

Audio-Visual Resources to Support the New Curriculum

Current Topics in First Nations, Metis and Inuit Studies

Cluster 1 – Image and Identity

Learning Experience

L.E.1.1 The Ghosts of History

No Turning Back: The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

National Film Board. Keeper, Tina. Studio One, the Aboriginal studio of the National Film Board of Canada, 1997

Designed to introduce viewers to the work of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples which was established by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney seven months after events in the summer of 1990 at Oka, Quebec brought Aboriginal issues to the attention of Canada and the international community. The Commission travelled to more than 100 communities to hear submissions from over 1000 Aboriginal representatives. Through testimony from these groups and individuals, documentary, archival footage, and interviews with commission members, viewers learn of the history of the relationship between the First Nations peoples and the Canadian government and of the issues and problems which First Nations peoples are dealing with today. IRU #2082

Senior 2 and up ; ages 15 and up.

Learning Experience

L.E.1.2 From Time Immemorial

Aboriginal humour. Lisa Meeches and Don Burnstick. Meeches Video Productions, Inc. 2004, from The sharing circle, Season 13.

Also known as: What's so funny in Indian country?

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to Aboriginal people. This program examines the uniqueness of Aboriginal humor, and shows how some comedians and spiritualists use it to help First Nations people come to terms with painful circumstances in their lives, as part of a healing journey. Includes interview with comedians, Don Burnstick, Dave McLeod, Gerry Barrett, Don Kelly and Leonard Dick and with Cree spiritualist and sundancer, Lyna Hart. Senior 1-4, adult, professional development. IRU #2983

Amarok's song : journey to Nunavut. Ole Gjerstad and Martin Kreelak. National Film Board of Canada and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation, Words & Pictures Video 2745054 Canada Inc., c1998. Through archival footage and interviews and documentary interspersed with legend and music, this program explores the lives of three generations of Inuit who were Canada's last nomads. Examines the hardships of life on the tundra as experienced by 80-year-old Amarok and his wife Betty. Shows how Martin Kreelak's generation, aged in their 40's and 50's is dealing with the impact of southern society in their lives and its challenge to their Inuit identity. As well, through short video segments, shot by students at Baker Lake High School, teens and young adults describe issues of concern to them today. Senior 1-4, adult, professional development. IRU #9032

I was born here ... in Ste. Madeleine. Ann Lanceley. Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, Brandon, Brandon Production House Inc. [distributor], c1991. Designed to introduce viewers to a commemoration of a Metis community in Western Manitoba evicted from the land in 1938 by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. Part one tells how the community of Ste. Madeleine came to exist. Former residents, now elders, discuss the community's activities in their parents' time and what happened when the people were told they could no longer live there. In part two, the elders share stories about the fun their parents had, the community's cohesiveness and the difficulties the residents faced. Part three describes the religious practices of Ste. Madeleine and points out that despite the community's disappearance in 1938, the Metis retained their cultural ties, language, music and faith and passed these traditions on to their children and grandchildren. Part four looks at the importance of square dancing to the people of Ste. Madeleine and includes an interview with a caller. Grades 7 to Senior 4, adult. IRU #6904

Qallunaat! Why White People are Funny. Mark Sandiford and Zebedee Nungak. Beachwalker Films and The National Film Board of Canada, 2006. "What's so funny about white people, otherwise known as Qallunaat to the Inuit? Well among other curious behaviours, Qallunaat ritualistically greet each other with inane salutations, repress natural bodily functions, complain a lot about being cold and seem to want to dominate the world. The result of a collaboration between filmmaker Mark Sandiford and Inuit writer and satirist Zebedee Nungak, *Qallunaat! Why White People Are Funny* is a fresh and long overdue "study" of white people from the Inuit point of view. Not surprisingly, these "Qallunologists" find the ways of white culture a bit peculiar and often riotously funny. Consider their odd dating habits, their lame attempts at Arctic exploration, their overbearing bureaucrats and curious obsession with owning property." DVD container.

Redskins, tricksters and puppy stew. Taylor, Drew Hayden. Montreal, Quebec, National Film Board of Canada, c2000. Designed to introduce viewers to the world of native humor through

interviews with six First Nations individuals who work in this field: Don Kelly, Tom King, Don Burnstick, Herbie Barnes, Sharon Shorty and Jackie Bear. As they speak of their thoughts, feelings and experiences and are shown in performance, viewers come to understand the importance of and need for humor in the Aboriginal culture, the influences which led these performers to choose comedy as a means of communication and the impact which their humor has had on native and non-native audiences alike. Ages 15+, Senior 2-4, adult, professional development. IRU #5496

The Fast Runner (Atanarjuat). Paul Apak Angillirq. Igloolik Isuma Productions Inc., c2000.

A dramatized adaptation of an ancient Inuit legend of love, jealousy, murder, and revenge which focuses on two brothers, Atanarjuat and Amaqjuaq. Evil in the form of an unknown shaman has created conflict and division in the small community of Igloolik. Years pass and two brothers emerge to challenge the evil order. Atanarjuat, a charismatic young hunter, lives with his brother, Amaqjuaq and is in love with Atuat who is promised to Oki, the son of Auri, the chief of the community. Oki's hatred, anger and jealousy continue to grow when he eventually loses Atuat to Atanarjuat who has also married Oki's sister Puja. Events culminate in Oki's murder of Amaqjuaq and Atanarjuat's miraculous escape over the sea ice. He is restored to health by a small band of Inuit hunters with whom he returns to Igloolik to confront Oki and to restore the community's spirit and balance.

Senior 2-4, adult, professional development. IRU #6672

Time immemorial. Hugh Brody. Tamarack Productions in association with the National Film Board of Canada, c 1991.

Series designed to introduce viewers to the values and culture of the aboriginal people. In this program, film director, Hugh Brody, explores the land claims issue of the Nisga Indians in British Columbia's Nass Valley. Points out how the Nisga people have fought for title over their traditional lands and brought the issue before Canada's politicians. Outlines the origins of the clash as well as the steps that carried the Nisga's case to the Supreme Court of Canada. Senior 2-4, professional development. IRU #5114

Learning Experience

L.E.1.3 Worlds Colliding (from 1000 BCE)

Black Robe. Beresford, Bruce, Director. Vidmark/Trimark, 2001.

Broken Arrow. Daves, Delmer, Director. 29th Century Fox, 1950.

Jeremiah Johnson. Pollack, Sydney, Director. Warner Brothers, 1972.

Pocahontas. Gabriel, Mike, Director. Walt Disney, 1995.

Stage Coach. Ford, John, Director. Walter Wanger, 1939.

Cluster 2 - A Profound Ambivalence: First Nations, Métis and Inuit Relations with Government

Learning Experience

L.E. 2.1 Setting the Stage: Economics and Politics

The Other Side of the Ledger: An Indian View of the Hudson's Bay

Company. National Film Board of Canada. National Film Board of Canada, Montreal, 1972.

Presents an articulate denial of many facets of the traditional version of Canadian history on the occasion of the Hudson's Bay Company's 300th anniversary.

Narrated by George Manuel, president of the National Indian Brotherhood.

Grades 7-12. IRU #0637

Learning Experience

L.E.2.2 As Long as the Rivers Flow: The Numbered Treaties

Sagkeeng Treaty 1. The Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre. Stongfront.TV, 2006

Sayisi Dene Treaty 5. The Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre. Stongfront.TV, 2004

Through the eyes of elders. Meeches, Lisa. Series – Sharing Circle, Meeches Video Productions, Inc. c2003.

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to the Aboriginal people. In this program "the signing of treaty is examined through the voices of Elders. In the face of devastating illness, the loss of the buffalo, military threats from U.S. soldiers and the coming of the railroad, a people put their faith in negotiations with representatives of Queen Victoria. One week after the signing of Treaty 7, the Whites broke their first promise." --Videocassette container. Includes archival footage, narration, and the history of the events surrounding the treaty, as related in the oral tradition by Narcis Blood, Elder, Kainai First Nation, Alan Pard, Elder, Piegan First Nation, and Alma Pretty Young Man, Elder, Siksika First Nation. Senior 1-4, adult. IRU #2231

Treaties. Meeches, Lisa and Nolan, Ted. Meeches Video Productions, Inc., 2003.

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to the Aboriginal people. "The Treaties written more than a century ago are the foundation upon which this nation is built. For most people they remain unseen" ... "and unappreciated." [This program] "examines the Treaties between The First Nations and the Dominion of Canada, their historic and future significance, and modern day misconceptions." -- Video container. Senior 1-4, adult. IRU #2652

We are All Treaty People: a brief introduction to the Numbered Treaties and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. Treaty Relations commission of Manitoba, 2008.
<http://www.trcm.ca/speakers.html>

Learning Experience

L.E.2.3 Legislated Discrimination: The *Indian Act*

Did You Know? The Sharing Circle. Season Sixteen. Meeches, Lisa. Meeches Video Productions, Inc., 2008.

This episode of The Sharing Circle explores some of the more outrageous and bizarre facts concerning the history of the relationship between Aboriginal Peoples and Canada, and how these have influenced the political, economic and social conditions of the country's First Peoples. Sharing Circle Website.

Not Just Beads and Moccasins. The Sharing Circle. Season Fifteen. Meeches, Lisa. Meeches Video Productions, Inc., 2006.

Directors: Kristin Tresoor, Vanessa Loewen

Not Just Beads & Moccasins will explore contemporary Aboriginal Art. The dominant perception is that Aboriginal Art is all traditional: images of wolves and bears done up in the way of beads and moccasins. Contemporary artists often draw on those traditions, even though the intent and effect is different...making it some of the hottest stuff around! Sharing Circle Website

The above videos are currently available from:

- Matthew Etches
Head of Distribution
Century Street Distribution
509 Century Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3H 0L8
CANADA
phone: 1.800.772.0368
fax: 1.204.772.0360
email: matthew@centurystreet.ca
website: www.centurystreet.ca

Yuxweluptun: man of masks. Paul, Lawrence. National Film Board of Canada, 1998.

In 1868 the Canadian government passed the Indian Act to subdue Native peoples by confining them to reservations, outlawing their languages, destroying land rights and denying them a vote. *Yuxweluptun: Man of Masks* opens at the Bisley Rifle Range in Surrey, England, where Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun is shooting the Indian Act, a performance piece to protest the ongoing effects of the legislation on Aboriginal people. Back in Canada, "An Indian shooting the Indian Act" opens at Vancouver's Grunt Gallery where framed copies, riddled with bullet holes, are on display. Yuxweluptun is a modernist whose artistic influences come from his home in Vancouver, British

Columbia. His surrealist canvases deal with ozone depletion, land claims, Aboriginal rights, clear-cut logging and racism. One of Canada's most important painters, this Salish artist has exhibited in Paris, Zurich, Barcelona and Switzerland. Interviews with Yuxweluptun, striking images of his paintings and a visit to his virtual reality longhouse provide a glimpse into contemporary First Nations art making and the politics of the artist. National Film Board Description.

Learning Experience

L.E.2.4 O-Tee-Paym-Soo-Wuk (the Métis): The People Who Own Themselves

Incident at Seven Oaks. Longbottom. From the CD titled *Longbottom*, Theodore B. Longbottom Inc., 1997.

Bell of Batoche. Longbottom. From the CD titled *River Road*, Theodore B. Longbottom Inc., 2005.

The Metis. St. Germain, Ray. Found in the book *Metis Songs: Visiting Was the Metis Way*, Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2004, p. 65-65.
<http://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/03146>

I was born here ... in Ste. Madeleine. Ann Lanceley. Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, Brandon, Brandon Production House Inc. [distributor], c1991.

Designed to introduce viewers to a commemoration of a Metis community in Western Manitoba evicted from the land in 1938 by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. Part one tells how the community of Ste. Madeleine came to exist. Former residents, now elders, discuss the community's activities in their parents' time and what happened when the people were told they could no longer live there. In part two, the elders share stories about the fun their parents had, the community's cohesiveness and the difficulties the residents faced. Part three describes the religious practices of Ste. Madeleine and points out that despite the community's disappearance in 1938, the Metis retained their cultural ties, language, music and faith and passed these traditions on to their children and grandchildren. Part four looks at the importance of square dancing to the people of Ste. Madeleine and includes an interview with a caller. Grades 7 to Senior 4, adult. IRU #6904

Ikwe. National Film Board of Canada. Bailey, Norma: Director. National Film Board of Canada, 1986.

A historic drama set in the Canadian Northwest, 1770, about a young Ojibway girl, Ikwe, who marries a Scottish trader and the consequences that unfold. Grades 7-adult. IRU

Mistress Madeleine. National Film Board of Canada. Bailey, Norma: Producer. National Film Board of Canada, 1986.

This story which is set in Rupertsland in 1850, is about Madeleine, the Metis wife of the Hudson Bay Company clerk. Although the company has a monopoly on the fur trade in Canada, the Metis at this time begin trading with the Americans who pay them far more for their furs. Madeleine feels loyalty for her brother Joseph who is known to trade with the Americans, and her husband, the company clerk. However, circumstances force her to choose, and she returns with her children to the Metis camp of her brother. Grades 10-12, adult. IRU #7916

Riel Country. Duckworth, Martin and Warren, Peter with R.B. Russell School and Ecole Precieux-Sang. National Film Board of Canada, Montreal, 1996. This program features students from R.B. Russell Vocational School and Francophone students from Ecole Precieux-Sang working on a play entitled First Metis, which was presented at the Festival du Voyageur in a program to honour the 125th anniversary of Louis Riel's founding of Manitoba. As they work to produce the play, the students reveal their concerns about such issues as intolerance, racism, discrimination and differing values and beliefs to better understand each other's point of view. As well, they share their experiences about being part of a multicultural/multiracial society and touch upon how their minority cultures can co-exist within the prevailing societal structure. Interspersed with scenes from the Festival du Voyageur and Peter Warren's Action Line radio show dealing with living next door to the Francophone community. Senior 1-4. IRU #7546

The Re-Trial of Louis Riel. Part 1 : the re-trial. Meharchand, Suhana et al. CBC Newsworld, Toronto, 2002.

A re-enactment of the trial of Louis Riel, based on Canadian law of the present day. The case is argued by Edward Greenspan for the defence and Alan Lenczner for the prosecution and is presented before former B.C. Supreme Court Judge Thomas Berger. Both lawyers present their arguments, cross-examine Riel, played by Quebec lawyer Guy Bertrand, and give their closing arguments. Louis Riel addresses the jury, and the judge gives his summation of the case. Includes brief comments from the audience as to Riel's guilt or innocence at the end of the program. Grades 7-Senior 4, adult. IRU #7362

The Re-Trial of Louis Riel. Part 2 : the Metis. Petrie, Ann et al. CBC Newsworld, Toronto, 2002.

Continues to examine the life and times of Louis Riel. In this program, at the St. Boniface Museum in Winnipeg, an audience of Metis of all ages and backgrounds, including descendents of Riel, meet in an open forum with moderator Anne Petire to discuss the life and legacy of Riel. This gathering gives a different perspective on Riel as a role model, an inspiration, and a voice for the Metis and for their cause to be recognized as a distinct people and culture. Also considers the results of the vote taken by a studio audience and an internet poll to determine whether Louis Riel was guilty or innocent of the charges of treason, as a result of the re-enactment of Riel's trial for treason on a previous episode. Includes comments of a number of forum

participants who object to the portrayal of Louis Riel and of the Metis on the CBC Newsworld series, but who do recognize the importance of audience exposure to the controversial man who many consider to be the father of Manitoba. Grades 7-Senior 4, adult, professional development. IRU #0624

Learning Experience

L.E.2.5 Defining Our Place: Modern Treaties and Rights

River Road. Longbottom. "River Road". Longbottom, Ted and Pruden, Greg. 2002.

Standing Ground. Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm. "Standing Ground". Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm & the Nishin Spoken Word project.

<http://www.tekupu.com/poems/Standing%20Ground.htm>

CBC News in Review. [September 1991]. Nash, Knowlton and CBC-TV. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Toronto, 1991.

Series introduces viewers to current affairs news programming of the CBC. This program examines the coup in the Soviet Union which lasted from August 19, 1991 to August 21, 1991. Also looks at the historical background to the hostilities dividing Yugoslavia today. Discusses the issues surrounding the James Bay Hydroelectric Power Project. Concludes with an exploration of the concerns regarding cigarette advertising.

Grades 7-12. IRU #9353

Honour of the Crown. Cameron, Bill. National Film Board of Canada, Montreal, 2001.

"Francois Paulette has devoted more than 25 years of his life to resolving a battle that is over a century old. Senior negotiator for the Smith's Landing First Nation, Paulette is determined to see the Canadian government honour promises made to the Thebatthi (Chipewyan) people in an 1899 treaty.

Featuring interviews with tribal, provincial, and federal government representatives, this documentary provides a rare glimpse into one community's success in settling a one-hundred-year-old treaty obligation of the Crown". --Video container.

Senior 2-4, adult. IRU 5505

Kanehsatake. National Film Board of Canada. Obamsawin, Alanis: Producer and Director. National Film Board of Canada, Montreal, 1993.

Documents the events which took place in Oka, the Mohawk village of Kanehsatake, and the Mohawk reserve at the Mercier Bridge in the province of Quebec. This program, filmed by Alanis Obomsawin, herself an Abenaki Indian, presents the armed standoff between the Kanehsatake Mohawk people of First Nations, the Quebec police and the Canadian army. Shows life behind the barricades, places the conflict within a historical perspective and helps to understand the Mohawk determination to protect their land.

Senior 2-4, adult. IRU #7829

Oka. Andrew, Paul and Canadian Broadcasting Association. CBC Television Production, 1990.

Designed to introduce viewers to the events that occurred at Oka, Quebec during the summer of 1990. Provides an historical review of Native land claims, going back to the 18th century, details the circumstances of the conflict, and includes reactions of Native groups, politicians and ordinary citizens to the crisis, and the government's response to it. Concludes with a profile on Jenny Jack, a Native woman from Atlin, B.C. who, with her niece Lucille, went to fight alongside the warriors at Oka.

Senior 1-4, adult. IRU #5439

Treaties. Meeches, Lisa et al. Meeches Video Productions, Inc., 2003.

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to the Aboriginal people. "The Treaties written more than a century ago are the foundation upon which this nation is built. For most people they remain unseen" ... "and unappreciated." [This program] "examines the Treaties between The First Nations and the Dominion of Canada, their historic and future significance, and modern day misconceptions." -- Video container. Senior 1-4, adult.

Time Immemorial. Brody, Hugh et al. Tamarack Productions and National Film Board of Canada, 1991.

Series designed to introduce viewers to the values and culture of the aboriginal people. In this program, film director, Hugh Brody, explores the land claims issue of the Nisga Indians in British Columbia's Nass Valley. Points out how the Nisga people have fought for title over their traditional lands and brought the issue before Canada's politicians. Outlines the origins of the clash as well as the steps that carried the Nisga's case to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Senior 2-4, professional development. IRU #5114

Where Three Rivers Meet: The Story of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

Erenberg, Noah and Bell, Kim. Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Eagle Vision, Eagle Vision, Winnipeg, 2006.

"The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) of Manitoba is re-inventing its relationship with the non-aboriginal community in ways that have rarely been seen anywhere else in the world. This is inspired by the community's desire for economic self-sufficiency and is evident in a bold move by this Indigenous community to partner with one of the largest public utilities in North America (Manitoba Hydro) in order to jointly build a hydroelectric power project on traditional NCN land." Container. DVD tracks are in English and Cree languages. DVD jacket.

River Road. Longbottom. "River Road". Pruden, Greg and Longbottom, Ted. 2002.

Cluster 3 - Toward a Just Society

Learning Experience L.E.3.1 Education

Aboriginal Healing. Meeches, Lisa. Meeches Video Productions, Inc., 2004. A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to Aboriginal people. Through archival footage, narration, and interviews, this program reveals the tragic impact of the residential school system upon the Aboriginal people who were subjected to it and upon their families, the manner in which healing began with the church's acknowledgement of their role in the destruction of a culture, and the work of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to ensure that survivors' stories are told. Also explains that in 1998 the federal government issued a statement of reconciliation, that in 2001, a federal department known as Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada was established to deal with all issues surrounding residential schools, and that the AHF was created to disperse funds to be spent on projects and programs for survivors and their families dealing with issues of sexual and physical abuse from the residential schools. The program also raises questions about the future of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and its work. Includes interviews with residential school survivors, Phil Fontaine, National Chief Assembly of First Nations, Mike DeGagne, Executive Director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and Shawn Tupper, Director-General of Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada.

Senior 1-4, adult, professional development. IRU #3075

Assu of Cape Mudge. Thiele, Noreen. Chiaro Productions Inc. and Moving Images Distribution, Victoria, 2005.

This series introduces viewers to six First Nations families through the oral tradition of storytelling. "The Assu family-- their name meaning 'a father that's highly respected'-- descend from Chief Billy Assu, the last hereditary chief of the We Wai Kai band (Kwakwaka-wakw) in Cape Mudge, a tiny community on the southwest shore of BC's Quadra Island. Donald Assu, his siblings and children discuss the continued importance of the potlatch ceremony to their family and their people-- its history, its songs, the poetic and ancient language of big-house orators, and the passing on of traditional names."--Container.

Grades 6-12, adult. IRU #D-10578

Childhood Lost. Blue Hill Productions for Grey Wolf Productions, 2002, distributed by Filmwest and Associates Ltd., Kelowna, BC.

Childhood Lost examines the experiences of child abuse and child sexual abuse suffered by four individuals sent to residential schools when they were very young. Viewers learn how some coped with the many years of abuse and the effects it has had on their lives. While their stories represent different generations spanning over fifty years, they are brought together to

share their experiences. In the talking circle, they share memories of pain and humour. Description from video jacket.

Cruel Lessons. Abraham, Gilbert et al. Five Corners Communication with Vision TV and Prentice Hall, 1999.

This series is designed to personalize history for young people by sharing the experiences of people who lived through the events and trends of the twentieth century. The personal recollections are interspersed with archival footage to give viewers multiple perspectives on Canadian historical issues and events. Presents interesting stories of seniors who were witnesses when history was being made. In this program Native seniors, two men and two women, remember the dark and painful world of residential schools. Assigned numbers, forbidden to speak in their own language, and constantly told that their culture was inferior, their life stories are a harrowing account of physical, emotional and, in some cases, sexual abuse. Their "school days" outline the tragic human experiences that underlie the cultural integrity and abuse and discrimination issues currently under investigation in the press, society, government and the courts. Three of the Natives are Manitobans. Grades 7 and up, adult. IRU #D-5600 or #5600

Dion of the Kehewin. Thiele, Noreen. Chiaro Productions Inc. and Moving Images Distribution, Victoria, 2004.

This series introduces viewers to six First Nations families through the oral tradition of storytelling. "Joe Dion, Florence Buffalo and Madeline Dion, of the Kehewin Reserve in Alberta's northeast corner, can trace their family line back to the venerable Cree chief, Big Bear. Joe talks about his visit with the Queen during the Alberta Centennial, as head of a delegation seeking redress for Treaty 6. He explains that he didn't want to see the constitution repatriated without Native rights being enshrined. His sister Madeline, widely recognized for her work on women's health issues, discusses the systematic erasing of memory that her people have had to overcome. Florence explains her sense of responsibility to her children in passing on family lore."-- Container.

Grades 6-12, adult. IRU #D-10579

First Scientists. Trujillo, Raoul. Discovery Channel and Magic Lantern Communications Ltd., 2003.

Designed to help viewers understand the contributions of traditional First Nations knowledge to the world of modern day science. Examines the social, cultural, and historic factors which have led to achievements in such disciplines as astronomy, ecology, engineering, artificial intelligence and medicine, and details how changes which are now occurring in western science can be traced back to knowledge first acquired by Native peoples. Senior 1-4, adult, professional development. IRU #3622

Healing the Mission School Syndrome. Filmwest Associates. Kelowna, B.C., 1994.

From the 1920's to the early 1980's Native children attended mission schools

and residences to pursue their education. Through archival footage, documentary, and interviews, this program reveals the tragic impact of the residential school system and the efforts now being made around the Yukon to help Native individuals and communities heal from the damage wrought by the mission school syndrome.

Adult, professional development. IRU #4879

Our Spirits Are Very Strong. Filmwest Associates. Kelowna, B.C., 2001.

Filmwest Associates, 2400 Hayman road, Kelowna, B.C. V1Z 1Z8, Phone (250) 769-3399. Email: info@filmwest.com.

Mission schools had a profound impact on generations of First Nation People. Their ripple effects continue today. This program documents and celebrates the healing journeys of three women who are working in their communities to promote wellness. While the experience of trauma began their lifelong healing journeys, they not only survived, they became stronger. Their contributions today flow from the heart of their healing.

Teacher Note: The above film looks at Restorative Justice from the victim's view point and many weaknesses are discussed. This is an adult film.

Restoring the Sacred. Meeches, Lisa. Meeches Video Productions, Inc., 2005.

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to the Aboriginal people. "Each autumn, high school students from reserve communities leave their homes to go to school in a city hundreds of miles away. They must face and cope with a way of life that is foreign, confusing, and oftentimes dangerous. For them, the hardest test they will face isn't in the classroom. It is found in simply finding the will to stay in school, in overcoming their homesickness, in adjusting to the way of life in the city, and in avoiding the dangerous social traps surrounding them. Historically, half or more of the first year students don't last through the school year, with the greatest portion giving up before Christmas. Sadly, many of them become involved with urban gangs and leave school for a life of criminal activity. Even worse, some simply cannot adjust and commit suicide. In Winnipeg, an Aboriginal non-government agency has launched a program, Restoring the Sacred, designed to offer students some of the support they need in order to stay in school and to live safely in the city. The Sharing Circle travels to one community in Northern Manitoba and discovers the hopes and fears of the parents there, and journeys with some of the students to their new school in Winnipeg and to this significant challenge in their lives." -- Container. The program, 'Restoring the Sacred', is a program presented by Ka Ni Kanichihk in Winnipeg. DVD tracks are in English and Ojibway languages.

Grades 7-12, adult. IRU #D-10707

Learning Experience

L.E.3.2 Health

David with F.A.S. Cardinal, Gil and National Film Board of Canada. National Film Board of Canada, 1997.

David Vandenberg is a 21-year-old man who suffers from recently diagnosed fetal alcohol syndrome (F.A.S.). In this program, David shares his thoughts and experiences about the challenges of trying to maintain a normal routine while living with F.A.S. and the depression which accompanies it. As well, members of David's adoptive family describe the impact that fetal alcohol syndrome has had upon them and the feelings of confusion, anger and pain with which they must deal as they struggle to support David and the family unit. As the program ends, we come to understand that this battle will last for the rest of their lives.

Senior 2-4, adult, professional development. IRU #5117

Native AIDS. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. CBC, Winnipeg, 1997.

Explores the reasons why young Natives who come from reserves to Winnipeg are at high risk for developing the AIDS virus and bringing it back to the reserves on their return. This program profiles Conrad, a young Native man from Grand Rapids who came to Winnipeg. Points out the need for AIDS prevention programs in the Native community and includes interviews with Native leaders, public health officials and others who share their concern about the spread of the AIDS virus.

Senior 2-4, adult, professional development. IRU #7105

Toxic Homes. Lisa Meeches. Meeches Video Productions, Inc., 2006.

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to the Aboriginal people. "Raven Thundersky and her family grew up in the community of Poplar River. Since the late 1980's, Raven has lost her mother, three sisters, and a brother to asbestosis and mesothelioma. She has also been diagnosed with scarring of the lungs due to zonalite exposure. Living with the possibility of cancer, she has become an advocate on having the issue recognized by all levels of government. All along the way, she remains true to the spirit that drives her to fight." -- Container. DVD tracks are in English and Ojibway languages.

Grades 9-12, adult. IRU #D-10703

The Gift of Diabetes. Whitford, Brion. National Film Board of Canada, Montreal, 2005.

Filmmaker Brion Whitford is an Ojibway who lives with the pain of advanced diabetes. As his health worsened, his interest in his own culture grew. Follows Brion's struggle to regain his health by learning about the medicine wheel, a holistic tool grounded in Aboriginal understanding of the interconnectedness of all dimensions of life. Also explores the historical trauma of colonization and how it continues to affect Aboriginal people's psychological and physical well-being. By coming to terms with this circumstance and his own troubled past, he moves forward to a healthier and more peaceful way of life.

Senior 2-4, adult, professional development. IRU #D-10860

Voices of Experience, Voices for Change. National Film Board of Canada. National Film Board of Canada, 1993.

Contents: The Ballad of Crowfoot (11 min.)--Richard Cardinal : cry from a diary of a Metis child (30 min.)--An Interview with Alanis Obomsawin (8 min.)--Excerpts from Foster child (14 min.)-- Speak white (7 min.)--Of lives uprooted (14 min.).

Series designed for students to see non-fiction films as constructions, to help them to distinguish between truth and fiction, subjectivity and objectivity, and to raise questions about gender, class, race, violence, point of view and the relationship between drama and documentary. This program presents people on the margins of society whose perceptions and experiences challenge the mainstream media portrayal of their situations. Program one presents the opening of the Canadian West from the point of view of the Aboriginal people. Program two is about the suicide of a Metis boy who was placed in twenty-eight foster homes. In program three, filmmaker, Alanis Obomsawin, considers the importance of documentary in presenting the viewpoints of those seldom heard in the media. Program four presents director, Gil Cardinal, who uses his own story to help in the understanding of the experiences of Aboriginal people with the child welfare system. In program five, Quebec poet, Michele Lalonde, presents a poem about power and oppression. Program six features the drawings and voices of Central American refugee children who describe their flight from wartorn lands. Senior 2-4. IRU #7921 and #7926

Water under fire: a national perspective. McDonald, Bob. Gallant Productions and Filmwest Associates, 2005.

A seven-part documentary that explores the science and policy issues facing Canada's fresh water resources in the 21st century. In this episode, we review concerns raised in the previous six programs. We also see a number of places across the country where water improvement projects and research are taking place. Features include individual chapter menu.

Grades 9-12, adult. IRU #D-10360 or #10360

Learning Experience **L.E.3.3 Justice**

CBC News in Review (October 1991). Nash, Knolton and CBC-TV. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Toronto, 1991.

Series introduces viewers to current affairs news programming of the CBC. Segment one examines strikes by public service employees, postal workers and transit workers, and introduces viewers to the history of the Canadian labour movement. Segment two discusses the deaths of Helen Betty Osborne and J.J. Harper and the findings of Manitoba's Aboriginal Justice Inquiry. Segment three looks at the changes in Canada's sexual assault legislation and issues concerning violence against women. Segment four concludes the program with an exploration of the issues surrounding the future of hockey

player Eric Lindros.
Grade 7-12. IRU #9368

Conspiracy of Silence. Couture, Suzette and Priest, Lisa (Author). Canadian Broadcasting Corporations, Sturgeon Fall, Ontario, 1991.

The true story of Helen Betty Osborne, a 19 year old Indian girl who was murdered and slain on November 12, 1971 in The Pas, Manitoba, Canada.

Cowboys and Indians. Beach, Adam et al. Harper Productions, Inc., 2003. Presents the story behind the 1988 shooting of Manitoba Native leader, J.J. Harper by Winnipeg Police Constable Robert Cross. Protest from the Native community led to the establishment of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry which revealed an extensive cover-up by Winnipeg police. On the day he was to testify, Inspector Ken Dowson, the officer responsible for the cover-up, committed suicide. The film reveals the often painful relationship between Native and non-Native peoples in Canada, with J. J. Harper, whose life was dedicated to defending Native rights, becoming a symbol for Natives and non-Natives in Canada today.

Grades 10-12, adult, professional development. IRU #D-10646

Gang aftermath. Cardinal, Lewis. Bearpaw Media Production, 2005. National Film Board of Canada, 2006.

Designed to help viewers learn about the work of Aboriginal street gangs in Alberta. "This film follows former gang members and gang associates who have put their destructive pasts behind them. Their stories reveal truths about their former lives and may help to prevent others from making similar mistakes. We hear from current and former gang members, including female gang associates. This is a no-holds-barred look at a subculture. How are members recruited? What role do females play in the lifestyle? Is it true that the only option for a gang member is death or life in prison? This video dispels the myths and lays bare the truth about the inner workings of street gangs in Canada." --Container.

Grades 9-12, adult, professional development. IRU #D-10929

I was born here ... in Ste. Madeleine. Ann Lanceley. Saskatchewan Music Educators Association, Brandon, Brandon Production House Inc. [distributor], c1991.

Designed to introduce viewers to a commemoration of a Metis community in Western Manitoba evicted from the land in 1938 by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. Part one tells how the community of Ste. Madeleine came to exist. Former residents, now elders, discuss the community's activities in their parents' time and what happened when the people were told they could no longer live there. In part two, the elders share stories about the fun their parents had, the community's cohesiveness and the difficulties the residents faced. Part three describes the religious practices of Ste. Madeleine and points out that despite the community's disappearance in 1938, the Metis retained their cultural ties, language, music and faith and passed these traditions on to their children and grandchildren.

Part four looks at the importance of square dancing to the people of Ste. Madeleine and includes an interview with a caller. Grades 7 to Senior 4, adult. IRU #6904

Indian Courthouse. The National – CBC. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CBC Learning, 1999.

This program looks at a criminal case that asks a disturbing question: does the law apply equally to all? Winnipeg has had a growing number of street gangs. One of these street gangs, the Manitoba Warriors, was charged under a severe federal anti-gang law. This law was initially passed in response to the powerful and violent Hell's Angels that were wreaking havoc in Quebec. Ironically, they were never charged under this law. Many critics argue that this is just another example of the deep seated racism and unfair treatment towards aboriginal groups, especially as the Manitoba Warriors were not being charged with any violent crimes. Winnipeg Public Library

Long Road, Full Circle. Meeches, Lisa. Meeches Video Productions, Inc., 2004.

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to Aboriginal people. This program presents a "2-part expose of Aboriginal gang life in urban and rural environments. Revolving around former and reformed gang member Ervin Chartrand, we relive his physical and mental journey from Vice President of the Manitoba Warriors, to his involvement and consequent arrest during "Operation Northern Snow". Institutionalized, it was in Stony Mountain penitentiary where he made a life-changing choice to reclaim his heritage, his family and his soul. Chartrand, clean and on the outside, has recovered his ties to Aboriginal healing and spirituality. Pursuing a career in the film and television industry, he now acts a mentor to Aboriginal youth on the dangers of life on the streets. Experts from the RCMP, Winnipeg Police Services and Corrections Canada share their views of efforts being made to extinguish gangs from the streets of Canadian cities." --Publisher's website

Senior 1-4, adult, professional development. IRU #3052

Totem : the return of the G'psgolox pole. Cardinal, Gil and the National Film Board of Canada. National film Board of Canada, 2003.

In 1929, the Haisla people of northwestern British Columbia returned from a fishing trip to find a 9-metre-high totem pole, known as the G'apsgolox pole, severed at the base and removed from the village. The fate of the 19th-century pole remained unknown to the Haisla for over sixty year. Director Gil Cardinal reveals the Haisla's 1991 discovery of the pole in a Stockholm museum, where it is considered state property by the Swedish government. Cardinal skillfully layers compelling interviews, striking imagery and rare footage of master carvers as they create a replica pole. The Haisla have fulfilled a promise to the museum to replace the original totem. Now, having honoured their end of the bargain, they await the return of the G'psgolox pole.

Senior 2-4, adult, professional development. IRU #10017

Two worlds colliding. Menard, Andrea. National Film Board of Canada, 2004.

"Two Worlds Colliding chronicles the painful story of what came to be known as Saskatoon's infamous "freezing deaths", and the schism between a fearful, mistrustful Aboriginal community and a police force that must come to terms with a shocking secret. One frigid night in January 2000, a Native man, Darrell Night, finds himself dumped by two police officers in -20C temperatures in a barren field on the city outskirts and finds shelter at a nearby power station. He survives the ordeal but is stunned to hear that the frozen body of another Aboriginal man is discovered in the same area. Days later, another victim, also Native, is found. When Night comes forward with his story, he sets into motion a chain of events: a major RCMP investigation into several suspicious deaths, the conviction of the two constables who abandoned him and the reopening of an old case, leading to a judicial inquiry. It remains to be seen whether the gulf between the two worlds can be bridged." --Container

Grades 10-12, adult, professional development. IRU #D-10906

Learning Experience

L.E.3.4 Economic and Resource Development

Arctic Rush. Pritchett, Harry, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Discovery Productions, Inc. Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 2006.

"The white blanket encircling the North Pole is receding. As the ice melts, Arctic Rush focuses on the last greatest land grab in human history with grave consequences for the world's economy, the environment and for the million who live in the region. Against a stunning Arctic backdrop, local Inuit leaders and reindeer herders, polar scientists, environmental leaders and big thinkers present their concerns for the land and its people. With the probable evolution of a new ocean among other things to consider, the arctic is a land of high stakes and fascinating possibilities." --Container.

Grades 7-12, adult. IRU #D-11558

Building Community. Bomi Videotape Productions, Baran & Baran and Kineticvideo.com. BOMI Videotape Productions, Kanata; Baran & Barn, Toronto; Kineticvideo.com., 2004.

Series addresses various Aboriginal issues and ideas through interviews and short dramatizations, specifically focusing on Aboriginal youth. The program explores Aboriginal community building. It begins by examining the definition of community, then discusses obstacles to community development. It looks at how indigenous communities in Canada and elsewhere are overcoming these obstacles.

Grades 5-12, professional development. IRU # D-10895

Mining in Indian Country. Northern Native Broadcasting and Filmwest Associates. Northern Native Broadcasting and Filmwest Associates, 1997.

Designed to introduce viewers to impact benefit agreements which are being struck between First Nations peoples and Canadian mining companies. This program examines the ongoing negotiations between Atlin, British Columbia's Taku River Tlingits and mining proponents. Redfern Industries, and, as well, considers the agreement negotiated between the Tahltan Indians and Wheaton Mineral Resources. Also notes a number of negotiated settlements between Native populations and mining companies in the Yukon. Explains the need for the agreements and outlines the social, economic and cultural factors which contributed to their successful implementation. Senior 2-4, adult. IRU #5437

Our Nationhood. Obamsawin, Alanis. National Film Board of Canada, 2003.

In ***Our Nationhood***, Aboriginal filmmaker and artist Alanis Obomsawin chronicles the determination and tenacity of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq people to use and manage the natural resources of their traditional lands. ***Our Nationhood*** provides a contemporary perspective on the Mi'gmaq people's ongoing struggle and ultimate success, culminating in the community receiving an award for Best Managed River from the same government that had denied their traditional rights. National Film Board description.

Skownan: our Land, our Future. Kakekapetum, Tina and Missyabit, Ron. International Institute of Sustainable Development, Winnipeg, 2001. "The land sustains the people of Skownan, today as for generations, the waters and forests which surround this central Manitoba community are a place for spiritual renewal, spending time with family and economic activities. The land is integral to their identity as a people." "This video presents the people of Skownan speaking about what the land means to them and how they are striving to maintain their way of life. It captures some of the highlights of a project between Skownan First Nation and the International Institute for Sustainable Development that used an innovative process called Appreciative Inquiry to learn how Aboriginal people value the lands around them and how this information can be incorporated into provincial land use and resource management planning."--Videocassette container. Grades 5-Senior 4, adult, professional development. IRU #6670

Urban Reserves: Success in the City. Meeches, Lisa. Meeches Video Productions, Inc., 2006.

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to the Aboriginal people. "Find out how First Nations are buying land, starting businesses, and creating better lives for Aboriginal people in cities across Canada. Discover how urban reserves may affect your community and your life as we visit Canada's largest urban reserve, established more than ten years ago and now home to more than forty-five businesses and organizations." -- Container. DVD tracks are in English and Ojibway languages.

Grades 7-12, adult. IRU #D-10711

Where Three Rivers Meet: The Story of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

Erenberg, Noah and Bell, Kim. Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Eagle Vision, Eagle Vision, Winnipeg, 2006.

"The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) of Manitoba is re-inventing its relationship with the non-aboriginal community in ways that have rarely been seen anywhere else in the world. This is inspired by the community's desire for economic self-sufficiency and is evident in a bold move by this Indigenous community to partner with one of the largest public utilities in North America (Manitoba Hydro) in order to jointly build a hydroelectric power project on traditional NCN land." Container. DVD tracks are in English and Cree languages. DVD jacket.

Cluster 4 - Indigenous Peoples and the World

Learning Experience

L.E.4.1 Our World

Rabbit Proof Fence. Sampi, Everlyn et al. Noyce, Phillip: Director. Alliance Atlantis, 2002.

At a time when it was Australian government policy to train aboriginal children as domestic workers and integrate them into white society, young Molly Craig decides to lead her little sister and cousin in a daring escape from their internment camp! Molly and the girls, part of what would become known as Australia's "Stolen Generations", must then elude the authorities on a dangerous, 1,500-mile adventure along the rabbit-proof fence that bisects the continent and will lead them home! As shown by this outstanding motion picture, their universally touching plight and unparalleled courage are a beautiful testament to the undying strength of the human spirit! PG. - Container.

Sharing the wisdom. Baran, Phillipa et al. BOMI Videotape Productions Ltd., Baran & Baran and Kineticvideo.com, Toronto, Ontario, 2004.

Series addresses various Aboriginal issues and ideas through interviews and short dramatizations, specifically focusing on Aboriginal youth. This program follows a young Canadian Aboriginal as she travels through Porta Vila, Vanuatu. It examines commonalities between indigenous people around the globe, and explains how indigenous groups can share their culture and wisdom with each other and with the world.

Grades 5-12, professional development. IRU #D-10896

General Audio-Visual Resources

Ghosts of Futures Past: Tom Berger in the North #D-11064

Directed, produced and written by Geoff Bowie ; executive producer, Michael Alder.

With David Suzuki.

Designed to introduce viewers the concerns being raised by the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project, a legacy to the Berger Inquiry of the 1970's. In this program, David Suzuki and Tom Berger visit the Mackenzie Valley River region where they meet with First Nations peoples: the Sahtu, the Gwich'in, the Dehcho and the Inuvialuit, who share their thoughts and feelings about the impact that oil and natural gas exploration will have upon the environment, plant and animal life, global warming, and Aboriginal traditions and culture. Emphasizes that while industrialization and northern economic development are important, it is necessary to allow for the survival of alternative cultures without ruining the environment.

Grades 7-Senior 4. IRU #D-11064

Haida Gwaii: Island of the People

Host, Lisa Meeches.

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to the Aboriginal people. "The most isolated landmass in Canada is a unique area off the northwest coast of BC, consisting of over 200 separate islands. Known geographically as the Queen Charlottes, this area is home to the people of the Haida Nation. The Haida are known among the many West Coast nations as gifted artists, carpenters and boat builders. Having suffered the loss of 95% of their population after European contact, they are also a testament to survival. Today a wave of new artists are rediscovering the supernatural beauty behind the ancient stories, using them for inspiration to create amazing works of art. Painters, weavers, and totem pole carvers carry the day as the Haida express themselves creatively and politically. Artists like Jim Hart, Jaalen Edenshaw, Marcel Rust, Sherri Dick and Mick Morrison share age-old inspiration and a duty to protect Haida Gwaii, Island of the People."-- Container. DVD tracks are in English and Ojibway languages.

Grades 9-12, adult. IRU ##D-10549

Is the Crown at War with Us? Obamsawin, Alanis and National Film Board of Canada. National Film Board of Canada, Montreal, 2002.

It was the summer of 2000 and the country watched with disbelief as federal fishery officials appeared to wage war on the Mi'gmaq fishermen of Esgenoopetitj (Burnt Church), New Brunswick. Why would officials of the Canadian government attack citizens for exercising rights that had been affirmed by the highest court in the land? What happened at Burnt Church? Through archival footage and interviews interspersed with scenes of modern day events, this program documents the circumstances of the lobster fishing dispute, places the conflict within an historic context, and helps viewers to understand the Micmac determination to defend their treaty rights against non-Native fishers and Canadian government policy.

Senior 2-4, adult, professional development. IRU #6738

Kanata: Legacy of the children of Aataentsic

On a rigorous and passionate quest, Huron-Wendat director Rene Sioui Labelle retraces the path of his ancestors and surveys their territories, recording images of stunning beauty. He unveils a historical journey known to very few as he reflects upon the identity of the Wendat nation. In the 1600s when the Wendat met Europeans, they were a prosperous society. They had been living on the shores of the Saint Lawrence River and around the Great Lakes for centuries. Tragically, the arrival of foreigners created massive upheaval that led to the disintegration of the great Wendat Confederation. A spiritual energy emanates from the men and women we encounter in this film, most of them from Wendake, 8 km northwest of Stadacona, which Chief Donnacona described to Jacques Cartier as the great village or, "Kanata". --Video container

Senior 2-4, adult, professional development. IRU #10053

Our Sisters Spirits: Canada's Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women #3647

Host, Lisa Meeches.

A television documentary series designed to introduce viewers to issues of concern to the Aboriginal people. This program "explores one of the most serious human rights abuses in Canada today - the abduction, rape and murder of Aboriginal women over the last half century at the hand of strangers, most often white people. This horrific situation continues today, particularly in cities across Western Canada, but the authorities, the justice system and the press seemingly ignore this ongoing tragedy. Last month, Amnesty International condemned Canada in a scathing report detailing these continued human rights abuses that are suffered by Aboriginal women. The purpose of this sharing Circle documentary is to make sense of this catastrophic situation that arguably would be front-page news if another group of women were being victimized" --Videocassette container

Senior 1-4, adult, professional development. IRU #3647

Rocks at Whiskey Trench #5456

Narrated by Alanis Obomsawin.

In the summer of 1990, one of the more shocking developments of the Oka stand-off of Kahnawake occurred on August 28, when a convoy of 75 cars left the Mohawk community of Kahnawake and crossed Montreal's Mercier Bridge. The vehicles, containing women, children and the elderly were stoned by angry Lasalle residents as they attempted to leave the reserve in fear of a possible advance by the Canadian army. This program explores that incident, intercutting current testimonials from both Native and Chateauguy residents and, as well, discusses the history of Kahnawake, the construction of the Mercier Bridge, and the impact of land appropriation upon the territory.

Senior 2-4, adult. IRU #5456