

Racism? Indigenous Issues? I Want to Learn. Where Do I Start?

The murders of unarmed African-American people in the USA and the racism and injustice directed toward people of colour and Indigenous Peoples here in Canada are beginning to shed a light on problems that go back for hundreds of years. It is hard to know where to start to learn about the important issues surrounding racism and Indigenous peoples. Reading and educating ourselves about these issues is probably the best place to start. Once we begin to understand the history and the problems that marginalized peoples deal with, we can then find ways to get involved and support the work being done to combat racism and help to solve problems faced by Indigenous peoples in our own communities. We aren't called to solve the whole thing, but neither are we free to abandon the work.

Books Dealing With Racism Against Indigenous Peoples:

'Native-Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God', by Kaitlin B. Curtice
'21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act-Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality', by Bob Joseph
'The Inconvenient Indian', by Thomas King
'The Reason You Walk', by Wab Kinew
'Seven Fallen Feathers', by Tanya Talaga
'Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit issues in Canada', by Chelsea Vowel

Indigenous Voices that might be helpful include:

Dr. Adrienne Keene-activist, blogger, tweeter, and social media guru
Chelsea Vowel-Métis author
Fancy Bebamikawe-educator on Indigenous art and artists, appropriation, and beadwork
Alethea Arnaquq Baril-documentary filmmaker about Inuit peoples and their culture, traditions, and history.
Jay Odjick-writer, illustrator, TV producer, activist, and speaker
Ryan McMahon-Anishinaabe comedian, writer, and activist
Paul Seesequasis-writer and journalist
Tanya Tagaq-throat singer
Jack Saddleback-mental health activist and advocate for issues on gender and sexual diversity, Two-Spirited issues, and HIV/AIDs.
Jesse Wenthe-columnist and public speaker

Documentary Films Dealing with Racism Against Indigenous Peoples:

nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up
Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance
The Angry Inuk
#1492 Land Back Lane & The Ongoing Six Nations Struggle For Land
Jordan River Anderson, The Messenger
RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World

There's Something in the Water
We Were Children
Stolen Children: Truth and Reconciliation
Muffins for Granny
Canada's Dark Secret
Six Miles Deep
Land Back Camp
The Fifties Documentary Series: Episode 6: True North

Feature Films Dealing with Racism Against Indigenous Peoples:

Indian Horse
Older Than America
Rhymes for Young Ghouls
Secret Path
Where the Spirit Lives
Falls Around Her
The Fastest Runner

The National Film Board of Canada

A number of documentary and feature films are available for viewing at the NFB Canada website

<https://www.nfb.ca/channels/residential-schools/>

<https://www.nfb.ca/search/?q=indigenous%20issues&cat=films&language=en&sortBy=relevance&orderBy=desc>

This list is far from comprehensive, but, it is a place to start.

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