

Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Talaga

The National Special Report About Deer Lake and sending kids to Thunder Bay for high school

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/deer-lake-high-school-thunder-bay-1.4389945>

- The Special Report on the CBC website contains additional information to that which was broadcast

If I Fall, If I Die by Michael Christie

<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/25/books/review/if-i-fall-if-i-die-by-michael-christie.html>

- Mother-son relationship
- Indigenous issues in Thunder Bay

The Break by Katherine Vermette

<https://quillandquire.com/review/the-break/>

- Winnipeg
- Female centred
- Indigenous Issues

Eden Robinson

- Monkey Beach
- Son of a Trickster
- Trickster Drift

The Orenda by Joseph Boyden

<https://quillandquire.com/review/the-orenda/>

- first contact between indigenous Canada and the white man

Something to Live For, Something to Reach For: Students of a Native Survival School

- Originally published 1989
- Enid has original copy here at cottage... welcome to borrow
- lived experiences of indigenous students who went to this new indigenous school in Saskatoon to compete their education

The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline

<https://quillandquire.com/review/the-marrow-thieves/>

- YA Book of the Year, 2017
- GG Award winner, Kirkus Prize Winner
- Magical realism
- the legacy of residential schools

Cindy Blackstock

- *'In my assessment he's shown up to class but hasn't done any of the work...'* (Believe this quote to be from her but unable to verify.)
- See Globe Article: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/cindy-blackstock-canadas-relentless-moral-voice-for-first-nations-equality/article30915894/>

Idle No More

<http://www.idlenomore.ca/>

The Right to Be Cold by Sheila Watt Clouthier

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/books-and-media/book-reviews/the-right-to-be-cold-a-courageous-and-revelatory-memoir/article23449642/>

- Inuit experience
- gets bogged down in the middle section with discussion on international political framework.. can skip, but worth the read if you can keep with it

Chanie (Charlie) Wenjack

- Historica Canada Heritage Moment
- <https://www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/chanie-wenjack>
- The Secret Path by Gord Downie and Jeff Lemire
- <https://secretpath.ca/>
- Wenjack by Joseph Boyden
- <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/books-and-media/author-joseph-boyden-on-writing-the-story-of-chaniewenjack/article32443798/>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=3>

- Strongly recommended read... long!

Discussion of the book...

Comment #1

not want read

couldn't put it down

Husband's family from Thunder Bay - connections, knowledge of the area, the people, the community

University roommate from Thunder Bay

Really is the 'Tale of Two Cities'

People of a different generation not really get it... not know their privilege

Been living in US... all new... not known

vastness of issue - how solve it? why keep happening?

Comment #2

link to interview sent out via e-mail (ADD LINK HERE...)

abandonment by the government

entire country

Lack of caring

General conversation

- travel coast to coast - never see it, never experience it
- even people in highly indigenous communities... not know
- internalized racism - absorbed through residential schools
- vast geography of northern Ontario - map not do it - not get across the scope of the issue or the connections within those communities
- Alberta - Hutterite community - looking at connections between colonies
- community come looking - would that happen if our kid went missing? BUT.. nobody else was looking...
- Kids - coming to Thunder Bay - good kids, then they go off the rails... nothing else for them... how could they not have set-up peer leadership programmes, after school programmes, etc. Can do it without funding!!
- the only way to fit in was to go out and party with their friends
- no structure, no safety net
- no tolerance - alcohol, sugar and disease - brought courtesy of the white man 200 years ago
- BUT... there is no medical basis to it, and that there are examples of other ethnic groups who have been adversely impacted by cultural practices encouraging alcohol consumption, such as the Irish and the Russians.
- these also an issue of poverty
- good job of flipping - no evidence they ended up in the river 'of their own accord' - hello! people don't walk into rivers in the middle of winter on their own
- Julian Falconer's line: None of the kids were safe... (p282)
- Frank Iacobucci: The rule of law does not operate in Northern Ontario.

- 100 years ago... whistled blower paper - still wrote books himself.. but the larger prejudice to overcome
- Education very important - always been in their treaties - but they never got it
- Nobody do anything until it happens to their family
- Civil Rights movement in the US - gotta have leaders
- In the US - people more integrated more naturally - compare N. Ontario.. so vast, no interaction, no engagement
- what do you do - if you're a kid - in a small indigenous community?
- Exhaustion - on the part of the people who are dealing with it... their own fatigue
- Intergenerational trauma
- Bank trying to partner with the NCC in Toronto... try to support and get involved
- Cultural thing - like 'inshallah' in the Middle East... different rhythm to life
- Understanding their culture and way of looking at the world and nature
- Indigenous communities not understand the threat that the coming of the 'white man'
- tells a gripping story but she also filters valuable information to contextualise it... land mark book in that way
- the value of the author having been a journalist
- Summary - the seven principles of the community
- build an entire education system from these principles - not conflict with what we think of as a western education - umbrellas for teaching all disciplines
- first thought - get the school out of Thunder Bay - put it somewhere else
- Indian Affairs - causing more harm - Renamed under Justin Trudeau to [Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada](#)
- Thunder Bay - so far away from the loci of power - but thriving arts and social cultural scene for a city its size (2014 population: 110 984)
- [1969 White Paper](#): Equality, assimilation, Indian Act be no more.. but Indian Act the only thing that protects Treaty Rights and law
- [1970 Red Paper](#) (written in response): fun to go take a look at - written by Indigenous activists- what they had to say back then
- Finally, we in settler society start talking about it
- Trudeau government (now): behaviour not been terribly different
- Most of what they need to deal with not actually fall under Indian Affairs - i.e. pipeline really fall under Finance... and much of the responsibility lies at the provincial level
- Nowhere else would we send someone to deal with a single Ministry or entity to address their needs
- Carolyn Bennett - money into new water plants, consulting with communities, change funding models... but build the new plant, but no \$\$ for connections so can't access the water
- Pipeline decision this week: the government is in a mess, climate change strategy is in ruins, relationship with indigenous community in ruins
- See news articles: [Justin Trudeau's flawed climate change plan](#) and [The whales have a big voice](#) and also [After Trans Mountain we need a better way to consult with indigenous groups](#)

- Cherie Dimaline: on reconciliation... native communities are reconciled with the situation... it's the white people who have to reconcile with reality
- MENTION: Scholarship award for local indigenous student from Chippewa
- Sutton high school: strong indigenous commitment to support students
- Police response: oh well, another (native) drunk kid fallen in the river
- Even before that point.. assumption that they out drunk... Jethro, no amber alert (Chapter 3)
- missingkids.ca: what to expect from law enforcement... not need to wait... national standard if that they should be taking the missing person report immediately...
- You'd think it would be obvious that these kids were in imminent danger
- Lack of communication back to the family - nobody follows up... like they didn't matter
- police statement re no foul play even before the post mortem completed
- even in face of evidence to the contrary
- Journalistic points: Robin, blood alcohol intoxication cases, ruled an accident, she not have the average amount to cause fatal outcome... but she point accusatory finger here is a stretch... this hurts the rest of the case a little - but still a trivial complaint
- Foster parent system - for money
- Another drunk Indian - unable to move 250 pounds
- Medical community - not treat drug and alcohol issues very well, then racism on top of it
- Charlie Wenjack: start there as segue in.. he part of popular conscience... connect back to residential school system
- The land acknowledgement: what make of it at the start of a meeting? It all starts with the land... access to and use of the land
- Jesse Wente @ OLA SuperConference 2018: talk about wanting a new relationship with us and with the land
- The acknowledgements... the best ones include reference to the treaty... we are all partners to the treaty... call to understand the treaties
- The treaties with the indigenous community are the foundation of Canada
- Terra nullius and the doctrine of discovery: empty land ripe for the claiming... the Papal Bull, the edict issued by the Pope (<https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/christopher-columbus-and-the-doctrine-of-discovery-5-things-to-know> and/or https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_nullius)
- Start of the book: talking about federal election... Jordan's missing... paragraph sets put he entire book and the possibilities for the relationship... 'I was sitting with the Grand Chief of... (p15-16)... ***it's about LISTENING!!!***

Notes...

Link to Red Paper shared via e-mail to the group...