

FIRST NATIONS THE CIRCLE UNBROKEN

Thirteen 20-minute programs about current issues, cultural identity, and relations between First Nations and Canada, compiled on four videocassettes.

The accompanying Teacher's Guide provides context, background on the issues, discussion questions and activities. For more information, please see inside video jacket.

VIDEO **1** Ages 9 to Adult

In these programs, people tell stories about what is important to themselves and to their families.

- 1/1 Cree Hunters, Quebec Dams** (23 mins) In 1974, a Cree family winters on the land. Twenty years later, the Cree are still fighting the James Bay hydro projects.
- 1/2 Standing Alone*** (20 mins) Pete Standing Alone, at age 50, reflects on his life and the life of the Blood, members of the Blackfoot Confederacy.
- 1/3 The Last Mooseskin Boat*** (17 mins) A Shotah Dene family builds an extraordinary thirty-foot-long boat and travels downriver to Fort Norman.
- 1/4 KWA'NU'TE'*** (19 mins) Three Micmac and Maliseet artists work with wood, pencil, paper, stone and quills.

**These programs have been revised and shortened from the original productions for classroom use.*

SERIES DIRECTORS

Geraldine Bob, Gary Marcuse, Deanna Nyce and Lorna Williams

PRODUCERS

Gary Marcuse, Face to Face Media
Svend-Erik Eriksen, National Film Board
A production of Face to Face Media and the National Film Board

SERIES ORDER NUMBER: 193C 9193 003 (4 VIDEOS & TEACHER'S GUIDE)

VIDEO 1 ORDER NUMBER: C 9193 004



Closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. A decoder is required.

© The National Film Board, 1993

Printed in Canada



National
Film Board
of Canada

Office
national du film
du Canada



FIRST NATIONS: THE CIRCLE UNBROKEN

VIDEO

1

VHS
113C
C 9193 004



FIRST NATIONS THE CIRCLE UNBROKEN

Thirteen 20-minute programs
about current issues, cultural identity,
and relations between First Nations and Canada

VIDEO

AGES 9 **1** TO ADULT

Cree Hunters, Quebec Dams
Standing Alone
The Last Mooseskin Boat
KWA'NU'TE'

FIRST NATIONS THE CIRCLE UNBROKEN

This collection of thirteen 20-minute programs introduces students, aged 9 to adult, to a variety of First Nations perspectives on history, culture, spirituality, education, justice, the environment, racism, colonialism, and Aboriginal title to the land. We have chosen the best available documentaries, then revised and shortened them for classroom use. These programs provide students with rich and complex images of the contemporary reality of the First Nations, their sense of identity, and their relations with Canada.

The accompanying Teacher's Guide provides context, background on the issues, discussion questions and activities.

The thirteen programs are compiled on four videocassettes. Other programs in the series are:

VIDEO 2 Ages 11 to Adult

These programs introduce more complex stories about Aboriginal title to the land, alternative justice, and relations between First Nations and Canada.

- 2/1 **Hunters and Bombers*** (22 mins) The Innu of Labrador fight NATO to end training flights by bombers that disrupt their hunting camps.
- 2/2 **Magic in the Sky*** (20 mins) The Inuit resist the violence and materialism of southern "TV culture" by making their own programs.
- 2/3 **Voyage of Rediscovery*** (25 mins) An angry young man is tried for assault. On a suggestion from his family, he is banished to an island to discover himself, a traditional Heiltsuk response to offenders.

VIDEO 3 Ages 11 to Adult

These programs introduce more complex stories about Aboriginal title to the land, alternative justice, and relations between First Nations and Canada.

- 3/1 **Potlatch*** (22 mins) The Canadian government suppressed the Potlatch. The Kwag'ulh people resisted. Today the Potlatch is part of self-government.
- 3/2 **Time Immemorial*** (22 mins) The The Nisga'a have been resisting the seizure of their lands in the Nass Valley for 130 years. In 1972 they won a Supreme Court decision confirming their unextinguished title to the land.
- 3/3 **Uranium*** (23 mins) First Nations communities near uranium mines feel the impact of sixty years of radioactive pollution.

VIDEO 4 Ages 13 to Adult

Questions are raised about the purpose of education, the definition of cultural genocide, and the lasting effects of epidemics on First Nations.

- 4/1 **Education, As We See It** (20 mins) The alienation experienced by many students in residential schools is compared with life in contemporary schools run by First Nations communities.
- 4/2 **Last Days of Okak** (26 mins) An influenza epidemic, brought to Labrador aboard a missionary supply ship, devastates the Inuit community of Okak in 1918.
- 4/3 **Commandos for Christ** (20 mins) The Ayoreo of Paraguay, sought out by missionaries, fall prey to poverty and death.



SQUQUQWEL' : SHARED STORIES

An introduction by Lorna Williams

New perspectives from shared stories

The sharing and discussion of stories and issues is a first step toward an understanding of the histories and unique cultures of Aboriginal peoples, and of the unique place First Nations people have in this country. This series is designed to provide short, focused, engaging stories which introduce a variety of subjects and issues affecting First Nations communities, seen from a First Nations point of view. This approach is in keeping with First Nations traditions of sharing knowledge and insights among friends and communities.

Among First Nations cultures, knowledge is transmitted in a variety of ways. Ceremonies, rituals, direct experience, painting, craft, carving, dance, songs, and storytelling are a few. Storytelling is still widely used and is an important tool for sharing information, as we construct and reconstruct our histories.

One of the common story forms is the *sququqwel'* (sqh-kwuh'-kwel), a Lil'wat word meaning "to tell many stories". These stories are shared at family or community gatherings and serve to inform the people of changes which have occurred. The subject of the stories might be a personal experience, or a description of changes on the land. The stories add to the body of knowledge belonging to the people and invite others to share in the joy, confusion, pain, anger, or humour that accompany change. It is believed that through making public one's stories, the stories become truly owned by the storyteller.

First Nations voices

The stories we have chosen to tell in this series are in a new form, video, but as much as possible they are in the voices of First Nations people. The reason for telling them is to share these concerns with a larger community. Through these stories we are sharing the joy, comfort, and strength we find in our traditions and families. And we are sharing the pain and anger we feel, due to our treatment over the past 500 years. These stories need to be added to the collective stories of this country. The issues that affect First Nations peoples affect us all.

Editor:

Paul Lievesley

Series music:

Graeme Coleman

Production Co-ordinator:

Kathryn Lynch

Studio Administrator:

Bruce Hagerman

Executive Producer,

Face to Face Media:

Gary Marcuse

Executive producers

for the NFB:

Barbara Janes,

Don Haig

* These programs have been revised and shortened from the original productions for classroom use.