



Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Inc. Presents

OUR TOMORROWS, TODAY: WAHBUNG 1971

Running Time22 mins
Genre.....Documentary
Year.....2016
Language.....English
Country of OriginCanada
Virtual Press Office.....www.mfnerc.org
LinksOfficial website: www.ourtomorrowsfilm.com

SYNOPSIS

Our Tomorrows, Today: Wahbung 1971 is a short documentary about Wahbung, the position paper written by the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood (MIB) in response to the Trudeau Government's White Paper (1969). The discovery and use, of lost archival footage from the events of 1971, was an added bonus to the creation of this film.

This film features reflections and perspectives from women who were involved in the development of Wahbung, including noted educator Verna J. Kirkness, Jocelyn Bruyere - Acting Director of Consultations and Negotiations at the MIB, and Health Liaison Janet Fontaine.

Grand Chief Derek Nepinak of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs weighs in on the relevance of the 1971 document to the present day Canadian political landscape.

The film explores First Nation's history, the role that women played in the development of Wahbung, and highlights the leadership of Grand Chief Dave Courchene Sr. president of the MIB 1967-1972. His son, noted Elder Dave Courchene Jr., gives compelling insights in the film.



ABOUT THE FILM MAKERS



Nicole Magne

Director

Nicole Magne is a Winnipeg-based videographer and multi-disciplinary visual artist. For over a decade, she has specialized in producing educational video content. This is Nicole's first documentary film.

Nicole has been employed as a Multimedia Developer for the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre since 2004, producing educational content for specialists within the organization, and creating promotional videos and other material for communities throughout the province.

Nicole studied video and media development, earning a diploma in Digital Multimedia Technology from Red River College in 2004. She graduated from the University of Manitoba in 2006 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts majoring in Video.

In addition to her video work, Nicole's passion for creating art includes costume design, jewelry design, and contemporary embroidery.



David Robertson

Director

David Alexander Robertson, of Irish, Scottish, English, and Cree heritage, is a graphic novelist and writer who has been recognized for his work in the field of indigenous education and won the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer in 2015.

David has created several bestselling graphic novels and was a contributor to the anthologies Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings From the Land of Water, Moonshot: The Indigenous Comics Collection, and Love Beyond Body, Space and Time. His work has been featured in CV2 and Prairie Fire. His first novel, The Evolution of Alice, was published in fall 2014.

David is currently the Publishing & Communications Administrator at the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, where he has published numerous Indigenous titles, and has most recently co-directed the film, Our Tomorrows, Today: Wahbung 1971.



Rachel Beaulieu

Online Editor

Rachel Beaulieu is an Ojibway woman from Sandy Bay First Nation. Rachel earned her Media Production Diploma in 2010. Since then she has been immersed in all aspects of the media field. Be it, creating websites, online marketing, music production and management, editing broadcast television shows, pre-production film development and on-set experience.

Rachel has been passionate about the industry since childhood, creating plays with neighbourhood children and doing photo shoots in her bedroom with siblings. She almost pursued a career in health but knew her passion was the arts.

Rachel's specialty is video editing, She has done editing for various award winning shows and documentaries across Canada. Her latest television show edit Catch the Dream Bio's with Adam Beach recently aired on CBC.

ABOUT THE PRODUCER

The Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre Inc. (MFNERC) provides the province's leading education, administration, technology, language and culture services to First Nations schools in Manitoba



First Nations were compelled to take back control of education in the historic Wahbung paper of 1971 –

Wahbung: Our Tomorrows – by the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood (now Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs) and Indian Control of Indian Education position paper in 1972 by the National Indian Brotherhood (Now Assembly of First Nations).

Therefore, at that time and beyond, First Nations began the process of administering their own schools; however, chronic underfunding and lack of supports eventually required the creation of an organization that could help meet the needs of those schools.

In 1998 the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs gave a mandate and established MFNERC to provide administrative, technical, language and educational supports to First Nations Schools in Manitoba.

PARTNERS



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS



NANAANDAWEWIGAMIG

FILM STILLS



ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

Verna Kirkness

Education Writer and Researcher on Wabung

“This is the one time in history that our people accomplished a major work in a short time. It was after all, a response to the government’s White Paper, designed to remove the special status of Indians. Wabung was just one of the papers that was being written by Indian organizations of Canada. It was to give the government notice that we would no longer be pawns of the government and that we would set our own direction.”

Since Wabung and up to the present day, Verna J. Kirkness has maintained her interest and credentials in the area of education. She has continued to make contributions and has gone on in her field to be recognized by her own people and to be granted several honorary degrees by educational institutions.



Janet Fontaine

Health Writer and Researcher on Wabung

“It felt very fitting to work for an Indian organization, advocating for the rights of our people and addressing practical issues that made a difference to life at the community level.”

Janet Fontaine has worked in a number of areas throughout her career—health, business consultation, tourism, provincial cabinet committee work, and back to Aboriginal health with the provincial government.



Jocelyn Bruyere

Director of Consultations and Negotiations on Wabung

“We need a spirit of commitment to empower our people. With that spirit, instead of a “career,” make a commitment as a First Nations person to First Nations.”

Jocelyn Bruyere has achieved a master’s level degree in science and has been in leadership roles in her community, in her region, as tribal nursing officer for the Swampy Cree Tribal Council and within the province, working with the Diabetes Integration Project. Jocelyn has also served her profession through the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada and the Aboriginal Nurses of Manitoba.



Elder Dave Courchene Jr.

Son of Grand Chief Dave Courchene Sr.

“The position paper Wahbung represented the voice of the people. It proposed ideas of how we could be removed from our marginalized world to a place where we could live our dreams, our autonomy and our sovereignty as a people. All it has required, then and now, is the opportunity to share in the wealth and abundance of the land, and the respect to live the ancestral ways of our people.”

Dave Courchene – Nii Gaani Aki Inini (Leading Earth Man) has travelled internationally, carrying a message of hope and peace. Dave shares the ancient knowledge of the Original People of Turtle Island, that he believes can act as the foundation in supporting the New Life that Mother Earth is now entering, and that the Elders have confirmed has arrived.



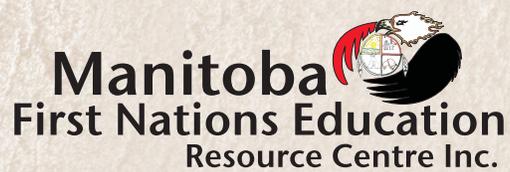
Grand Chief Derek Nepinak

Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Grand Chief Derek Nepinak is former Chief of Pine Creek First Nation, the AMC co-chairman for consultation and accommodation, a member of the executive committees of both the AMC and the Southern Chiefs' Organization and has served as chairman of the West Region Tribal Council.

He holds a first-class honours degree from the University of Alberta, a law degree from the University of Saskatchewan and has completed the intensive program aboriginal lands, resources and governance at Osgoode Hall law school. Nepinak interrupted his studies on a masters degree in indigenous governance to become Pine Creek First Nation chief.





www.ourtomorrowsfilm.com

9-1100 Waverley St. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 3X9

publishing@mfnerc.com

Tel: 204.594.1290 | Fax: 204.477.4314

www.mfnerc.com