



May-June/mai-juin 2021

## Narrative readings in ecohealth

One of the principles or patterns of Ecosystem Approaches to Health is transdisciplinarity, the process of inviting different ways of thinking into our lives and work.

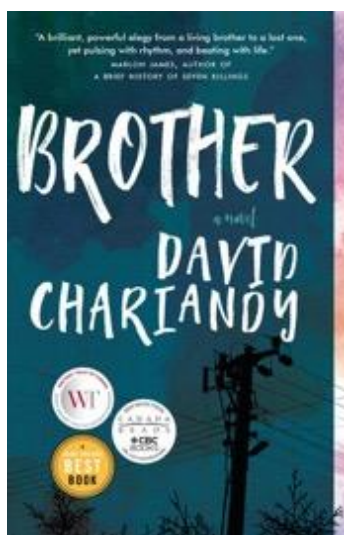
In light of this, we are inviting participants in the 2021 edition of the CoPEH-Canada course and webinar series on ecohealth to engage with the narrative form during the webinar series and course, providing us new perspectives despite the context of confinement where we will not be able to interact in the field. We have pre-selected six books - novels and poetry - for you to engage with beginning as soon as you can and throughout the course/webinar series. An important part of the full, for-credit course will be choosing at least ONE of these books.

These books all have to do, to greater and lesser extents, with the link between health and ecosystems or the course theme - Working the hyphen: Navigating the space between advocacy and academia. The place-based nature of the books, set in regions roughly around the two university sites, will help us replace some of the land-based learning that usually takes place in our field course.

During one of the later webinars we will host a "book club" to exchange what we have learned/reinforced through our readings.

## Books set in Ontario

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### [Brother](#)

By David Chariandy, 2017

Literary fiction

*192 pages*

During an unusually hot summer, a Trinidadian immigrant family living in Scarborough becomes victim to police violence. Years later, friends and family look to heal the hurt for the increasingly distraught mother.

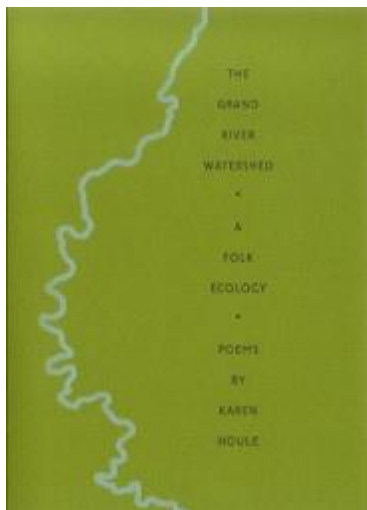
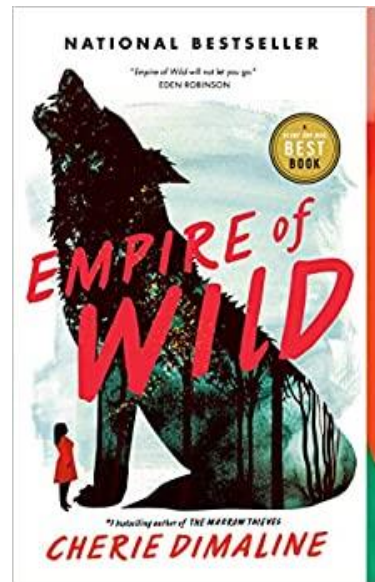
[Empire of Wild](#)

By Cherie Dimaline, 2019

Fantasy/thriller

300 pages

A dispute between Joan, a Métis, and her husband over whether to keep or sell her land along the Georgian Bay ends mysteriously and leads them both to play pivotal roles, for and against, in a scheme to win Native people over to resource development.



The Grand River Watershed: A Folk Ecology  
by Karen Houle, 2019

Poetry

80 pages

"Overhead, the southbound geese are  
triangulating,

ragged skylines read like expiration dates."

## Books set in Québec

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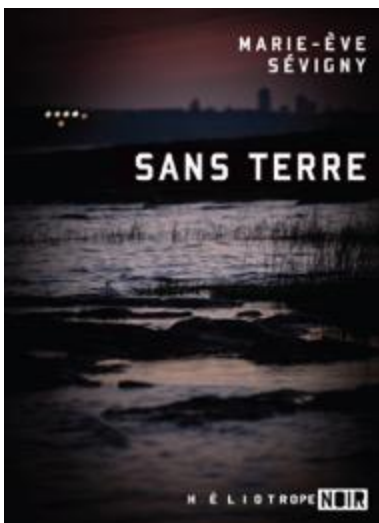
### [Kukum](#)

By Michel Jean, 2019

Literary fiction (French only)

*218 pages*

A grandmother (Kukum) reflects on the changes she has witnessed to her adoptive people's way of life - the Innu - brought about by forced settlement, and the toll these changes have had on their wellbeing.



### [Sans Terre](#)

By Marie-Ève Sévigny, 2016

Crime novel (French only)

*264 pages*

Gabrielle, an ardent environmentalist, gets mired in a crime beyond her usual civil disobedience and plunges into a world of corruption where everything is up for grabs, even the landscape.

[Blueberries and apricots](#)

by Natasha Kanapé Fontaine, 2018

Poetry

72 pages

“We will gather  
the invisible wealth  
lost between the cities  
will chain up the monsters of history.”

