

*The Centre for Aboriginal Student Services, UBC Press, and the Centre for Feminist Research present a book launch for*

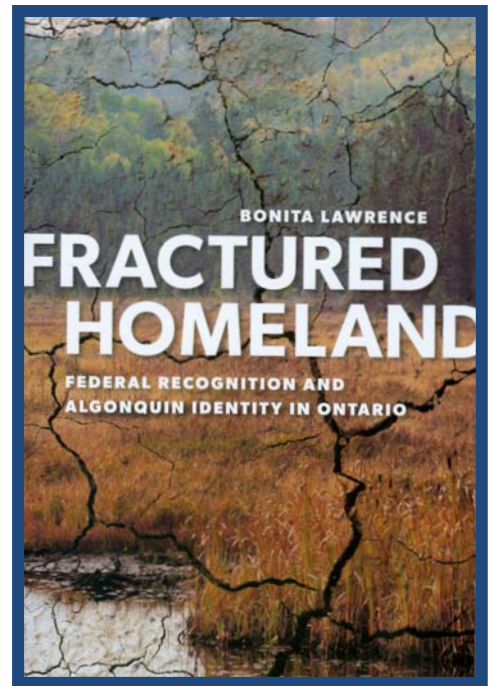
***Fractured Homeland:  
Federal Recognition and  
Algonquin Identity in Ontario***

by Bonita Lawrence

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Wednesday, October 24

6pm-8pm

Aboriginal Student Centre (246 York Lanes)



In 1992, the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, the only federally recognized Algonquin reserve in Ontario, launched a comprehensive land claim. The claim drew attention to the reality that two-thirds of Algonquins in Canada have never been recognized as Indian, and have therefore had to struggle to reassert jurisdiction over their traditional lands.

*Fractured Homeland* is Bonita Lawrence's stirring account of the Algonquins' twenty-year struggle for identity and nationhood despite the imposition of a provincial boundary that divided them across two provinces, and the Indian Act, which denied federal recognition to two-thirds of Algonquins. Drawing on interviews with Algonquins across the Ottawa River watershed, Lawrence voices the concerns of federally unrecognized Algonquins in Ontario, whose ancestors survived land theft and the denial of their rights as Algonquins, and whose family histories are reflected in the land. The land claim enabled many Algonquins to openly speak about their identities for the first time; however, it also heightened divisions as those who launched the claim failed to develop a more inclusive vision of Algonquinness.

This path-breaking exploration of how a comprehensive claims process can fracture the search for nationhood among First Nations also reveals how federally unrecognized Algonquin managed to hold onto a distinct sense of identity, despite centuries of disruption by settlers and the state.

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*The launch will include presentations by*

**Bonita Lawrence** (Mi'kmaw), Equity Studies at York University in Toronto. She is the author of *"Real" Indians and Others: Mixed-Blood Urban Native People and Indigenous Nationhood*

Algonquin community members **Robin Tinney** from Bancroft and **George Ferguson** of Mattawa

**David McNab**, Metis historian, Equity Studies at York University

**Lynn Gehl** (Algonquin Anishinaabe-kwe), critic of the land claims and self-government process

Questions? [cfr@yorku.ca](mailto:cfr@yorku.ca)