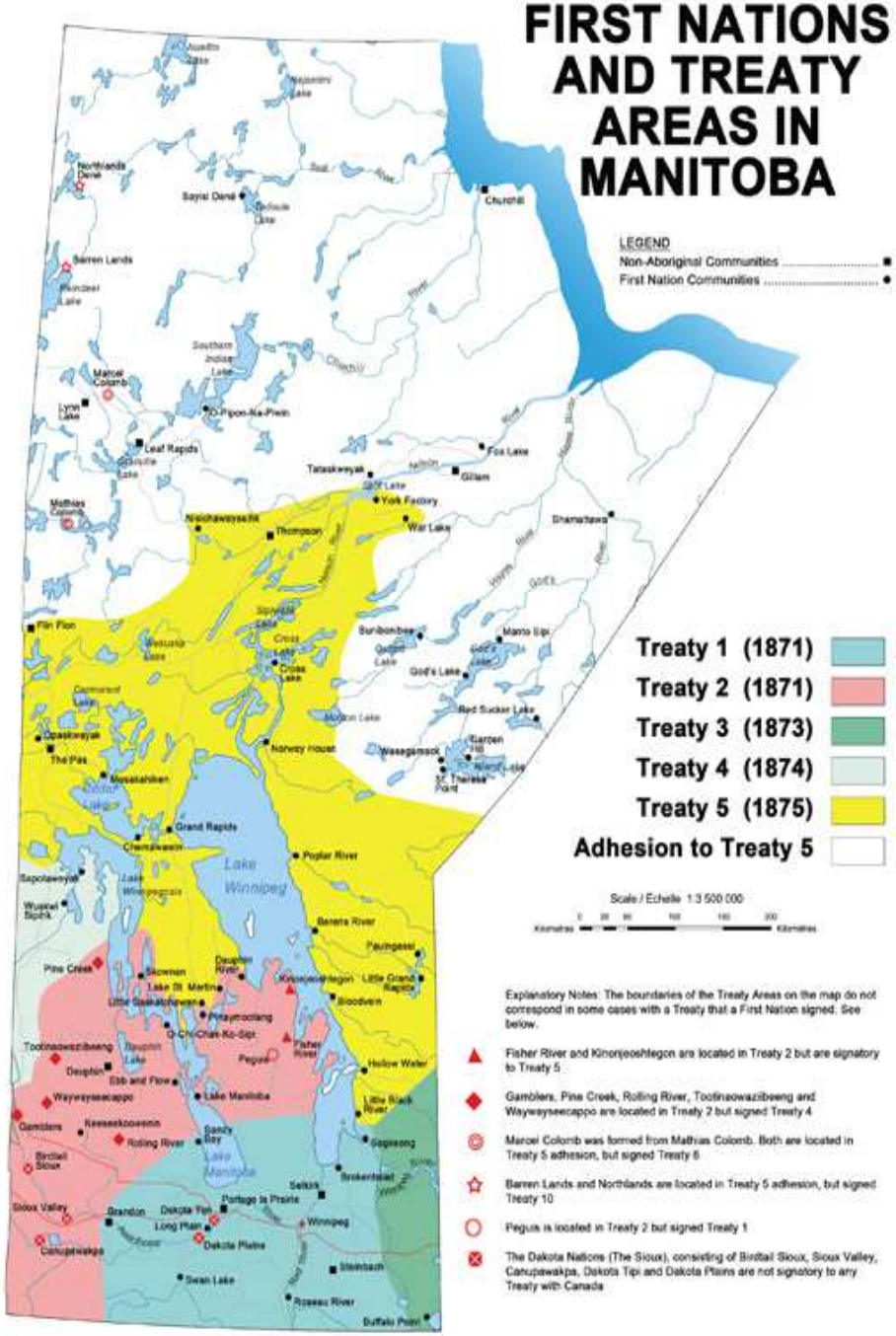
# Choosing to Walk a Path:

## Library Services with Indigenous Peoples on Purpose

**Monique Woroniak**
**Customer Services Librarian – Information Services**
**Winnipeg Public Library**
**mworoniak@winnipeg.ca**

Ontario Library Association Super Conference
January 28, 2016

# FIRST NATIONS AND TREATY AREAS IN MANITOBA




Published under the authority of the Hon. Chuck Strahl, P.C., M.P., Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 2010. QS-N055-000-EE-A1

MACLEAN'S Global Issues. Our Insights.
In print or on your device

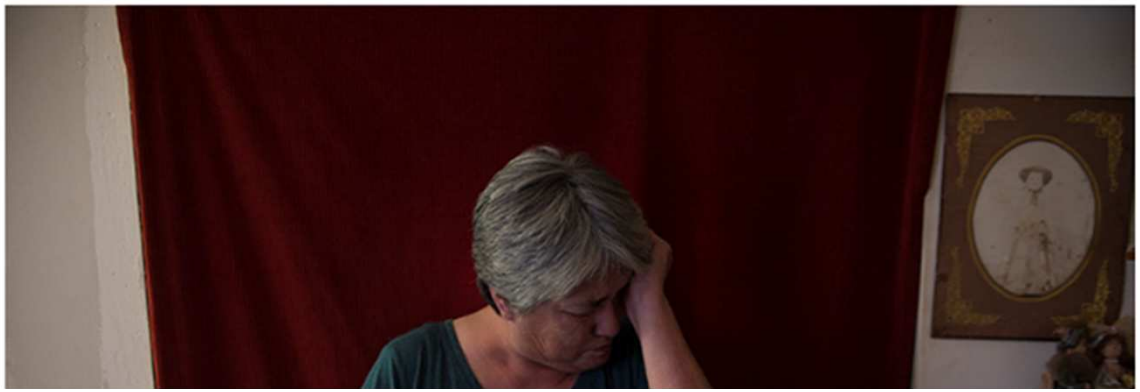
# Welcome to Winnipeg: Where Canada's racism problem is at its worst

How the death of Tina Fontaine has finally forced the city to face its festering race problem.

Nancy Macdonald

January 22, 2015

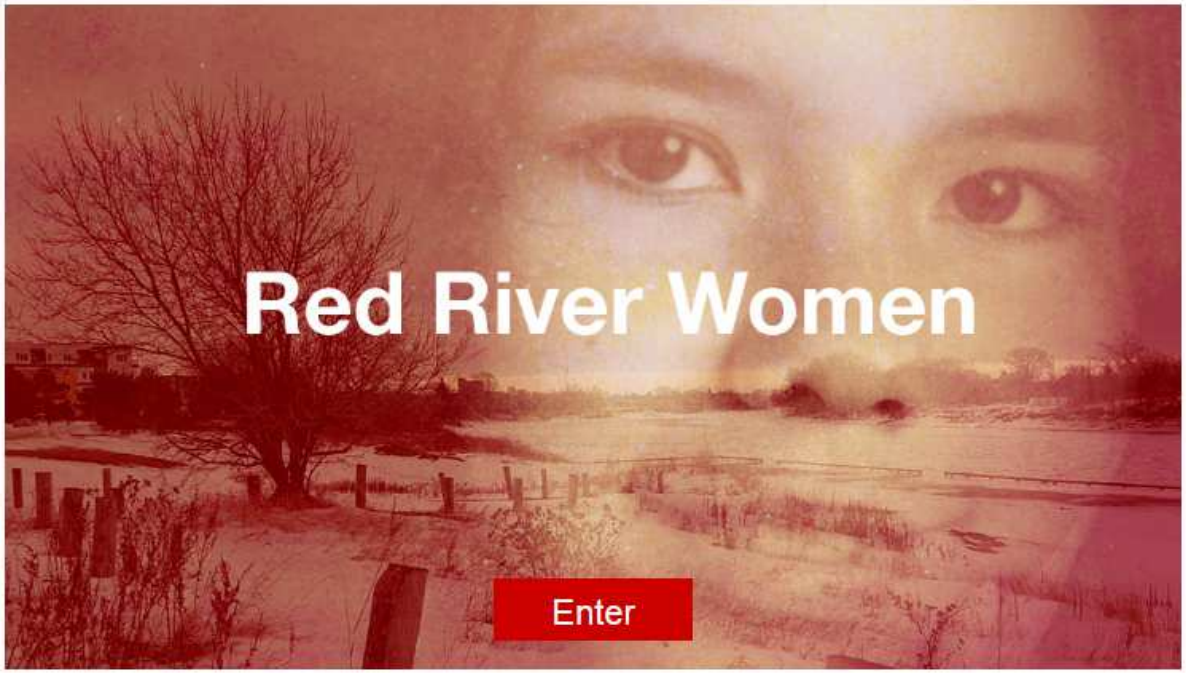
3181
295



# Red River Women

9 April 2015 | Magazine

**On the trail of the murdered and missing - why have so many of Winnipeg's Aboriginal women and girls been killed?**



BLUEBERRIES
WILD RICE

Image: CBC news

# UWinnipeg students' union calls for mandatory indigenous course

CBC News Posted: Feb 16, 2015 9:18 AM CT | Last Updated: Feb 16, 2015 6:23 PM CT

UWinnipeg students' union calls for mandatory indigenous course 1:38

Stay Connected with CBC News

Mobile Facebook Podcasts Twitter Alerts N

ADVERTISEMENT

# Globe Books 2013: A new chapter in aboriginal literature

SHELAGH ROGERS AND NIIGAANWEWIDAM JAMES SINCLAIR
Special to The Globe and Mail
Published Friday, Dec. 27 2013, 5:18 PM EST
Last updated Friday, Dec. 27 2013, 5:36 PM EST

3 comments
1K 1K 130 0 g+1 1
AA

International Business News
Report on Business

Asked why he is defending Joseph Boyden's newest novel *The Orenda* in the upcoming Canada Reads 2014, Ojibway journalist Wab Kinew responded by saying: "Because reconciliation with Native People is still the most pressing social justice issue Canada faces."

According to Kinew, reading Boyden's vision of the complex ways Indigenous peoples and Canadians shaped one another during early contac has the ability to shake up abusive cycles of relationships, revisit history and examine the ways we are more connected than not.

MORE RELATED TO THIS STORY

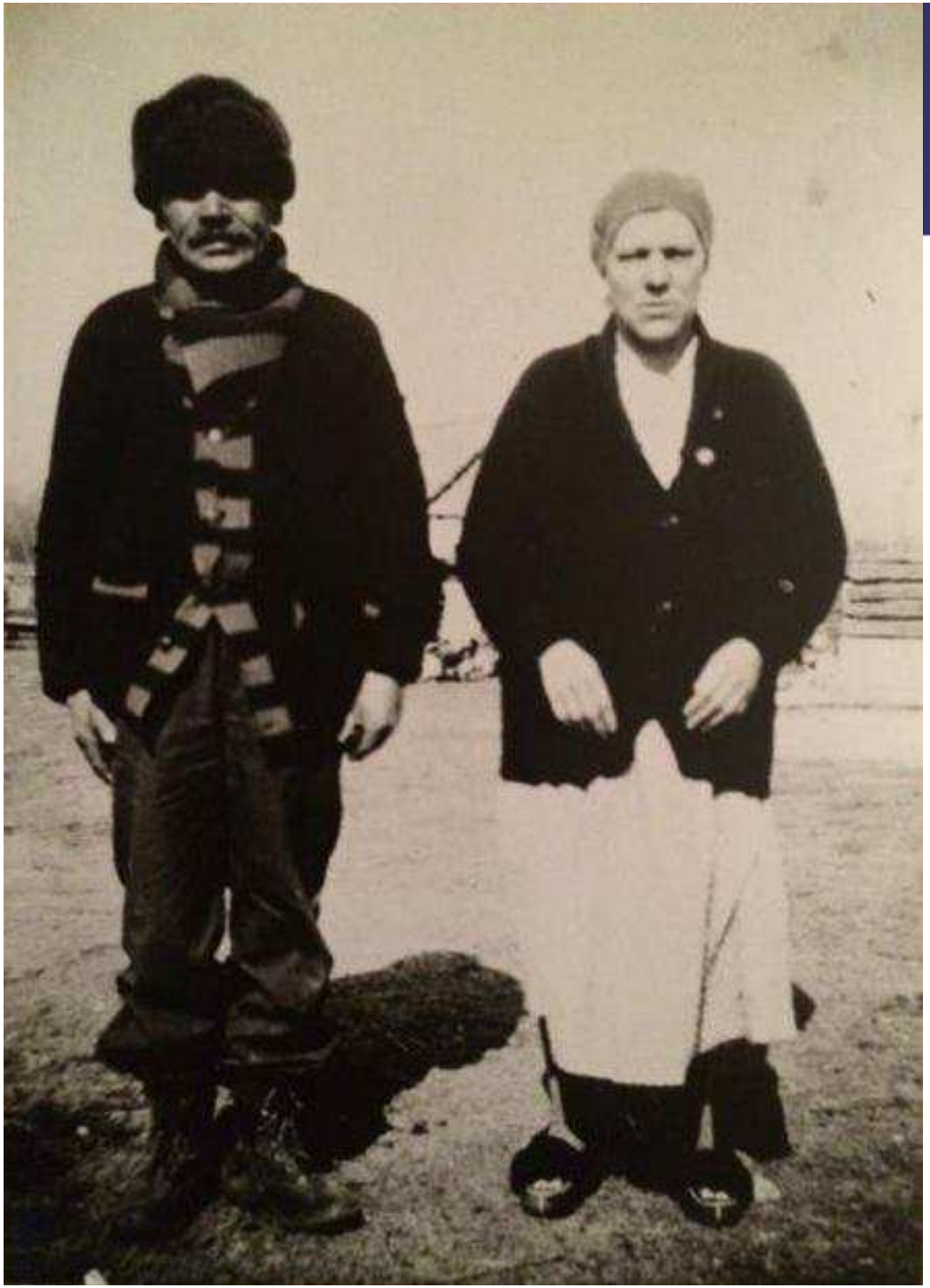
- Globe Books 2013: How can you change what (and who) you read?
- Globe Books 2013: Long story short, it was a remarkable year for short fiction
- Globe Books 2013: A new chapter in aboriginal literature

**redrisingmagazine.ca**

# Settler Colonialism

- **Colonizing group (“settlers”) displace an indigenous population from their land and settle permanently**

- **(vs the colonialism focused on exploiting labour – see colonial India, for example)**



# It’s still happening

## A structure – not an event

**See: Patrick Wolfe. Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native.**
***Journal of Genocide Research*. 2007**

# Labeling our work

# Decolonizing?

**Purposeful engagement against multiple systems of oppression**

**a goal, a process…endpoint as unknown**

***"engages with imperialism and colonialism at every level"*** Eric Ritskes. "What is decolonization and why does it matter?" in *Intercontinental Cry* September 21, 2012

***"moving to a different and tangible place, somewhere out there, where no one has really ever been"***

Mariolga Reyes Cruz "Ni con dios ni con el diablo: Tales of survival, resistance and rebellion from a reluctant academic." in *Decolonization, Indigeneity, Education and Society*. Vol. 1, Issue 1, 2012

# Indigenizing?

**“To cause to have indigenous characteristics”**

merriam-webster.com

**“Bring (something) under the control, dominance, or influence of indigenous or local people”**

oxforddictionaries.com

**See current efforts to “indigenize the academy.”**

# Key perspectives & approaches

Winnipeg

**Diversity** **Anti-racism**

# Diversity

- **Focus is on *celebration* of difference and inclusion**
- **Doesn’t address material realities**
- **Doesn’t address power**
- See: Folklarama, multi-cultural potlucks, including Indigenous content only on National Aboriginal Day, etc.

# Taking a systemic view

**"*Institutional racism* or systemic racism describes forms of racism which are structured into political and social institutions. *It occurs when organisations, institutions or governments discriminate, either deliberately or indirectly, against certain groups of people to limit their rights*."**

From racismnoway Anti-racism education for Australian schools Retrieved July 16, 2015 from http://www.racismnoway.com.au/teaching-resources/factsheets/32.html

# Anti-racism

- **Anti-racism**
  - acknowledges a difference *in power* exists
  - acknowledges privilege – unearned benefits
  - works to address specific injustices based on difference in power
  - works to change the difference in power

Winnipeg

Outreach

Community Development

# Outreach

- organization positioned as *expert*
- on a mission to deliver a message
- collaboration is minimal
- focus is on the “end”

**the power stays put**

# Community Development

- **organization positioned as *partner…possibly an ally***
- **focus is on the means or the process**
- **much deeper collaboration…relationships**
- **Decision-making is shared or given over**

**a power shift**

# To indigenize

**“Bring (something) under the control, dominance, or influence of indigenous or local people”**

oxforddictionaries.com

Winnipeg
Indigenize
Community Development
[redacted]
Outreach
Diversity
Anti-racism

# “Believe that…”

**“Believe that Indigenous peoples have the power to find solutions for ourselves.**

**Support our efforts in ways that ensure the solutions we enact continue to happen.”**

- Âpihtawikosisân (Chelsea Vowell)

# Mainstream institution

# Challenges - institutions

- **Human Resources**
  - Hiring, Staff training
- **Competing priorities within environment of scarcity**
- **Working against/within multiple systems of oppression**
- **Past is present / ongoing**

# Potential - institutions

- **Training**
  - changing hearts and minds
  - skill development
- **Qualities of library staff**
  - Curious, open to learning
  - Desire to be helpful (just need direction)
- **Increasing number of Indigenous peoples reaching out – waiting to be reached out to**

Winnipeg

**Spaces**

**Pockets**

**Moments**

**Steps**

Winnipeg

# Aboriginal Reading-in-the-Round, 2005

# -art addition, 2010

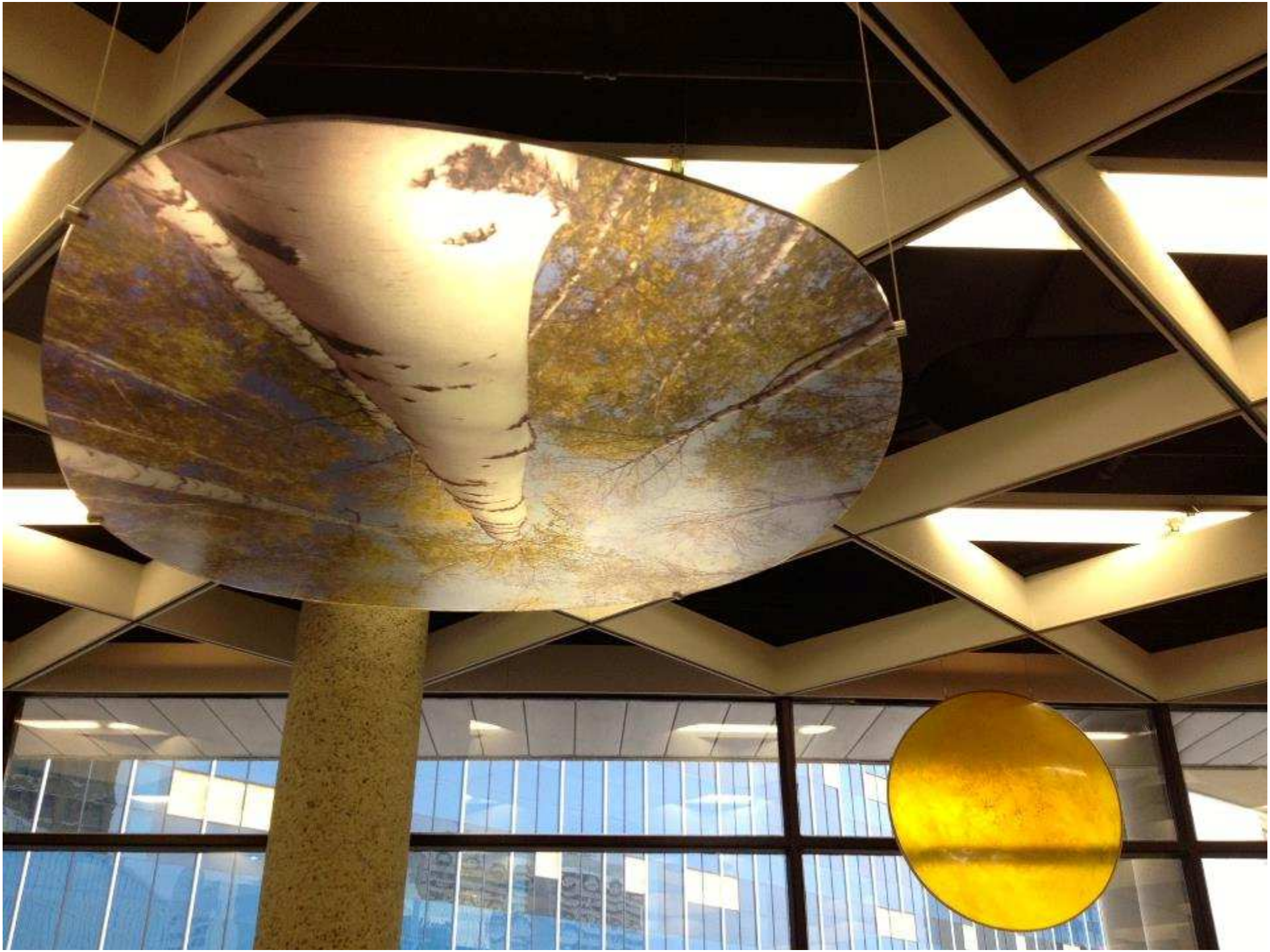
# -renamed Ah kha koo gheesh, 2015

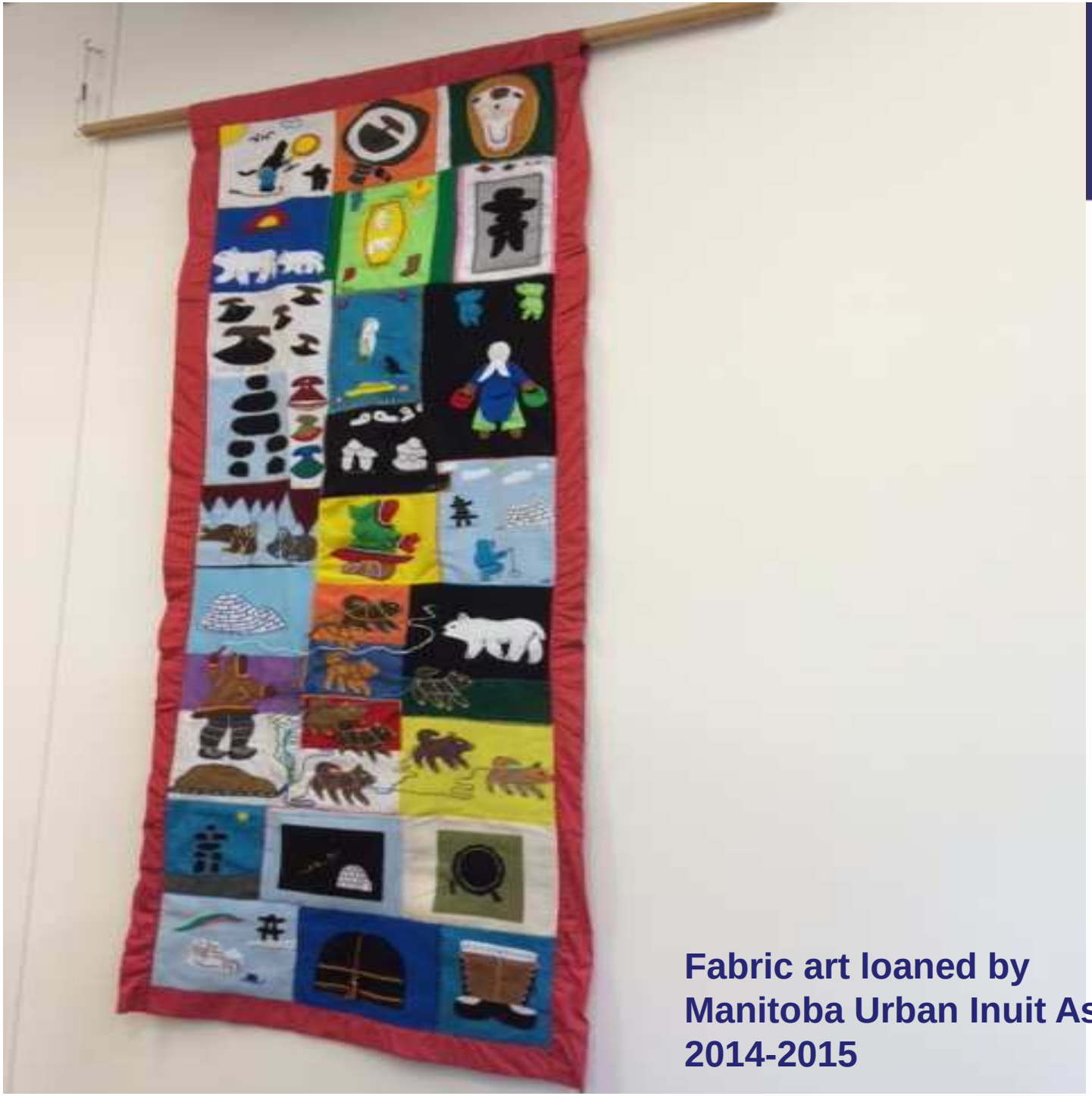
POWWOW

# Adult Aboriginal Resources Area 2013

# -renamed Wii ghoss, 2015

Aboriginal Resourc





**Fabric art loaned by Manitoba Urban Inuit Association, 2014-2015**

MOON VOICES:
WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
Millennium Library
MOON VOICES

NFB Film Club
Finding Dawn
Beadwork
Walking With Our Sisters
Women of the Metis Nation

**Indigenous Writers' Collective of Manitoba**
**"New Voices" launch, Millennium Library, 2013**

**Credit: Saffron Scott**

# Elder-in-Residence 2010-2011

# “The Last Word on First Words”

**contest in May – June, 2012**

MOCCAS
xxx
ndn
FRONTRUNNER
Nilgaanibaloraa
Colour of
SUGAR
DREAMS
WOLF
skins
Vm's Garden
RICHARD WAGAMESE

eyes. May it also bring you blue butterfly smiles. *Blue Marrow* sings of the resilience of life even through pain and injustice. It is a deeply moving tribute to the poet's own grandmothers.

## Youth category

**Name: Dakota B.**
**Entry:** fareWel by Ian Ross

The play fareWel by Ian Ross is very funny. The characters are very interesting and stuff they do is pretty crazy. They talk, fight and try to borrow money from each other while they wait for their welfare cheque.

I really liked the character of Sheldon Traverse. His story is intense because he has been through so much. He has been cut by a chainsaw, bit by a dog, hit by a police car and been punched in the mouth to remove a bad tooth.

I think the language used in the play is really funny. All the characters laugh at each other and all the ridiculous stuff they end up doing. I think this play is very good and people should read it. The characters encourage the reader. Even though they are in a bad situation, they keep laughing and trying.

### Other suggested titles

*The Seven Teachings*
by David Courchene

*In Search of April Raintree*
by Beatrice Moisioner (Culleton)

*Bear bones & feathers*

*Midnight Sweatlodge*

MANITOWAPOW
Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water
MANITOWAPOW
Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water

North End Love Songs

Katherena Vermette

# ON THE SAME PAGE

## Celebrate the 2014-2015 Selection

ON THE SAME PAGE

READ MANITOBA!

Join Manitoba's biggest book club, now in its seventh year!

*North End Love Songs* by Katherena Vermette

OnTheSamePage.ca

**Sean Ledwich** @SeanLedwich · Mar 21

The sure-footed Danielle, our @wpglibrary host, hands out bannock on a moving bus!

1 1

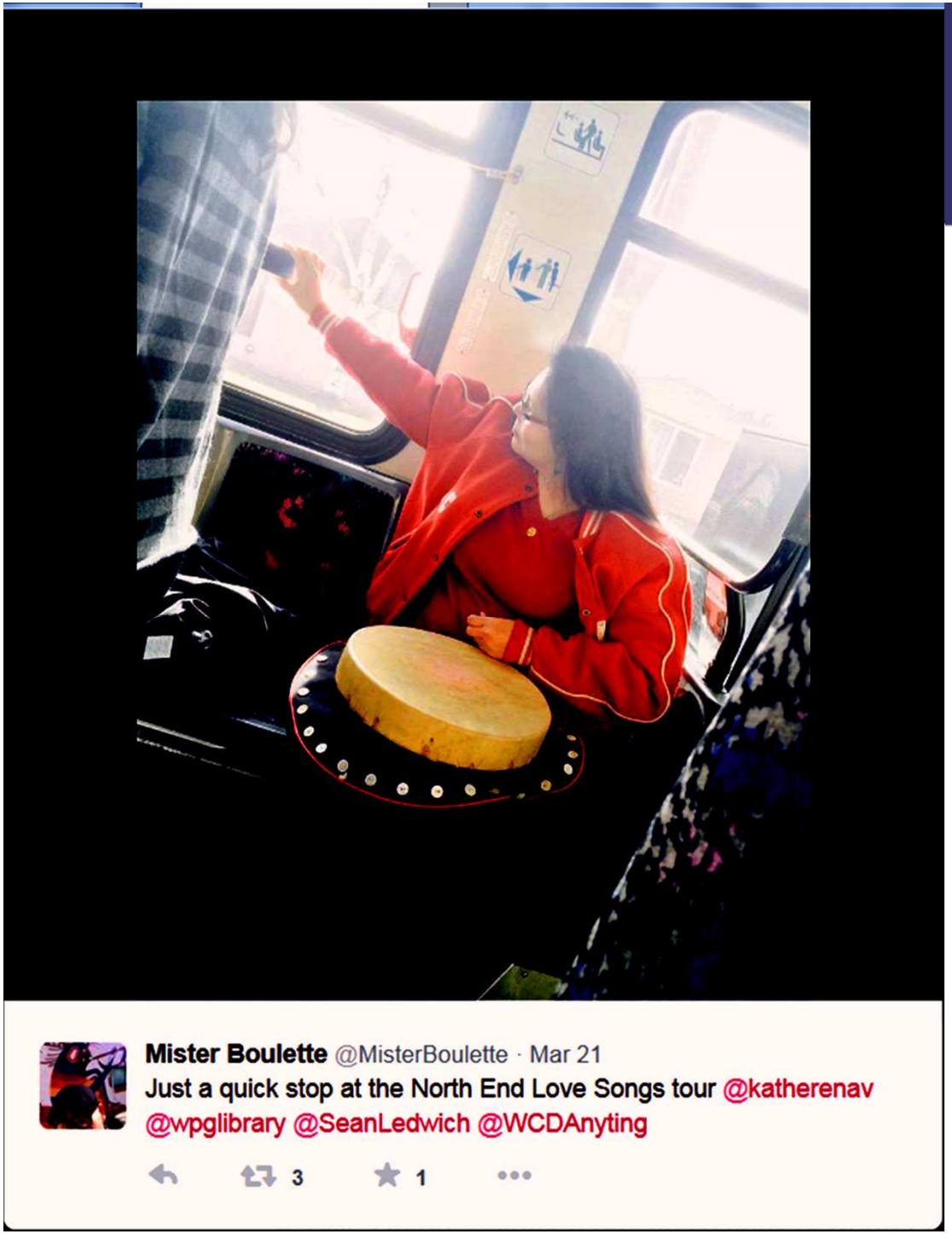
MM@BT
Stop the violence
lette · @MisterBoulette · Mar 21
top at the North End Love Songs tour @kathere
SeanLedwich @WCDAnyting
1

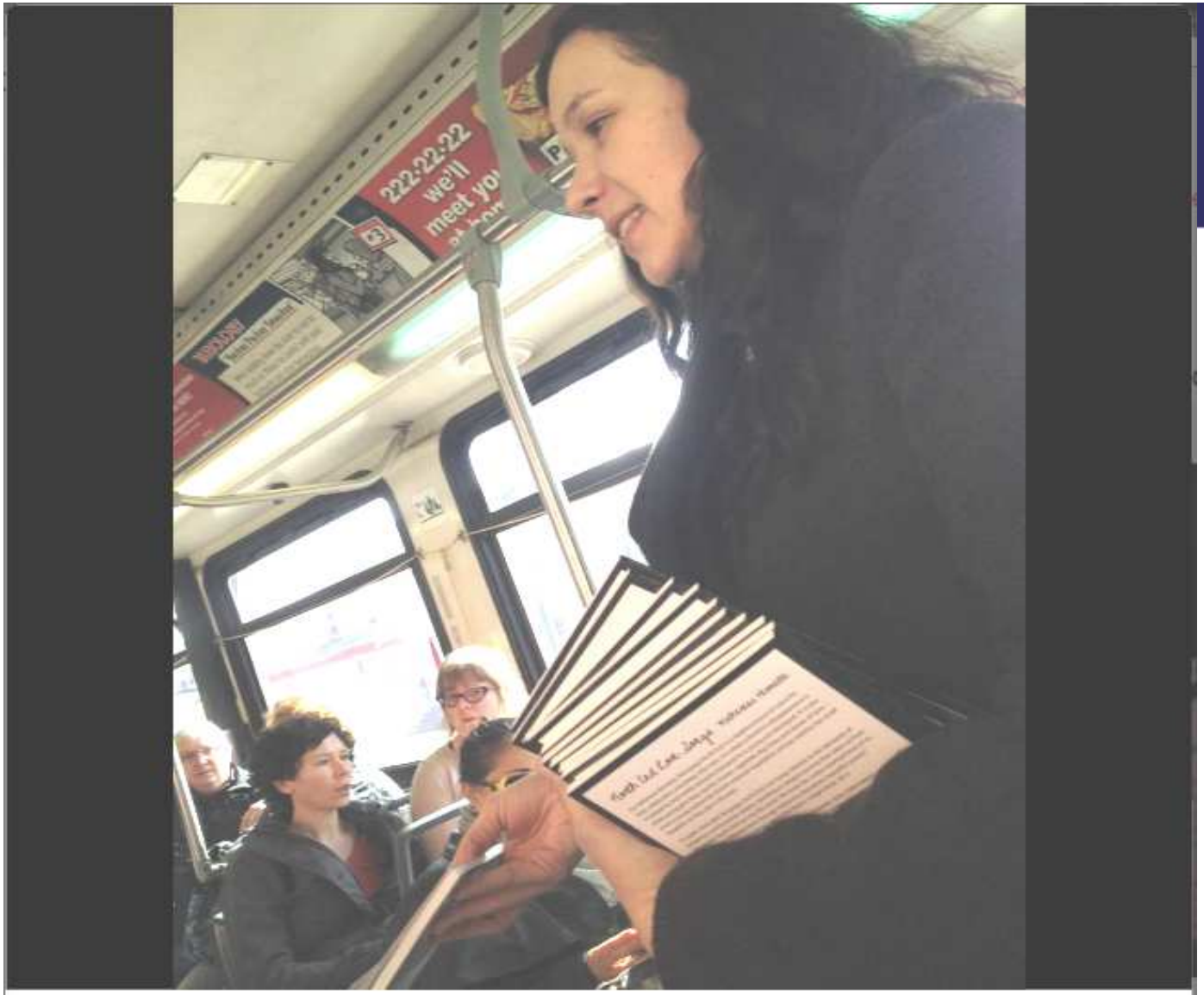
Search Twitter

Have an account? Log in

**Sean Ledwich**

The lovely @AltheaL8r (aka Bannock Lady) has joined us, which prompted applause.


Mister Boulette @MisterBoulette · Mar 21
Just a quick stop at the North End Love Songs tour @katherenav @wpglibrary @SeanLedwich @WCDAnyting
3
1




**Sean Ledwich**
It's like Oprah! @katherenav has a copy of North End Love Songs for all on @wpglibrary bus tour..

# Read the Same Book
# Share the Same Story

## ON THE SAME PAGE

READ MANITOBA!

Join Manitoba's biggest book club, now in its eighth year!

***The Evolution of Alice*** by David Robertson

**OnTheSamePage.ca**

Winnipeg

THE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION

LIBRARY · BIBLIOTHÈQUE

David Robertson

You voted and **The Evolution of Alice** was chosen as the book all Manitobans should read. Read the book - in print or the eBook - and get ready to join us for special events coming in January and February, 2016!

"While this is a book rooted firmly in life on a reservation, it is universal in its message of forgiveness, of grace, of growth. Robertson has a profound and thought-provoking ability to take big issues and make them intimate."

• Joanne Kelly for CBC News

# THE EVOLUTION OF ALICE

DAVID A. ROBERTSON

TIME
FOCUS
The Fear Fix
CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY
The Psychology BOOK
8th HAB
SCIENTOLOGY
GOING CLEAR
BLOOD TIES
WORTHY
THE WORLD
bloom

# 4 Tips

Winnipeg

Aboriginal
Visioning for
Women's
Gathering
Today
#Library
Lady Q and A
Winnipeg
Public
Library

Winnipeg

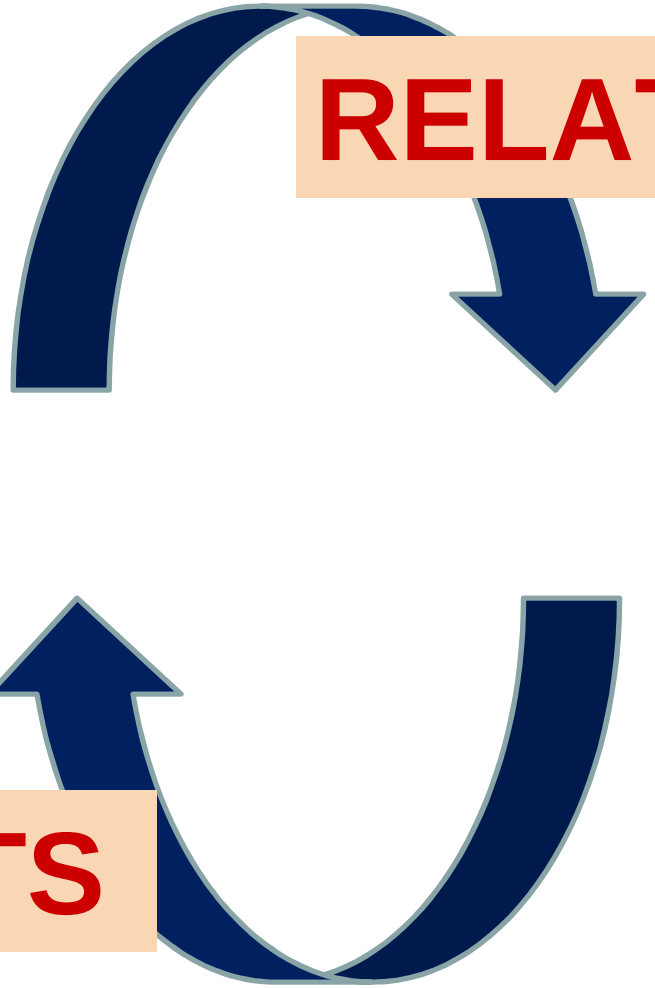
# Grow relationships.

## How?

### Show up.

### And again.

### And again.

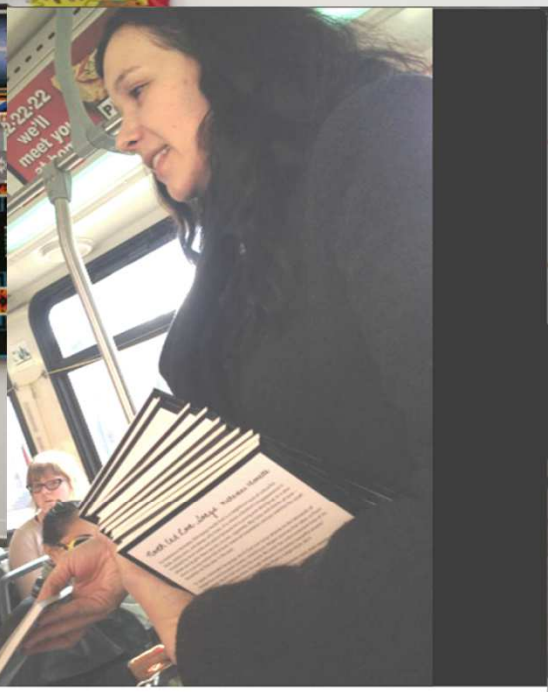

RELATIONSHIPS
PROJECTS

Take-away #3

Winnipeg

# Give it over.

## Whenever, wherever, however…



**Sean Ledwich**
It's like Oprah! @katherenav has a copy of North End Love Songs for all on @wpglibrary bus tour..

# Change (a lot)

- **the challenges are systemic – *the solutions need to be too***
  - *hiring, training, facilities, selecting and sourcing materials, programs' content and facilitators, hours of operation, levels of off-site services, marketing, website content, technology access…*

# Share Gifts

**"Activists, however, continue to demonstrate. And how?**

**Round dances mostly.**

**In other words, they're giving gifts."**

**"I mean a presentation that illustrates something about an individual or community. This could be history, experiences, or knowledge about the universe. Anything."**

Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair
Winnipeg Free Press. January 29, 2012

Winnipeg

**“I don't believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is so vertical. It goes from the top to the bottom.**

**Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other person. I have a lot to learn from other people.”**

in David Barsamian (2004) *Louder Than Bombs: Interviews from The Progressive Magazine*. p. 146

**Eduardo Galeano (1940-2015)**

# Photograph credits

- Slide 2.
  - Map: Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100020576/1100100020578
  - Photograph: Library and Archives Canada. MIKAN http://tinyurl.com/ha3tphg
- Slides 3, 69. Unattributed.
- Slide 4. Collection of presenter
- Slide 7. Collection of presenter
- Slide 13. Collection of presenter
- Slides 34, 35, 37-43, 45, 47, 49, 57, 59. Winnipeg Public Library
- Slides 51-55. Twitter feed of Sean Ledwich. @SeanLedwich
- Slide 66 Mariela De Marchi Moyano. License: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/ Image has been re-sized.
- Slide 67. Collection of presenter.
- Slide 68. Collection of presenter.