic Canada, and contributes frequently to Halifax Magazine. His writing has also appeared in Reader’s Digest, The Walrus and The Globe and Mail, and several of his radio documentaries have aired nationally on CBC Radio. He lives near Halifax, Nova Scotia.
Nova Scotia’s Province House

Photography by Len Wagg

The official 200th anniversary book for Nova Scotia’s Province House

This book combines text and beautiful photographs to document and celebrate Province House in Halifax, the seat of the provincial legislature. Province House is the home of parliamentary democracy, freedom of the press and responsible government in Canada. This book offers a tour of the building — known for being one of the finest examples of the Palladian architectural style in North America — and its contents, and describes the many important events which have taken place within its distinguished walls.

Nova Scotia’s Province House contains many fascinating historical images drawn from Province House’s own collection. The building’s principal rooms, including the legislative chamber, the outstanding legislative library, and the Red Room (formerly the home of the legislature’s upper house) are documented here with new colour photography by Len Wagg, award-winning Nova Scotian photographer and author.

LEN WAGG has been a photographer for over three decades and is well-known for his love of shooting Nova Scotian scenes. His work has been published in Maclean’s and the New York Times. He is the author of five books, including Nova Scotia Landmarks. He lives in Wellington, Nova Scotia.

Of related interest

Bluenose: On board a legend
Devyn Kaizer and Peter Zwicker
9781459505315
paper, $19.95
Lucy Maud Montgomery
Canada’s Literary Treasure

Second edition

Stan Sauerwein

The story of how Lucy Maud Montgomery became one of Canada’s most popular authors

“I set my teeth and said, ‘I will succeed.’ I believed in myself and struggled on alone ... I never told my ambitions and efforts and failures to anyone. Down, deep down, under all discouragement and rebuff, I knew I would arrive someday.”

— Lucy Maud Montgomery

Against the odds, and battling severe mental and physical health issues, Lucy Maud Montgomery published twenty-three books over a thirty-year period. Her stories are still enjoyed around the world and have been immortalized on film, television and stage. The spirited story of orphaned Anne was inspired by the natural beauty of Prince Edward Island and Lucy Maud Montgomery’s writing still resonates with readers today.

Updated with the latest research — encompassing the last few years of Lucy Maud Montgomery’s life and her death by suicide — and beautifully illustrated in this new edition with 100 photographs, this biography looks beyond the surface at the story of Anne’s creator and her often difficult life.

STAN SAUERWEIN is a freelance writer and has published articles in a variety of Canadian and U.S. magazines and newspapers. He is the author of twelve other books, as well as collections of poetry. Stan lives in Westbank, British Columbia.
Max gets a case of the Super Fidgets on a school bus trip to the art gallery. He decides to focus on the colour green to distract himself.

Max doesn’t always have an easy time of it with his classmates, but his fun ways of dealing with his super-energetic self will entertain every young reader.
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- **Matte (not glossy), cream-coloured paper** is recommended for dyslexic readers, which reduces glare.
- **Wide margins and headers** are used to break up the text.
- **Short lines and paragraphs** avoid dense blocks of text.
- Text is **left justified with a ragged edge**.
- Letters have **heavy-weighted bottoms** which can help prevent confusion caused by flipping and swapping letters while reading.
Run and Gun

Eric Howling

From city street to school gym, Griffin brings a star player and a whole new way to play basketball.

Fourteen-year-old Griffin Finch attends school on scholarship and is struggling to stay on the basketball team. Knowing he has to step up his game, Griffin spends the summer playing basketball on a street court for a team called the Running Rebels in the hardscrabble Toronto neighbourhood of Regent Park. Griffin’s hoop skills are taken to the next level by playing alongside streetball stars — especially Fly Davis, the best player in the league. But a summer of fast, high-scoring play ends with Griffin running home, frightened by violence in the street.

Griffin makes his school team and persuades Fly to apply for a scholarship to his school. Having Fly on the team inspires Griffin’s teammates and helps increase their team’s chance of winning. But opposing ideas of how basketball should be played lead to a standoff between Fly and Coach, and Fly quits the team. How can Griffin convince Coach and the rest of his team that they need to play run-and-gun basketball to win? And can he bring together his schoolmates and his friends from Regent Park?

ERIC HOWLING is an advertising creative director and the author of nine books, including Head Hunter, Red Zone Rivals, Hoop Magic, Kayak Combat and Drive in the Lorimer Sports Stories series. His books have been shortlisted for the Hackmatack Children’s Choice Book Award, named Resource Links Year’s Best and picked as a CCBC Best Books selection. Eric lives and plays sports in Calgary, Alberta.

Of related interest

Hoop Magic
Eric Howling
9781459405257
paper, $9.95
Taking the Lead

Karen Spafford-Fitz

Jonas is used to being the fastest, but even he can’t outrun responsibility

Jonas is captain of his school track team. He runs to win, and his specialty is the fastest race of all, the 100m sprint. Mistakenly entered in the 400m at a track meet, Jonas is angry that he’s not guaranteed a win. When his team also loses the relay race, Jonas unfairly turns on one of his teammates.

Jonas’s coach strips him of his captaincy and kicks him off the team until he changes his attitude. Life goes on for Jonas as he goes through the motions of school and training on his own — until he meets Darren, a vision- and mobility-impaired teen who wants to run a 5k race. Jonas agrees to help Darren train, which means he’s tethered to Darren as he runs. Through working with Darren, Jonas learns a new appreciation for his sport and what it really means to be a winner.

KAREN SPAFFORD-FITZ is the author of five books for children and teens, including the Lorimer SideStreets novels Push Back and Saving Grad, both named Resource Links Year’s Best. An avid runner, Karen has coached elementary and junior-high students in cross-country running and in track and field. Recently, she participated in a marathon with a differently abled athlete in a pushcart. She lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Of related interest

Run for Your Life
Trevor Kew
9781459411906, paper, $12.95

Themes: Competition, Sportsmanship, Leadership, Blindness, Disability
August 2019 publication
Dressed to Play

Jennifer Manuel

Before now, Jordan never thought “playing like a girl” was an insult

Fourteen-year-old Jordan lives for basketball — she is a star player on her school team, and aspires to play women’s college/pro basketball like her basketball heroes. But the people around her have been changing. Wyatt, the star of the boys’ basketball team, and his teammates call her Jordan the Jock, hinting that she is less of a girl for being strong and athletic. The players on her team want their new uniforms to be short, tight and sexy, rather than the functional athletic wear Jordan wants. Her best friend is suddenly more concerned with how she looks — and attracting Wyatt — than basketball. Even Jordan’s parents point out that boys don’t like girls who are better at sports than they are.

Jordan thinks she might have found an ally in a boy named Amin, who not only plays basketball, but clearly admires his older sister, who plays at the college level. But when Amin doesn’t stand up for her against Wyatt and the teasing, she feels more alone than ever and wonders if she should just give up the game. But then she meets Amin’s sister, who shows her that there is no shame in being a girl and a strong athlete.

JENNIFER MANUEL won the 2017 Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and was named “A Writer to Watch” by the CBC in 2016. Manuel teaches elementary and high school in the traditional territory of the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples where she coaches the youth basketball team. She lives in Duncan, British Columbia.

Of related interest

Ugly Kicks
Kelsey Blair
9781459409729
paper, $9.95

The Playmaker
Alex O’Brien
9781459413955
paper, $12.95
If I Go Missing

Brianna Jonnie with Nahanni Shingoose
Art by Neal Shannacappo

A powerfully illustrated graphic novel for teens about the subject of missing and murdered Indigenous people

Combining graphic fiction and non-fiction, this young adult graphic novel serves as a window into one of the unique dangers of being an Indigenous teen in Canada today.

The text of the book is derived from excerpts of a letter written to the Winnipeg Chief of Police by fourteen-year-old Brianna Jonnie — a letter that went viral and in which Jonnie calls out the authorities for neglecting to immediately investigate and involve the public in the search for missing Indigenous people. She urges them to “not treat me as the Indigenous person I am proud to be” if she were to be reported missing.

Indigenous artist Neal Shannacappo provides the artwork for the book. Through his illustrations he imagines a situation in which a young Indigenous woman does disappear, portraying the reaction of her community, her friends, the police and media.


BRIANNA JONNIE is Ojibwe. She was a member of the youth empowerment group Strong Girls, Strong World, for which she spoke to young people about healthy relationships. She continues to educate teens about youth empowerment through the Teen Talk program. Brianna has been awarded the City of Winnipeg Citizen Equity Committee’s Youth Role Model Award in the advocacy category, the Lieutenant Governor’s Vice-Regal award and the Make a Difference community award for her volunteer work. Brianna lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her aunt and co-author NAHANNI SHINGOOSE is Saulteaux. She is an elementary teacher who lives in Stoney Creek, Ontario.

NEAL SHANNACAPPO is a Nakawe (Saulteaux) from Ditibineya-ziibiing (Rolling River First Nations). He is an artist, graphic novelist, poet and writer, and contributed to the graphic novel anthologies Sovereign Traces Volumes 1 and 2. He lives in Ottawa, Ontario.

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epub: 978-1-45941452-5, $14.95
Themes: Native Peoples, Prejudice and Racism, Girls & Women, Law & Crime
September 2019 publication

NEW TITLES KIDS/TEENS

Of related interest

The Courage of Elfina
André Jacob
9781459414198
hardback, $24.95
Powwow Summer

Nahanni Shingoose

A coming-of-age story about a teen girl who experiences her Indigenous heritage in a meaningful way

Part Ojibwe and part white, River lives with her white mother and stepfather on a farm in Ontario. Teased about her Indigenous heritage as a young girl, she feels like she doesn’t belong and struggles with her identity.

Now eighteen and just finished high school, River travels to Winnipeg to spend the summer with her Indigenous father and grandmother, where she sees firsthand what it means to be an “urban Indian.”

On her family’s nearby reserve, she learns more than she expects about the lives of Indigenous people, including the presence of Indigenous gangs and the multi-generational effects of the residential school system.

But River also discovers a deep respect for and connection with the land and her cultural traditions. The highlight of her summer is attending the annual powwow with her new friends.

At the powwow afterparty, however, River drinks too much and posts photos online that anger people and she has her right to identify as an Indigenous person called into question.

Can River ever begin to resolve the complexities of her identity — Indigenous and not?

NAHANNI SHINGOOSE is Saulteaux, originally from Roseau River First Nation, Manitoba. She is an elementary teacher and author of Indigenous content, including teacher resources, picture books, graphic novels, and fiction for teens and young adults. She is the recipient of a Golden Leaf National Publishing Award, an Indspire Indigenous Educator Award, and two Prime Minister’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Nahanni is also Lead Writer for the National Film Board’s Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Program. She lives in Stoney Creek, Ontario.
Spin Out

Steven Sandor

Fast cars, friends and fame. Who needs a real life when you are a top-level racer in the online world?

Ben Cheng used to live the good life — he had wealthy parents, lots of friends and respect as an online gamer. But when his parents separated, he had to move to a small apartment with his mom, his dad was out of the picture, and his new schoolmates started teasing him for his family’s fall from grace. All Ben has left is his virtual life, where he still reigns supreme as an online driver.

Ben’s life starts to spin out of control when he takes his mom’s car out for a joyride and gets caught. Then he’s in even deeper trouble when his mom finds out he has charged expensive upgrades for his online car on her credit card without permission. When Ben’s dad secretly starts emailing him, Ben gets his hopes up that everything will return to the way it once was — he just has to loan his dad the money to get to Ben’s big tournament coming up. It’s not until Ben’s dad is a no-show that he finally realizes the effect that his dad’s gambling addiction and his own gaming addiction have on his family and his life.

STEVEN SANDOR is an award-winning magazine editor, author and sports broadcaster. Although he has yet to master Formula 1 racing games without the cheats on, Steven explores the world of online car racing games in Spin Out, his first SideStreets book. Steven lives in Edmonton, Alberta.
We Three

Markus Harwood-Jones

Looking for friends at summer camp, Jassie finds twice the love and acceptance she ever hoped for.

Jasbina “Jassie” Dhillon is at summer performance camp to address concerns of her parents and teachers over her struggles at school and her lack of close friends. To Jasbina’s surprise, she quickly makes two new friends, Ams and Sydney. The problem is that the pair can’t seem to stand each other, and Jassie realizes she’s got romantic feelings for both of them. Just as Jassie is worried she may need to choose one over the other, Ams and Syd start to get along — but a little bit too well. It seems like Jassie may have missed her chance at both love and friendship, since Ams and Syd only seem to have eyes for each other. Jassie is upset until Ams and Syd tell Jassie they want to be with her too.

The three spend their time at camp working out their relationship in the face of the misunderstandings, assumptions and envy of counsellors and fellow campers alike. As camp gets close to ending, Syd proposes that the three of them run away from camp together. Ams feels the only solution is for the three of them to just end their relationship. Jassie, heartbroken and hurt, realizes she needs to find the courage to convince her partners that their love can survive in the real world.

MARKUS HARWOOD-JONES is a writer, visual artist and documentary filmmaker. He has self-published the short story collections Confessions of a Teenage Transsexual Whore and Everything & All At Once. His documentary film, Mosaic, tells the story of his journey across Canada and the United States to learn more about the trans community. He is the author of the Lorimer Real Love romances, Just Julian and Romeo for Real. Markus lives in Toronto, Ontario.

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