

Canada's Favourites

Book Recommendations From Coast to Coast



With contributions from: Guy Berthiaume - Vickery Bowles - George Elliott Clarke - Zoe D'Amato - Emma Donoghue - Mike Duffy - Chantal Hébert - Jennifer Hollett - Gordon Korman - Pilar Martinez - Nik Nanos - Rachel Notley - Shane Peacock - Eleanor Wachtel - Hayley Wickenheiser - AND MORE!

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Building the Canadian library and information community

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Book Recommendations

From Coast to Coast

Compiled by
Zoe Dickinson

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About the Front Cover

Girl with coffee cup reading a book, © Vetkit, www.dreamstime.com/vetkit_info



Introduction

In honour of International Literacy Day in September and Canadian Library Month in October, Librarianship.ca reached out to well-known Canadians in politics, the arts, and librarianship. We asked our contributors to share books that had impacted their lives, their current reads, and their recommendations for other Canadians. It was inspiring to see how excited Canadians are to talk about what they're reading!

This collection is by no means comprehensive, but it features Canadians from many walks of life, including politicians, journalists, sports stars, authors, and librarians. For ease of browsing, our contributors have been organized into three broad categories:

- Politics and Government;
- Journalism, Arts, and Sports; and
- The Library World.

The index at the end of the collection provides a comprehensive list of the authors and titles mentioned.

We hope that this collection will get Canadians talking about books, sharing recommendations, and trying new authors based on our contributors' suggestions. We were blown away by the richness and variety of responses we received. There are so many amazing conversations to be had about books; we barely scratched the surface. This collection highlights the importance of reading, and the importance of libraries as forums for those conversations.

I'd like to thank Claire Dionne for her skillful French translation, which allowed us to reach out to participants in both of Canada's official languages. I'd also like to acknowledge Cabot Yu as the driving force behind this project, and a constant source of guidance and support throughout. Finally, many thanks to our contributors for taking the time to engage on this fascinating topic.

Happy reading, Canada!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe Dickinson".

Zoe Dickinson



Honourable John B. Ames
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Heritage
New Brunswick
[@JohnBAmes](#)

What book have you returned to time and time again?

I would say I come back to *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck.

What book are you reading right now?

I am reading *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell right now.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

I have recently been turned on to *The World is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman and *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel and I would recommend it and *Night* by Elie Wiesel.



Honourable Bob Bratina, MP
Member of Parliament
Hamilton East — Stoney Creek (Ontario)
[@BratinaBobHESC](#)

What book have you returned to time and time again?

As to authors I constantly revisit, it would be H.L. Mencken.

What book are you reading right now?

My current book is *Eugene Onegin* by Pushkin. I don't have TV in my Ottawa apartment and spend my time reading classics. Joseph Conrad is also in my reading pile.



Honourable Jim Carr, MP
Member of Parliament
Winnipeg South Centre (Manitoba)
[@jimcarr_wpg](#)

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Churchill by Roy Jenkins.

What book are you reading right now?

The Nix by Nathan Hill.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

Last recommended to me: *The Nix* by Nathan Hill.
What I would recommend: *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry.



Honourable Julie Dabrusin, MP
Member of Parliament
Toronto-Danforth (Ontario)
[@juliedabrusin](#)

What book are you reading right now?

I am currently reading *The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King. I am on the Heritage Committee and very interested in how we tell our stories and promote Canadian voices. This book is a great retelling of our history and an important starting point our 150th anniversary of Confederation.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

The last book that was recommended to me was *Old City Hall* by Robert Rotenberg. I enjoyed reading this mystery which is based in Toronto and would recommend it as a fun read.



Senator Mike Duffy
Prince Edward Island
@MikeduffyMike

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Robert Caro's multi-volume biography *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*, Caro's carefully researched and exquisitely detailed biography of LBJ's "House of Cards." From rigging his election to the US Senate; his determination to teach the Vietnamese not to mess with Uncle Sam, no matter the cost in lives; to his negotiations with bigoted Southern whites in order to gain passage of the Civil Rights Act; it is all here; much of it in verbatim, often profane, detail.

Caro's work not only illuminates the past. It casts a light on important currents which continue to flow in US politics.

What book are you reading right now?

Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right. This book by Jane Mayer of The New Yorker, documents the disproportionate impact of money on American politics, most especially the financing of the radical right "Tea Party." Canadians may think we're "better" than that. But are we? This is not an issue about which Canadians should be complacent.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

Spin: How Politics Has the Power to Turn Marketing on Its Head, by Toronto management consultant Clive Veroni. In Canada a party which captures as little as 39% of the vote can form a majority government. Veroni's book explains how campaign strategists use "wedges" to divide voters, and win power, but at what cost to broad-based public support for our democracy?



Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, MP
Minister of National Revenue
@DiLebouthillier

Quel livre relisez-vous encore et encore?

Le livre que je relis encore et encore est l'histoire de *Jonathan Livingston le Goéland*. J'ai reçu ce livre en cadeau de ma mère lorsque j'étais adolescente. Cette histoire pourtant simple a été au cœur de tout ce que j'ai fait dans ma vie. J'ai lu ce livre avec mes fils lorsqu'ils étaient enfants et maintenant je continue avec mes petits fils.



Honourable Ricardo Miranda
Minister of Culture and Tourism
Alberta
@_RicardoYYC

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Cien años de soledad by Gabriel García Márquez (*One Hundred Years of Solitude*).

What book are you reading right now?

Azul by Ruben Dario.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

Last book recommended to me: *Not Wanted on the Voyage* by Timothy Findley.

Book I recommend: *The Wars* by Timothy Findley



Nikita James Nanos, FMRIA
Chairman, Nanos Research Group of Companies
@niknanos

What book have you returned to time and time again?

The book I keep returning to time and again is *The Iliad*. I first read it as a young reader – a children's version. Then in high school I had the good fortune of studying Homeric Greek and translating the original and now I keep returning back to it. The appeal of *The Iliad* to me is that is a combination of heroism and the pathos with, I would say, purposely flawed personalities. Heroes can be prideful and inspirational and the same time tragically loyal to their friends.



Honourable Rachel Notley

Premier
Alberta

@RachelNotley

What book are you reading right now?

Close to Hugh by Marina Endicott.



Honourable Kelly Regan

Minister of Labour and Advanced Education
Nova Scotia

@KellyReganNS

What book have you returned to time and time again?

There are many books that I return to often -- sometimes re-reading them annually.

I've read *No Great Mischiefs* by Alistair MacLeod many times. It's simply one of the best, most true books I've ever read. Each time I finish it, I walk about in a daze for days - I can't shake the story. Every person I've given it to has loved it.

I recently pulled Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* off our shelves to so I can re-read it. This dystopian novel illustrates the personal consequences of a society's bad political decision. It seems particularly apt this year as we watch events unfold outside Canada.

(Plus I often re-read Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, Faye Weldon's *Down Among the Women*, Marilyn French's *The Women's Room*.)

As for non-fiction, although I read a lot of political biographies, I don't tend to re-read them. I return frequently to *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White. It was my writing bible in university, and I continue to consult it today. This slim volume is full of pithy advice, as in "Omit needless words". I frequently give it to young people starting post-secondary education or their first jobs. It's a useful little book.



Honourable Darrell Samson, MP
Member of Parliament
Sackville—Preston—Chezzetcook (Nova Scotia)
[@darrellsamson](#)

What book are you reading right now?

My favourite books to read are biographies and I am in the middle of reading a biography of Terry Fox. I also have recently read a biography on John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, which was also extremely interesting.



Honourable Rochelle Squires
Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage
Manitoba
[@Min_Squires](#)

What book are you reading right now?

Open Heart, Open Mind by Clara Hughes is an amazing Canadian book by a woman who exemplifies courage and fortitude. This Olympic champion and talented writer's book is a literary gift for anyone looking for a story filled with inspiration and hope. I encourage all Canadians to consider adding it to their "must read" pile.



Senator Pamela Wallin
Saskatchewan

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Dorothy Parker has always been one of my literary heroes, a writer before women did such things, for *The New Yorker* and *Vanity Fair*.

Parker and her friends held court at the Algonquin Hotel in New York (circa 1920's) and they were a caustic coterie of critics who "invented" cynicism. Parker's writings were once brilliantly described as "acid lucidities." To wit, in a review of a play starring Katherine Hepburn, Parker wrote: "Miss Hepburn runs the gamut of emotions from A to B." Ouch.



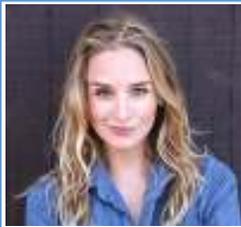
I have made it a lifelong pursuit to uncover rare and obscure volumes of her work and with the help of friends, secondhand bookstore aficionados and hours searching through dust laden shelves, I now have a wonderful collection of her original work. But, if you just want a taste, your best bet is a volume that Parker herself put together. The anthology, called *The Portable Dorothy Parker*, has remained continuously in print (and selling steadily) since 1944. The stories and poems are compelling, funny, sad, gut-wrenching and sometimes painful because she taps into our core and into the things we all feel, but seldom admit to.



Honourable Andrew Wilkinson
Minister of Advanced Education
British Columbia
[@Wilkinson4BC](#)

What book have you returned to time and time again?

I refer to *Fowler's Dictionary of Modern English Usage* regularly, as it not only helps me to maintain a high standard of writing and grammar, but it also points out that my own habits in the English language can be dated or even obsolete. Books like Fowler's provide the ongoing learning that all of us need, particularly when we see another item on the page which would not have occurred to us otherwise.



Brianna Barnes
Television host (Globe Trekker), actress and model
@LeBriannaBarnes, <http://www.briannabarnes.com/>

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

The last book I had recommended to me was *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon. And this would be the same book I'd recommend to you.

I have never experienced a read quite like this. The style in which the novel is written, is by narration in the first person of the main character. A young boy who seemed to have high functioning autism.

It was fascinating to be led through this world behind the lens of this boy. Not only going through solving a mystery but also side twists of how this character's thought process affected his life.

And even though you'd think being led through someone's life in a thought pattern you most likely don't share would be confusing. The author seamlessly guides you through his thoughts and mathematical coping mechanisms. I just can't say enough about this book because it was just so different!



George Elliott Clarke
7th Parliamentary Poet Laureate

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Several: Ezra Pound, *The Cantos*; P.E. Trudeau & Jacques Hebert, *Two Innocents in Red China*; Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*.

What book are you reading right now?

The New Oxford Annotated Apocrypha.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Memories of My Melancholy Whores*. I recommend Jeff Derksen, *The Vestiges*.



Zoe D'Amato
Television host (Globe Trekker), Producer
@zoedamato, <http://www.zoedamato.com/>

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

The last book I had recommended to me was *A Death in the Family* by Karl Ove Knausgård. I haven't finished it yet, but so far, it has completely blown my mind. If I had to choose a book to recommend, it would be anything (and everything) by Haruki Murakami. I'd inhabit his words if I could.



Emma Donoghue
Author of *Room*, *The Wonder*, *Slammerkin*, and many other books
@EDonoghueWriter, <http://www.emmadonoghue.com/>

What book have you returned to time and time again?

A book I return to - an extraordinary trilogy that I'd recommend to anyone from 14 up - is Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*. Science, spirit, friendship, courage, adolescence, humanness... this epic war of the worlds has got it all.



Chantal Hébert
Journalist, The Toronto Star
@ChantalHbert

What book have you returned to time and time again?

A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry.

What book are you reading right now?

The North Water by Ian McGuire.



What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

The last books recommended to me were Eleni Ferrante's Neapolitan series starting with *My Brilliant Friend*. I would recommend *Fifteen Dogs* by Andre Alexis.



Jennifer Hollett

Head of News and Government at Twitter Canada

Photo credit: Dustin Rabin

@jenniferhollett, <http://jenniferhollett.com/>

What book have you returned to time and time again?

I'm not one to return to books, other than the dictionary, atlas, and Bible. I was raised Catholic, and those Bible parables stick with you for life.

What book are you reading right now?

The Night of the Gun: A reporter investigates the darkest story of his life. His own. by the late journalist David Carr.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

My sister recommends books to me all the time, and I like anything she suggests. I really enjoyed *The Kids Are All Right: A Memoir* written by four siblings.

I highly recommend *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur. Young, Canadian writer. Beautiful poet. Right through the heart.



Gordon Korman

Author of *Slacker*, the MacDonal Hall series, and many more books for young people

@gordonkorman, <http://gordonkorman.com/>

What book have you returned to time and time again?

As a writer of middle grade fiction, the book that I keep coming back to is *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Not exactly an out-of-the-box choice, I admit, but I reread that first novel every couple of years to remind myself of the perfect balance between humor and high stakes. The Harry Potter series gets so dark toward the end



that a lot of people forget how flat-out hilarious those first couple of books are. And still, through all that laugh-out-loud comedy, readers never lose touch with how great the danger is, and how high the stakes.

What book are you reading right now?

Right now I'm reading Christopher Isherwood's *The Berlin Stories* - the collection of stories and novellas that inspired *Cabaret*. (My daughter starred in a local production this summer, which got me hooked.) I never knew much about the period before World War Two, when Berlin was a wild, open city, and the imminent rise of Naziism only fueled the desperation of the party culture. It's a fascinating look inside a unique, not-quite-yet-tragic time.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

These days, I'm hounding everybody to read Goldy Moldavsky's YA debut *Kill the Boy Band*, an impossible yet hauntingly believable exploration of fangirl culture taken to its final - but somehow inevitable - extreme.



Mary Jane Maffini

Author of the Charlotte Adams series, the Camilla McPhee series, and the Fiona Silk series

<http://www.maryjanemaffini.com/>

What book are you reading right now?

In my early years in the public library, I became hooked on the classic mystery. Of course I was surrounded by a vast array of crime fiction and could engage in the intellectual contest with the author while enjoying the travel, wit and mysterious worlds inhabited by such intriguing characters.

Sometime in the early eighties I discovered that rarest of jewels: a Canadian mystery series: Howard Engels' Benny Cooperman books. Soon a whole new world of Canadian crime fiction opened up and I whipped through Eric Wright's charming series and had the thrill of discovering L.R. Wright's and Gail Bowen's mysteries. In the meantime, my work involved way too many meetings. The resulting mind wandering resulted in a lot of plots. Eighteen books later, I still love this mystery-writing life. It offers an opportunity to explore crime, society and relationships for fun and occasional profit--while bumping off anyone who annoys me.

In my own reading, the breadth and depth that Canadian women mystery writers offer continues to astound me: from gritty realism and socially relevant topics to role models of ordinary women stepping up in heroic ways that we find in so-called 'cozy' mysteries. Many of our female crime writers are 'flying under the radar' from small presses or are published in mass market paperback form. It's harder for them to get reviewed and to attract the attention the 'big boys' get. They are well-worth finding and make for satisfying and meaningful reads. As for your question, I am just finishing *Tumbled Graves* by Brenda Chapman (Dundurn) and today I'll begin *The Unquiet Dead*, by Ausma Zehanat Khan, the book that won the Crime Writers of Canada Best First Novel this year. Chapman's series is one of my favourites and *The Unquiet Dead* promises to be thought-provoking.



Heather Mallick
Staff columnist, The Toronto Star
@HeatherMallick

What book have you returned to time and time again?

For two years now, I notice (with some awe) that I have kept returning to one book in particular: Donna Tartt's 2013 *The Goldfinch*. I picked it up in Schiphol Airport, not realizing the Amsterdam link in the book, and was instantly entranced.

The novel is about being alone in the world, a familiar sensation for women. When we venture out into the wider world, we often do it without a network of friends, family and other supporters. So in many ways, Tartt is describing what we'll all endure: we're born alone, we will die alone. In the meantime there are many pleasures and such suffering. We walk in a cloud of it. The novel's hero, Theo Decker, makes his way, as we all do but one by one, people drop away, leaving him with that essential aloneness. And how does one cope? This question has always interested me more than any other. Pursuing money, propped up by drugs, soothed by memories of maternal and romantic love, slotting oneself into the lives of others, selling antiques, living on drugs and foolish dreams. I read the novel passionately hoping for the best for Theo. Now when I re-read I select an era: New York, Las Vegas, boyhood, Amsterdam, the hotel room where he begins to think seriously of death ...

The novel is huge and contains everything. It is something of a tin can into which Tartt has stuffed every trinket, every bit of love. I have copies of *The Goldfinch* in every room.



Andrea Martin
Actress, singer, author and comedian
@iamandreamartin

What book have you returned to time and time again?

When Things Fall Apart, by Pema Chodron

What book are you reading right now?

Independent People, by Halldor Laxness.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

My Name Is Lucy Barton, by Elizabeth Strout (last book recommended to me)
Crossing to Safety, by Wallace Stegner (book recommendation from me to you)



Shane Peacock

Author of the Boy Sherlock Holmes series, the Edgar Brim trilogy, and *The Artist and Me*

@Shane_Author

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Though I often return to Charles Dickens' novels time and time again, and of course to Shakespeare, since their works are timeless and so meaningful, the one particular novel I seem to never be able to get out of my head is *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. It is just so beautiful and endlessly fascinating. It gives its readers such remarkable spiritual sustenance.



Elizabeth Renzetti

Columnist and Feature Writer, The Globe and Mail

@lizrenzetti

What book have you returned to time and time again?

My favourite novel of all time is Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, but it's too sad to return to over and over again. The books I often find myself rereading are Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe novels, for the verve and energy of their prose, their melancholy, their extraordinary sense of place, and of course for Marlowe himself.

Few books have given me more pleasure in the past few years than *The Black-Eyed Blonde*, a new Marlowe mystery written by Benjamin Black (the pen name of Booker Prize winner John Banville.) I was afraid to read it at first, because the act of resurrecting Marlowe, and Chandler's style, seemed beyond the grasp of any mere mortal. I shouldn't have worried, because it's utterly thrilling, and true to the ear.



Eleanor Wachtel

Host, Writers and Company, Canadian Broadcasting Company

@EleanorWachtel

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

The last book that was recommended to me is: *Mothering Sunday: A Romance* by Graham Swift.



I would recommend *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante --in fact, all four of her Neapolitan series.

If too many people have recommended that, I'd also recommend *The End of Days* by Jenny Erpenbeck and *The Association of Small Bombs* by Karan Mahajan.



Hayley Wickenheiser
Five-time Olympic Medalist in Women's Hockey
@wick_22

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Man's Search for Meaning by Victor Frankl.

What book are you reading right now?

A textbook on GI and Endocrinology.

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

Last book recommended to me: *Leading* by Alex Ferguson.

I recommend *Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela.



Guy Berthiaume

Bibliothécaire et archiviste du Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives Canada / Library and Archives Canada

@GuyBerthiaume2

Quel livre relisez-vous encore et encore?

La pièce *Œdipe Roi* de Sophocle. Une tragédie aussi humaine que mythologique, premier polar de la littérature occidentale.

Et cette réplique terrible que j'ai souvent méditée : Il faut ... se garder de croire au bonheur de nul homme avant qu'il n'ait franchi le terme de sa vie.



Gwen Bird

Dean of Library Services

WAC Bennett Library, Simon Fraser University

@BirdGwen

What book have you returned to time and time again?

The book I return to time and again is *There's a trick with a knife I'm learning to do*, by Michael Ondaatje (1979). And all the others I go back to again and again are books of poetry. Succinct reminders of what actually matters to me.

What book are you reading right now?

Questions 2 & 3 are one and the same. The book is *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara. It is exquisitely difficult to read, horrible, tender and unspeakably moving. In many ways I think of it as a companion to *An Untamed State* by Roxanne Gay. It will stay with me for years to come, I'm sure.



Vickery Bowles
City Librarian
Toronto Public Library
[@vbowlestpl](#)

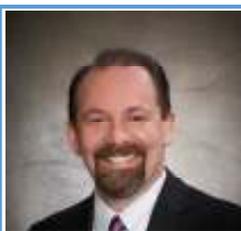
What book have you returned to time and time again?

The book I often return to is Margaret Laurence's *The Diviners*. As a young woman, this book had such an impact on me. Morag Gunn's strength and independence, her struggles made such an impression on me at a time when I was finding myself and my way in the world. In the complex and uncertain environment that we live in today, this book still gives me strength and inspiration

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

The last book recommended to me was *Ru* by Kim Thuy. Thuy writes delicately and candidly about her journey from wartime Vietnam to Quebec, from a childhood of brutality to the pleasures of ordinary peace. She blends politics and history, celebration and violence with no hint of self-pity, only bravery and grace.

The book that I would recommend is *The Book of Negroes* by Lawrence Hill. Hill's spellbinding story of Aminata, the slave who achieves so-called freedom in Nova Scotia is a book I would encourage every Canadian to read. It reminds us that we too have an ugly and largely unknown history of oppression that must be acknowledged and understood.



Scott Hargrove
Chief Executive Officer
Fraser Valley Regional Library

What book have you returned to time and time again?

The book I've returned to year after year is David Gerrold's *When H.A.R.L.I.E. Was One Version 2.0*. A revised version of the original (published in 1972), Version 2.0 (published in 1988) stands to this day as a brilliant exploration of what it means to be human, viewed through the eyes of the first true artificial intelligence and its creator, set against the backdrop of a soulless corporation who funded the project and now fears what it has created. I first read it in 1990, and have re-read it countless times since. I always get something new out of it with every new read, as it explores the timeless themes of love, hate, spirituality, and the many other conditions that make humanity the complex beings we are. In the context of more recent works exploring similar themes, *When H.A.R.L.I.E. Was One* continues to teach me new things about people, the world and myself every time I pore through its well worn pages.



Carole Laguë
Chef de division Bibliothèque et lettre du service Arts, culture et lettre
Ville de Gatineau

Quel livre relisez-vous encore et encore?

Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In, by Roger Fisher and William L. Ury

Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking, by Susan Cain

Blue Mind: The Surprising Science That Shows How Being Near, In, On, or Under Water Can Make You Happier, Healthier, More Connected, and Better at What You Do, by Wallace J. Nichols

Quel livre lisez-vous en ce moment?

The Organized Mind: Thinking Straight In The Age Of Information Overload, by Daniel J. Levitin

Quel est le dernier livre qui vous a été recommandé et quel livre nous recommanderiez-vous?

Livre qui m'a été recommandé : *Man's Search for Meaning* by Victor Frankl

Je recommande : *Champlain's Dream* by David Hackett Fischer; *The Organized Mind: Thinking Straight In The Age Of Information Overload* by Daniel J Levitin



Danielle McDonald
Chief Executive Officer
Ottawa Public Library
@biblioceo

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery. I had a very old-school teacher who read it to us every day after lunch, and it always stuck with me. Two others that I always find myself coming back to are *South of Broad* by Pat Conroy and *The Wealthy Barber* by David Chilton.



Pilar Martinez
Chief Executive Officer
Edmonton Public Library

@Pilarmart

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Just one? *Good to Great* by Jim Collins which has been a kind of bible at EPL over the last decade. Concepts include organizational culture, open communication and focusing on what we are best at. I do also refer to Warren Bennis' *On Becoming A Leader*.

What book are you reading right now?

The Nest by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

Up Ghost River: A Chief's Journey Through the Turbulent Waters of Native History by Edmund Metatawabin. It is well-written, somber yet hopeful memoir of Edmund Metatawabin, a residential school survivor, his struggles with trauma, his road to recovery, and his leadership in creating change and healing for Indigenous peoples. I highly recommend this book for those interested in learning more about Indigenous communities and Canadian history.



John Pateman
Chief Executive Officer
Thunder Bay Public Library

What book have you returned to time and time again?

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens.

What book are you reading right now?

Seeing Things As They Are: Selected Journalism and Other Writings by George Orwell

What was the last book you had recommended to you? What book would you recommend to us?

Red Mars by Kim Stanley Robinson; *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.



Rebecca Raven
Chief Executive Officer
Brampton Public Library

What book have you returned to time and time again?

One of the several books I've come back to, again and again over the last 10 years, is Rohinton Mistry's *Family Matters*. The connections and challenges, rewards and risks of the dynamics of family relationships have always been a compelling theme for me. I'm intrigued by the setting as I have never traveled in India. And Mr. Mistry has a special spot in the hometown hearts of all the Brampton Library staff members.



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From the Introduction:

In honour of International Literacy Day in September and Canadian Library Month in October, Librarianship.ca reached out to well-known Canadians in politics, the arts, and librarianship. We asked our contributors to share books that had impacted their lives, their current reads, and their recommendations for other Canadians. It was inspiring to see how excited Canadians are to talk about what they're reading!

This collection is by no means comprehensive, but it features Canadians from many walks of life, including politicians, journalists, sports stars, authors, and librarians.



Zoe Dickinson is a recent graduate of the Masters of Library and Information Studies program at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Zoe is published in *Library Hi-Tech News*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Existere Magazine*, and *50 Haikus*. In 2015, Leaf Press published *Public Transit*, a collection of Zoe's poetry. She lives in Victoria.