

MCIC'S BOOK LIST 2023

READ - REFLECT - RELATE - GET INVOLVED

The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) is proud to present our 2023 International Development Week (IDW) Book List. This diverse list has been curated to feature books that inspire and educate readers on international issues.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

Feminism for the 99%: A Manifesto

By Cinzia Arruzza, Tithi Bhattacharya and Nancy Fraser (2019 - NF)

In this manifesto, the authors envision an inclusive and just world and highlight why feminism must be anti-capitalist, eco-socialist, and antiracist. Feminism is more than having women represented at the top of their professions.

Professional Troublemaker: The Fear Fighter Manual

By Luvvie Ajayi-Jones (2021 - NF)

Guided by the influence of her inspiring and professional troublemaking grandmother, Luvvie shows us what we must get right within ourselves before we can do the things that scare us, and how to use our voice for the greater good.

A Decolonial Feminism

By Françoise Vergès (2019 - NF)

This book grapples with the central issues in feminist debates today: from Eurocentrism and whiteness to power, inclusion, and exclusion. It delves into feminist and anti-racist histories to assess contemporary activism, movements, and struggles, including #MeToo and the Women's Strike.

CLIMATE ACTIVISM

The Intersectional Environmentalist

By Leah Thomas (2022 - NF)

A look at the intersection between environmentalism, racism, and privilege, and an acknowledgment of the fundamental truth that we cannot save the planet without uplifting the voices of its people – especially those most often unheard.

A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency

By Seth Klein (2020 - NF)

Author and activist Klein looks at WWII strategies and shows how they can be repurposed today for a rapid transition. He demonstrates that this change can create jobs and reduce inequality while tackling our climate obligations.

Life In The City Of Dirty Water

By Clayton Thomas Muller (2019 - NF)

An electrifying memoir about the challenges of growing up Cree in Winnipeg which reflects on the urgent issues of Indigenous rights and environmental policy from a nationally and internationally recognized activist.

“...the stories of Thomas-Muller's life defy any one category to paint a complex picture of what it is to be a Cree man in Canada.”

- The Globe and Mail

INDIGENOUS VOICES

Daughters of the Deer

By Danielle Daniel (2022 - F)

This novel imagines the lives of the women in the Algonquin territories in the 1600s. Inspired by the lives of the author's ancestors, this haunting story touches on colonization, violence against indigenous women, and courage.

The Strangers

By Katherena Vermette (2021 - F)

A staggering intergenerational saga that explores how connected we are, even when we're no longer

together—or when we're forced apart. A searing exploration of race, class, inherited trauma, and matrilineal bonds.

Buffalo Is the New Buffalo

By Chelsea Vowel (2022 - F)

A collection of powerful short stories of “Metis futurism” that envision a world without violence, capitalism, or colonization.

POLITICAL STORIES

You Have Not Yet Been Defeated

By Alaa Abd el-Fattah (2021 - NF)

Powerful ideas of protest and freedom of expression from the world-renowned Egyptian political prisoner and activist, Alaa Abd el-Fattah, collected in English for the first time.

Homegoing

By Yaa Gyasi (2016 - F)

The debut novel from Gyasi, follows two half-sisters, Effia and Esi, unknown to each other, are born into two different tribal villages in 18th century Ghana. Stretching through histories and geographies, Gyasi perfectly captures the troubled yet hopeful human spirit.

Good Citizens Need Not Fear

By Maria Reva (2020 - F)

Intertwined narratives, nine stories span the chaotic years leading up to and immediately following the fall of the Soviet Union. But even as the benighted denizens of 1933 Ivansk Street weather the official neglect of the increasingly powerless authorities, they devise ingenious ways to survive.

PERSEVERANCE

Under the Udala Trees

By Chinelo Okparanta (2015 - F)

Ijeoma comes of age as her nation does—she is eleven when civil war breaks out in the young republic of Nigeria. Sent away to safety, Ijeoma meets another displaced child and they, star-crossed, fall in love. *Under the Udala Trees* is a deeply moving commentary on identity, prejudice, and forbidden love.

Such Big Dreams

By Reema Patel (2022 - F)

A savvy former street child working at a human rights law firm in Mumbai fights for redemption and a chance to live on her own terms. The book explores ambition, power, resilience, and determination.

We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies

By Tsering Yangzom Lama (2022 - F)

Told through the lives of four people over fifty years, this beautiful novel provides a nuanced portrait of the world of Tibetan exiles in the wake of China's invasion in the 1950s. A gorgeously written meditation on colonization, displacement, and the lengths we'll go to remain connected to our families and ancestral lands.

Finding Edward

By Sheila Murray (2022 - F)

Cyril Rowntree, a mixed-race Jamaican, migrates to Canada and sets about earning a degree, while working two jobs and navigating his way through the implications of being racialized in his new land. This journey of personal discovery is also one of Canada's Black history.

Did you read any of these inspiring books? Let us know! Tag us on social media:

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