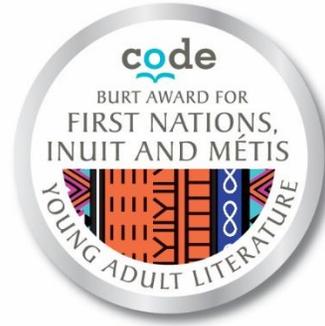




Rewriting the story
for global literacy



Background

CODE is a Canadian charitable organization that supports literacy and learning around the world. CODE works in partnership with local organizations to expand literacy in Africa, the Caribbean, and Canada by providing children and youth with access to quality reading materials, supporting the professional development of teachers and librarians, and helping to strengthen the local book trade and national publishing capacities. In Canada, CODE has worked for over 25 years to engage Canadian teachers and students on literacy and global issues, and has established partnerships with Indigenous organizations, Canadian educators, writers, and the publishing industry.

In 2008, CODE established the Burt Award for African Literature with the generous support of Canadian philanthropist William (Bill) Burt and the Literary Prizes Foundation. The Burt Award is an annual literary prize that recognizes excellence in young adult fiction and provides young readers with great books that they want to read. The Burt Award program is designed to champion literacy; to build language skills; to encourage local writers and publishers to produce young adult literature; and to foster the love and habit of reading.

CODE's Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Literature

In 2014, building on our experience, and in recognition of our responsibility as a Canadian organization, CODE established the Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Literature along with the Assembly of First Nations, the Métis National Council, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the National Association of Friendship Centres, Frontier College, GoodMinds, the Association of Canadian Publishers, and the Canada Council for the Arts. These organizations help us: determine where to put our energy and resources so we can improve Indigenous youth's access to engaging and culturally meaningful books; ensure that Indigenous writers and publishers know about the award and can submit their work; and ensure the program stays relevant and reflects the reality of Indigenous youth.

CODE's Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Literature is a Canadian literary award and readership initiative that recognizes excellence in Indigenous-authored literature for young adults (ages 12-18). The award is a cash prize (the winner receives \$12,000, and each of the honour books receives \$2,000.00) given annually to three English-language literary works for young adults written by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis authors. Publishers of the winning titles are also awarded a guaranteed purchase of up to 2,500 copies of each title. These books are then distributed for free to schools, libraries, community centres, and friendships centres across Canada. The distribution program ensures that Indigenous young people across Canada have access to great reading material.

Distribution

CODE, in partnership with Good Minds, distributes to 766 locations across Canada every year, distributing 2,500 copies of each book that receives the Burt Award (winner and two honor books).

Our partners help us to keep the distribution list relevant and up to date by reviewing the list and adding any new distribution points or to remove locations that no longer exist. As we acquire more information directly from the recipients we share this with our partners to help guide strategic decisions for the Burt Award program, but also to provide information on the impact of the program.

Teacher Resources

The publishers of the winning titles have some teacher resources and reading guides, and when available we make these available online. CODE would like to expand in this area to ensure that there are accurate and useful resources available for all the Burt Award titles. We recognize the need to assist teachers and educators in their efforts to provide accurate information on difficult topics, to enhance language and literacy learning opportunities.

CODE's Burt Award Recipients

Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese (Douglas and McIntyre)

As I Remember It by Tara Lee Morin (Theytus Books)

As Long As the Rivers Flow by James Bartleman (Random House of Canada Ltd.)

Tilly by Monique Gray Smith (Sono Nis Press)

The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King (Doubleday Canada)

They Called Me Number One by Bev Sellars (Talonbooks)

Grey Eyes, by Franck Christopher Busch (Roseway Publishing)

Lightfinder by Aaron Pacquette (Kegedonce Press)

Medicine Walk by Richard Wagamese (McClelland and Stewart Ltd)

Skraeling by Rachel & Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley (published by Inhabit Media)

The Education of Augie Merasty by Joseph Auguste (Augie) Merasty and David Carpenter (University of Regina Press)

The Outside Circle by Patti LaBoucane-Benson Illustrated by Kelly Mellings (House of Anansi Press)

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