

# BENT BACK TONGUE

POEMS

BY GARRY GOTTFRIEDSON

**In his latest collection, Secwépemc rancher and renowned poet Garry Gottfriedson explores the fraught mechanics of contemporary masculinity, politics and love.**

Gottfriedson's work unapologetically unveils the truth of Canada's treatment of First Nations and he has spoken openly in the *New York Times* about his experiences at the Kamloops Residential "School."

*Bent Back Tongue* is a raw examination of love, identity, politics, masculinity, and vulnerability. Through sharp honesty and revealing satire, Gottfriedson delves into Canadian colonialism and the religious political paradigms shaping experiences of a Secwépemc First Nations man. This is a book that tears through deceptions that both Canada and the church impose on their citizens. Gottfriedson tackles the darkest layers of a shared colonial history; at the same time, the poems in *Bent Back Tongue* are a celebration of love, land, family, and the self.

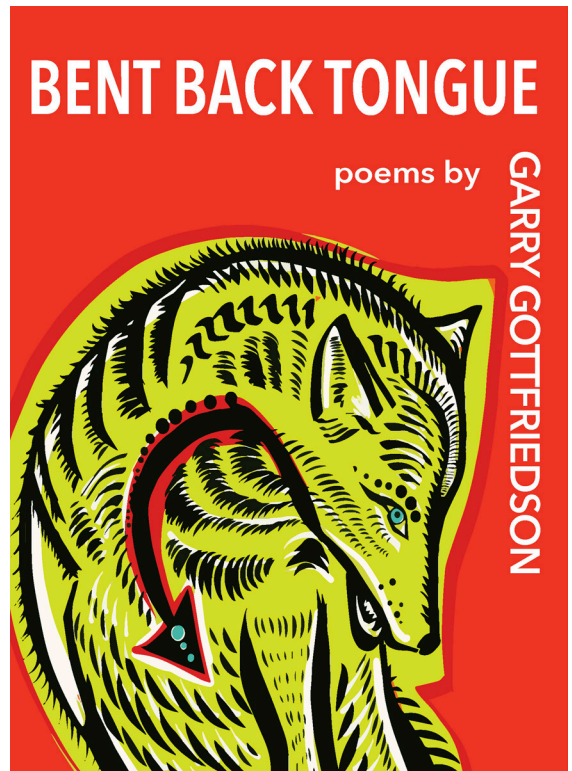
## Praise for *Bent Back Tongue*

*"Garry Gottfriedson's poetry is so full of truth. Bent Back Tongue is hard hitting and powerful and I hope people are open to hearing and learning from it."*—Bev Sellars

*"Garry's poems contain everything, they're tender, fierce, playful, and sharp. They search for the invisible miracle and find it."*—Sean Cranbury

## WHY *BENT BACK TONGUE* MATTERS TODAY

- It's an important addition to the national conversation we are having on the following topics: the horrors and lasting effects of residential "schools"; the damage inflicted by religious institutions; and our shared colonial history, all told from the perspective of a Secwépemc First Nations man.
- It explores the vulnerability of men and the complicated nature of toxic masculinity, through both serious and satirical analysis.



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Garry Gottfriedson is from Kamloops, BC. He is strongly rooted in his Secwépemc (Shuswap) cultural teachings. He holds a Masters of Arts Education Degree from Simon Fraser University. In 1987, the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado, awarded a Creative Writing Scholarship to Gottfriedson for Masters of Fine Arts Creative Writing. There, he studied under Allen Ginsberg, Marianne Faithfull and others. Gottfriedson has ten published books, including *Clinging to Bone* and *Skin Like Mine*, and has presented his work across Canada, United States, South America, New Zealand, Europe, and Asia. Gottfriedson's work unapologetically unveils the truth of Canada's treatment of First Nations. His work has been anthologized and published nationally and internationally. Currently, he works at Thompson Rivers University.

