

Richard Wagamese



Photo courtesy of *The Martlet*,

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Richard Wagamese was born in Northern Ontario to the Ojibway Wabasseemoong First Nation. He has been a journalist, novelist, reviewer, columnist and broadcaster. Fortunately for British Columbians who like to hear stories, he now lives near Kamloops.

Wagamese is a wonderful storyteller who plays this game. From the audience he asks for five words and a sentence. Then he closes his eyes, and a minute or two later, opens them to tell story that incorporates all the words and ends with the sentence. At [CanWrite!](#) 2010 in Victoria, I was privileged to witness this creative feat.

The novels written by Wagamese are *Keeper'n Me*, *A Quality of Light*, *Ragged Company*, and [Dream Wheels](#), winner of the 2007 CAA Award. [For Joshua: an Ojibway Father Teaches his Son](#) (2003), as its title reveals, is a book of another sort.

Wagamese has lectured in Creative Writing for the University of Saskatchewan's Indian Federated College, served as a faculty advisor in Journalism at Grant MacEwan College and SAIT, and won many Journalism awards. He has also written for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and done scriptwriting for [North of Sixty](#) and extensive work in radio and TV documentary.

His fine collection of essays, *One Native Life*, appeared in 2008 (Douglas & McIntyre) and was selected by the *Globe and Mail* as one of its Top 100 Books of the Year. In 2011, Richard Wagamese won the [George Ryga Award](#), an honour reserved for writers who have achieved an outstanding degree of social awareness.