



BOOK LIST

Thinking of picking up a book to read?

Here are suggestions from your B.C. library workers.

The best part is you can find these and many other books for free at your local library.



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Stickboy – Shane Koyczan

Shane's novel in verse is narrated by a boy who, after enduring years of bullying from his classmates, finally snaps and becomes a bully himself. The tale is based on Shane's childhood experiences with bullying and is timely with cyber-bullying on the rise. (Also available in film.)

Childhood Under Siege – Joel Bakan

Bakan reveals the callous and widespread exploitation of children by profit-seeking corporations – and also society's shameful failure to protect them.

Economics for Everyone – Jim Stanford

An excellent introduction into the world of economics. You will discover you know much more about the economy than you probably think.

Life on the Line – Solange de Santis

Business reporter de Santis took a job on the line at the GM plant in Scarborough, Ontario. This is her story of events, including the closing of the plant, told through her eyes and those of her GM sisters and brothers.

Speaking out louder: Ideas that work for Canadians – Jack Layton

The only book written by Jack Layton (1950-2011) on his political life and vision, this is the former NDP leader's passionate call to action. It inspires us to embrace a better future.

The Trouble with Billionaires – Linda McQuaig and Neil Brooks

This book focuses on economic inequality and how our culture, government, and economic system have allowed a handful of people to accumulate tremendous wealth and power while so many others languish in or near poverty.

One in Every Crowd – Ivan Coyote

Ivan Coyote was born and raised in the Yukon and is an award-winning author and a renowned performer. Coyote has been pushing boundaries for years; blurring the lines of gender, the written word, storytelling, and music. This short story collection is about embracing and celebrating difference and feeling comfortable in one's own skin, no matter what the circumstance.

We're Your Neighbours: The Story of CUPE BC – Jo Dunaway

This history of CUPE BC includes stories about the people and issues that played a critical role in the development of B.C.'s largest union.

Why unions matter – Michael Yates

This book uses simple language, clear data and engaging examples to show why workers need unions, how unions are formed, how they operate, how collective bargaining works, the role of unions in politics, and what unions have done to bring workers together.

No Laughing Matter: Adventure, Activism & Politics – Margaret Mitchell

Mitchell, the Member of Parliament for Vancouver East from 1979 to 1993, documents an extraordinary life of political work, travel and activism in this memoir. Her book is worth a look for anyone wanting to examine Canada's history or be inspired to create its future.

Grace Hartman – A Woman for her time – Susan Crean

This is a biography, a political history and a page-turner of a story all in one about Grace Hartman. She went to work as a secretary for the Township of North York in the 1950s to help support her family. By 1960 she was the president of her local, and in 1975 was elected president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, becoming the first woman in North America to lead a major union.

Why It's Kicking Off Everywhere: The New Global Revolutions – Paul Mason

This English journalist and broadcaster explores the causes and consequences of recent revolutions, looking at changes in society, technology and human behaviour that have propelled a generation into the streets in search of social justice.

What I want to tell goes like this – Matt Rader

This debut short story collection, set in Vancouver Island's Comox Valley in the 1900s, uses real events and people from those times. Many stories explore the history of significant labour struggles in the area.

Rebel Life – Mark Leier

B.C. author Mark Leier chronicles the life of labour organizer, revolutionary, anarchist and labour spy Robert Gosden on B.C.'s West Coast in the 1920s and 30s.

Rainbow Pie: A Redneck Memoir – Joe Bageant

Set between 1950 and 1963, this coming-of-age memoir discusses one of America's most taboo subjects: social class. The book documents life as part of "America's flexible labour force," and chronicles the postwar journey of rural Americans into the cities.