

Books and Study Programs Recommended by Churches in the Diocese

All the following books, films and studies have been used by churches in the Diocese of Montreal for group studies.

Recommendations/Reviews from church leaders are given in quotations. If you would like more information on any of these resources, please contact the Anti-Racism Task Force (antiracism@montreal.anglican.ca).

- ***Waking up White* *, Debby Irving (2014).** “A gentle yet thorough exploration of racism and privilege. It is an outstanding book for group discussion, easily readable, and has discussion questions at the end of every chapter.” (St. Matthias, Montreal)
- ***The Skin We’re In*, Desmond Cole (2020).** “A particularly eye-opening read for those who think that anti-Black racism is a particularly American, and not a Canadian, affair. The subtitle is A Year of Black Resistance of Power. It describes one activist and writer's struggles in a solitary year, 2017. It's the kind of book that opens minds. Our anti-racism reading group really appreciated it.” (Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal)
- ***Washington Black*, Esai Edugyan (2019).** “A Canadian historical novel shortlisted for the Booker Prize. It was thoroughly enjoyed by the our book group. Involving, among many other things, slavery, abolitionists, and the Underground Railroad, it is unapologetically entertaining and full of adventure, sprawling from the Caribbean to the Far North, and from London to Morocco. An exploration of the concept of freedom from a fresh, black female weaver of tales of considerable talent. A masterclass in the power of fiction to enlarge a reader's world.” (Christ Church Cathedral)
- ***How to be an Anti-Racist* *, Ibram X. Kendi (2019).** “A good basic introduction to a lot of the issues, perspectives, and history around structural anti-Black racism in the US, woven with the author's personal story. It's somewhat idiosyncratic and has received some valid critique from different quarters, but it was a good conversation starter for us.” (All Saints by the Lake, Dorval) “This is the book that is becoming required reading for pretty much everyone in the movement. It's unique blend of autobiography, confession, and manifesto is what makes it so useful. It's the kind of book that provokes meaningful discussions. Some may grapple with Kendi's honesty. But our group was moved and fired up by it in a good way.” (Christ Church Cathedral)

- ***Seven Fallen Feathers, Tanya Talaga (2017)***. “We chose Talaga's book in order to engage with a Canadian perspective. It's the story of seven Native youth who all died while attending a high school in Thunder Bay. It is absolutely shattering and frankly doesn't offer much hope, so be prepared to feel compelled to take action after reading!” (All Saints by the Lake, Dorval)
- **Cracking Open White Identity Towards Transformation (2012)**. “A bilingual group study guide created by the Canadian Council of Churches. It contains reflections, exercises, bible studies and discussion guides. It is focussed on white identity, but can be adapted for racially mixed groups and was definitely a good starting place for looking at how racism and privilege affect us as individuals and as churches. We have a set of these books we are willing to loan to other churches.” (St. Georges Place du Canada, Montreal)

Study Groups based on documentaries or podcasts:

- [The Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts](#) The Anglican Church of Canada produced this film and study guide for churches. (St Georges, St. Anne de Bellevue)
- **Exploring Canadian History: From slavery to current struggles for racial justice**. A three session course, using the following podcasts, films and documentaries produced by black journalists. A good introduction to the history of anti-black racism in Canada. A course outline and discussion questions are available upon request. (*St. Georges Place du Canada, Montreal*)
 - [Black Soul by Martine Chartrand-NFB \(9 min\)](#) Montreal filmmaker, Martine Chartrand's animated short dives into the heart of Black culture with an exhilarating trip through history. Watch as a young boy traces his roots through the stories his grandmother shares with him about the events that shaped their cultural heritage. The film contains no spoken words so would be good for anglophone, francophone or bilingual groups.
 - [Canada's slavery secret: The whitewashing of 200 years of enslavement | CBC Radio](#) The first part in a two part series on the history of slavery in Canada, contributions from historians Dr. Afua Cooper, Dr. Charmaine Nelson, poet and novelist, Dr. George Clarke and others.
 - [Slavery's long shadow: The impact of 200 years of enslavement in Canada | CBC Radio](#) The second part in the series explores the legacy of slavery in Canada to the present day.
 - [Journey to Justice by Roger McTair - NFB \(47min\)](#) Tells the story of the black community's struggle against discrimination and segregation, through interviews with activists, particularly members of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

- [The Skin We're In](#) : (44min) Journalist Desmond Cole explores what it is to be Black in 21st century Canada.

[Librarie Racines](#) on the Plateau in Montreal is a local bookstore selling books about racism in French and English.