
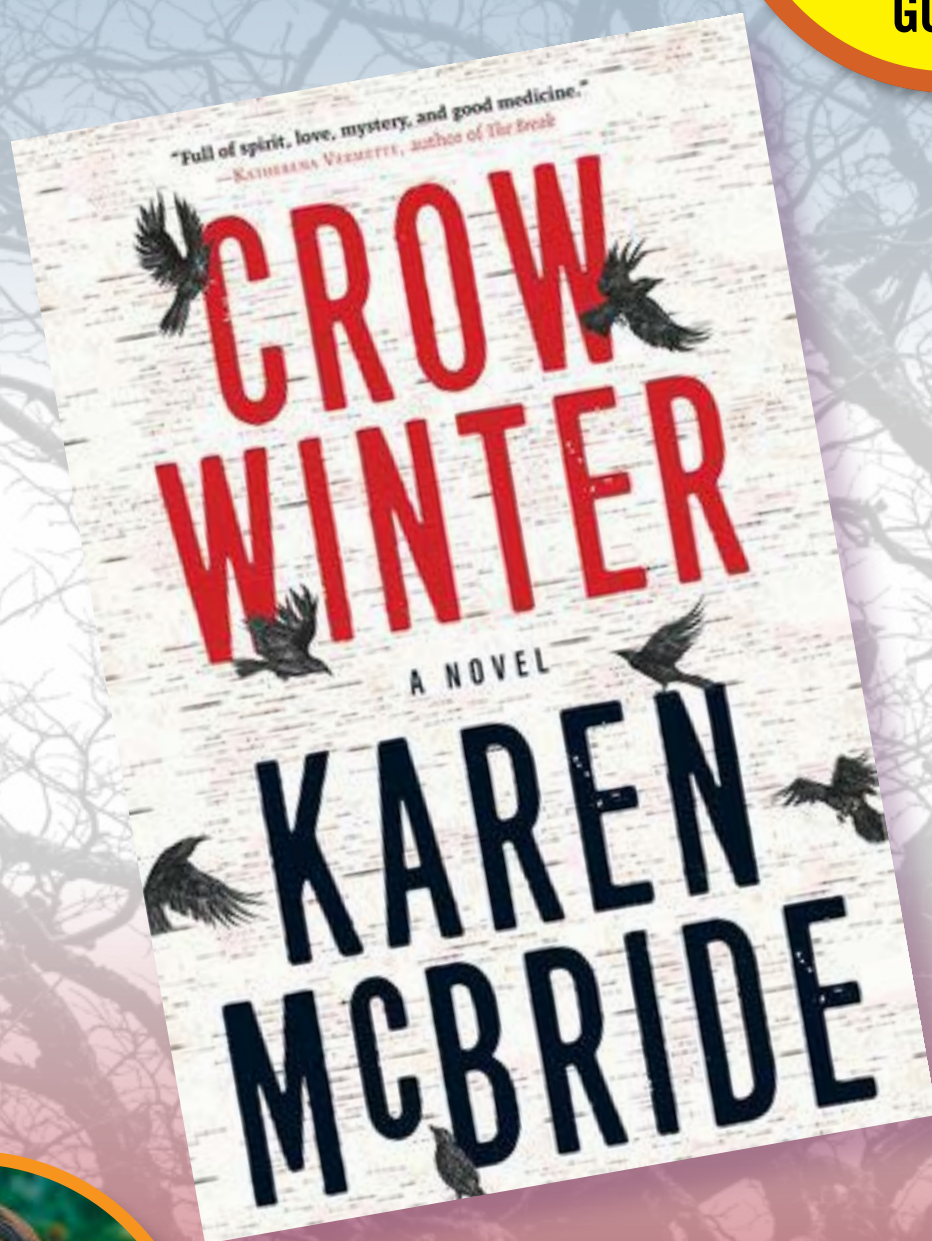


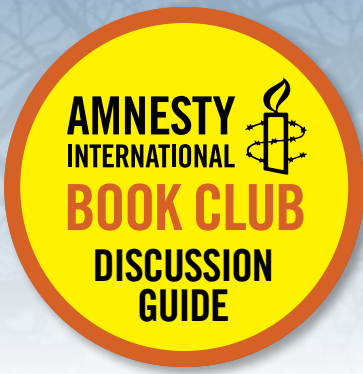
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021 DISCUSSION GUIDE

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL 
BOOK CLUB
DISCUSSION
GUIDE



CROW WINTER

BY KAREN MCBRIDE



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021 DISCUSSION GUIDE

WELCOME AMNESTY BOOK CLUB MEMBERS

Welcome back to another selection for 2021. It's hard to believe that we only have two more books left in the year!

We hope you've been enjoying the books as much as we have this year and are absolutely elated to announce our next selection: *Crow Winter* by Karen McBride.

Nanabush. A name that has a certain weight on the tongue—a taste. Like lit sage in a windowless room or aluminum foil on a metal filling.

Trickster. Storyteller. Shape-shifter. An ancient troublemaker with the power to do great things, only he doesn't want to put in the work.

Since coming home to Spirit Bear Point First Nation, Hazel Ellis has been dreaming of an old crow. He tells her he's here to help her, save her. From what, exactly? Sure, her dad's been dead for almost two years and she hasn't quite reconciled that grief, but is that worth the time of an Algonquin demigod?

Soon Hazel learns that there's more at play than just her own sadness and doubt. The quarry that's been lying unsullied for over a century on her father's property is stirring the old magic that crosses the boundaries between this world and the next. With the aid of Nanabush, Hazel must unravel a web of deceit that, if left untouched, could destroy her family and her home on both sides of the Medicine Wheel.

Be sure to keep an eye out for the Reader's Choice survey to be released shortly, so that YOU can have your say on what we should read next. Thank you for being part of the Amnesty International Book Club!

About Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than ten million supporters, members and activists in over 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for all people to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion, and are funded mainly by our membership.

Until everyone can enjoy all of their rights, we will continue our efforts. We will not stop until everyone can live in dignity; until every person's voice can be heard; until no one is tortured or executed.

Our members are the cornerstone of these efforts. They take up human rights issues through letter-writing, online and off line campaigning, demonstrations, vigils and direct lobbying of those with power and influence.

Locally, nationally and globally, we join together to mobilize public pressure and show international solidarity.

Together, we make a difference.

For more information about Amnesty International visit www.amnesty.ca or write to us at: Amnesty International, 312 Laurier Ave. E., Ottawa, ON K1N 1H9.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021: *Crow Winter*

ABOUT THIS MONTH'S AUTHOR, **KAREN McBRIDE**



KAREN McBRIDE is an Algonquin Anishinaabe writer from the Timiskaming First Nation in the territory that is now Quebec. She holds a bachelor of arts in music and English, a bachelor of education from the University of Ottawa and a master of arts in creative writing from the University of Toronto. Karen works as an elementary school teacher on her home reserve. *Crow Winter* is her first novel.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB

1. We learn the meaning of the title, *Crow Winter*; "...when it snows too soon for it to be called winter. Like, the second week in October, or maybe even earlier...It's real annoying because everything dies before it's supposed to." Discuss with your group the connection this title has with the overall themes of grief, loss, and preservation, not just Hazel's.
2. Both Hazel and Nanabush are unclear about their purpose but ultimately end up discovering more about one another and themselves than expected. What is it that they discover?
3. What is something that you can take from reading this book, that can be applied in your everyday?
4. The book includes Anishinaabe stories and viewpoints, as is seen in the quote: "If you do not talk to animals, you will not know them. And what you do not know, you will fear. What one fears, one destroys." Discuss with your group how this appears in the book.
5. Another element of the book follows Hazel and her community through the development of a mine and their worries on the impacts this

may cause. We have seen incredibly stark human rights violations taking place within Canada on Indigenous Peoples caused by mining, like Mount Polley in Quesnel Lake. Discuss and research with your group the effects these projects have without the consent and consultation with affected communities. Further, discuss and explore the ways in which you can support those communities at:

<https://reformbcmine.ca/>

6. Who would you recommend *Crow Winter* to? Why?



A Secwepmec Nation member stands on a tailings-coated creek bed to collect water and tailings samples from the August 2014 Mount Polley copper mine disaster.

BACKGROUND

INDIGENOUS CHILDREN DESERVE JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Vancouver Art Gallery's Robson façade lit orange in memory of the thousands of Indigenous children who were sent to residential schools on July 23, 2021 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

“While flags have been lowered to half mast in honour of the 215 children killed in residential schools, this is far from enough,” said Ketty Nivyabandi, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada (English branch).

“Other schools need be investigated, burial sites need to be located and protected, and those responsible held accountable for these grave human rights violations. The Canadian government and institutions must finally act on the numerous calls to action spelled out in the Truth and Reconciliation commission, national inquiries and reports. It should not take such a tragic discovery to spur action.”

Residential schools were part of a colonial policy to eradicate Indigenous cultures, languages and communities. While the last school closed in 1996, intergenerational trauma, ongoing harms and discriminatory practices continue. On May 27th, 2021, the remains of 215 Indigenous children were found buried on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in Tk'emlups te Secwépemc First Nation near Kamloops, British Columbia.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, national investigations, the United Nations, and several other international human rights bodies have repeatedly called on Canada to address these human rights violations and ensure justice for survivors and their families. The bulk of these recommendations remain unimplemented. Canada must act on these recommendations now.

Amnesty International urges Canada to act on these recommendations without delay, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' 231 Calls for Justice. Canada must also, without delay, implement the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's decision on providing equal funding for child and family services in First Nations communities.

We further call on the government to press forward with and pass Bill C-15 which requires the current government – and future governments – to work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to develop a national implementation plan with priorities and deadlines, as well as to bring federal laws into line with the requirements of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Bill C-15 is an important foundation for confronting colonialism and addressing the urgent needs of Indigenous peoples and communities.

TAKE ACTION

JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN CANADA

To ensure justice and accountability—not only for the children who died at residential schools—but for all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples, Canada must take concrete action without delay!

ACT NOW and send a message to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to ensure justice and accountability for Indigenous Peoples!



LINK: [Amnesty.ca/TakeAction](https://www.amnesty.ca/takeaction)



AMNESTY
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**MEET THE
AUTHOR**

JOIN US ONLINE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT!

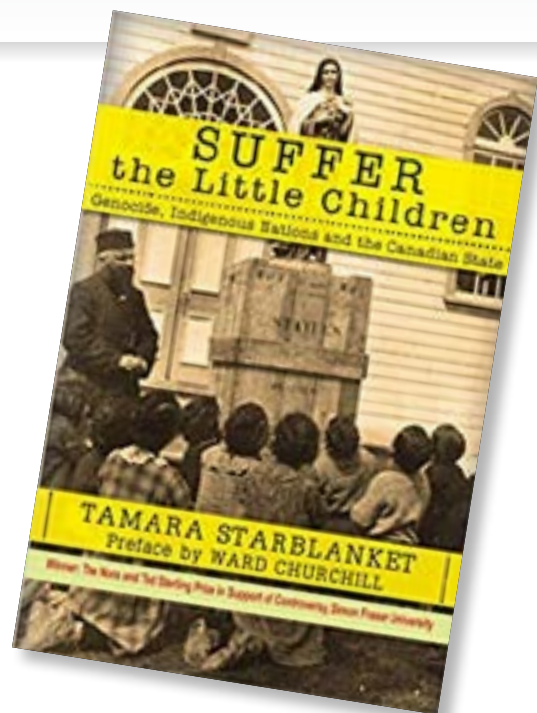
Meet **Tamara Starblanket**,
author of ***Suffer the Little Children***

Truth and Reconciliation Day:
September 30 2021, 7 pm EST

Hosted by **Ketty Nivyabandi, Secretary General**
of **Amnesty International** and **Octopus Books**



Tamara Starblanket
“Genocide, Indigenous Nations
and the Canadian State”



To register, please see this Zoom link:

[Amnesty.ca/BookEvent](https://amnesty.ca/BookEvent)

Please submit questions ahead of the event to:

[Amnesty.ca/BookQ&A](https://amnesty.ca/BookQ&A)

To order the book:

www.octopusbooks.ca



Accessibility:

Please advise of accessibility needs when you register.
This event's speakers will be recorded.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Many settler Canadians have expressed shock at the findings of ground penetrating radar at the sites of former residential schools across the country, which have revealed the remains of thousands of Indigenous children kidnapped by the colonial state from their homes and families and Nations. These horrifying ‘discoveries’ are already known to Indigenous Nations attempting for years to get justice.

Justice as defined by the Canadian and international legal systems is far from adequate. Legal scholar Tamara Starblanket carefully prepared her masters thesis on this issue, which became the book *Suffer the Little Children: Genocide, Indigenous Nations, and the Canadian State* (Clarity Press, 2018).

This powerful work explains the shortfalls of legal remedies founded in colonialism and imperialism. It explains in detail how the crime of genocide was conceptualized following World War 2 by the international community, how colonial countries, including Canada, sought to shield themselves against possible prosecution and sidestep the link between cultural genocide and colonialism.

It is vital for all of us to understand fully what has happened and is happening.

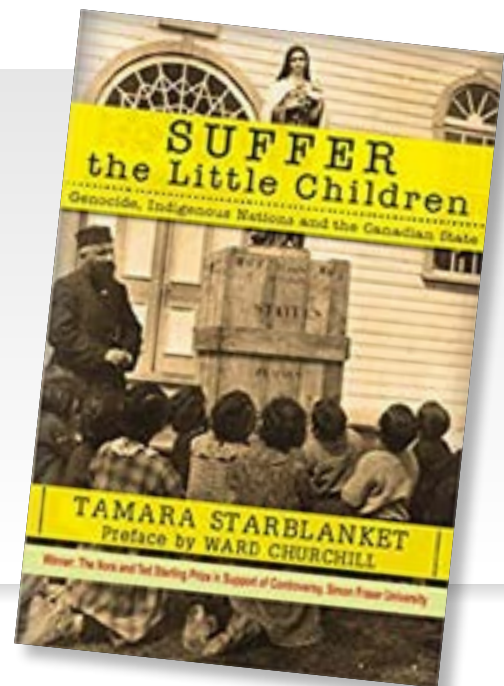
Join us on September 30th, the first federally mandated day to recognize truth and reconciliation, to listen and learn.

“Throughout the book Starblanket demonstrates a broad knowledge of both history and law. The documentation is vast and precise... a tour de force...”

— ALFRED DE ZAYAS, former Secretary of the UN Human Rights Committee, UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order

“[B]elongs on the reading list of anyone concerned with social justice and addressing the ongoing colonialism on which the Canadian nation-state stands”

— AZIZ CHOUDRY

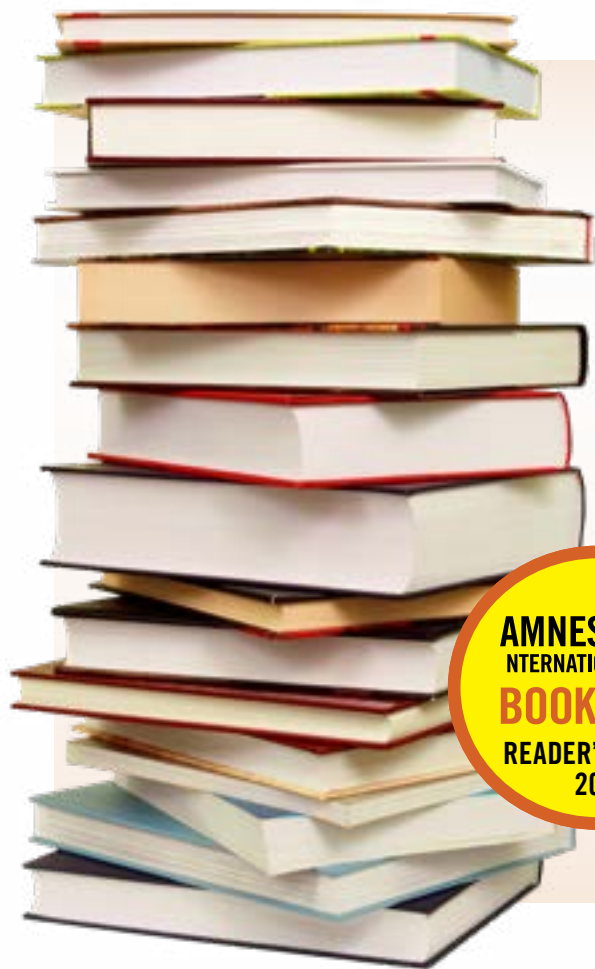


ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Tamara Starblanket is Spider Woman, a *Nehiyaw iskwew* (Cree woman) from Ahtahkakoop First Nation in Treaty Six. Tamara holds an LLM (master of laws) from the University of Saskatchewan, and an LLB from the University of British Columbia. She is the Dean of Academics at Native Education

College on the unceded lands of the *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *Sḵwx̱wú7mesh* (Squamish), *Səl̓íl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh* (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations or what is commonly referred to as Vancouver, BC. Starblanket is the recipient of the 2020 Nora and Ted Sterling Prize in Support of Controversy for her book *Suffer the Little Children: Genocide, Indigenous Nations and the Canadian State*.



COMING UP NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

Readers' Choice

RECOMMENDED BY AMNESTY BOOK CLUB MEMBERS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL
BOOK CLUB
READER'S CHOICE
2021

Stay Tuned: Our selection of 2021 will be announced in the beginning of November after your votes are in. Follow us online and in social media for the updates.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please contact us at Bookclub@amnesty.ca.

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