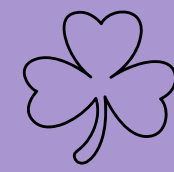


# Shared Ground Bulletin

CAAL RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE  
COMITÉ DE RÉCONCILIATION CBPA



March 2026



Welcome to the March 2026 CAAL-CBPA Reconciliation Committee / Comité De  
Réconciliation news bulletin!



Spring is here!



## Institution Updates

### REMINDER:

**Registration is open for the Memorial University Libraries Project Learn Book Club!**

Memorial University Libraries is inviting the CAAL community to take part in its Project Learn Book Club – a shared reading experience centred on books written by Indigenous authors or in collaboration with Indigenous communities.

Project Learn aims to introduce members of the Memorial University community to Indigenous history, culture, and traditions in unique and thought-provoking ways. Project Learn collaborates with members of the Indigenous communities of Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada to explore the ways in which we can decolonize how we learn through methods such as art, literature, and storytelling.

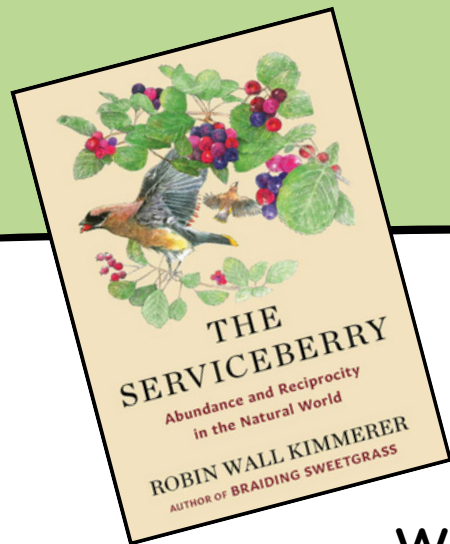
Together, the Project Learn Book Club reads books written by Indigenous authors or in collaboration with Indigenous communities. The books correspond with designated themes for that month that reflect locally and nationally recognized dates relating to Indigenous peoples, events, and initiatives. The goal of the Book Club is to elevate Indigenous voices and perspectives and change the way we approach learning about Indigenous people and history. At the end of each reading period, we gather to discuss what we learned, pose questions about what we may not understand, and position the book within the broader topic of Indigenous knowledge and experience.

For February-April, we are reading *Scratching River* by Michelle Porter and *Theory of Water: Nishnaabe Maps to the Times Ahead* by Leanne Betasamosake Simpson!

The Project Learn Book Club Gathering will take place on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm (NST). We will be joined by Dr. Michelle Porter, Métis author, storyteller, educator, and Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Memorial University.

To register: <https://mun.libcal.com/event/4001582>





## Words Held

We are reading *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer!

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, a bold and inspiring vision for how to orient our lives around gratitude, reciprocity, and community, based on the lessons of the natural world.

As Indigenous scientist and author of *Braiding Sweetgrass* Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? Our economy is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources, and we have surrendered our values to a system that actively harms what we love. Meanwhile, the serviceberry's relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of reciprocity, interconnectedness, and gratitude. The tree distributes its wealth—its abundance of sweet, juicy berries—to meet the needs of its natural community. And this distribution insures its own survival. As Kimmerer explains, "Serviceberries show us another model, one based upon reciprocity, where wealth comes from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency."

## Knowledge Shared

*The real truth about stories: Book recommendations from the Indigenous Literatures Lab (The Conversation)*

The recent news that Canadian writer Thomas King does not have Indigenous ancestry has prompted necessary conversations across literary communities about the need to vet accurate representations

"The Indigenous Literatures Lab at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto is a literary hub that seeks to build bridges between academic researchers, school practitioners and Indigenous communities.

As members of the lab, we're interested in directing readers toward the vast field of Indigenous literature that expands, contradicts, integrates and challenges the western literary canon. Part of this means introducing new literary genres that are core to Indigenous philosophies, world views and understandings of non-linear time."

Check out the Indigenous Literatures Lab *Since Time Immemorial Book Club*:  
<https://www.indigenousliteratureslab.com/since-time-immemorial-book-club>

## Who We Are

Sarah Papple (Memorial University) (co-chair)  
Michaela Doucette (Memorial University) (co-chair)  
Jennifer Richard (Acadia University) (Committee Board Liaison)  
Leah Campbell (Nova Scotia Community College)  
Agnieszka Hayes (Acadia University)  
Courtney Matthews (University of Prince Edward Island)  
Maggie Neilson (Acadia University)  
Stacey Penny (Memorial University)

CAAL  
CBPA

Council of Atlantic  
Academic Libraries

Conseil des bibliothèques  
postsecondaires de l'Atlantique