



News Release

Tłıchǫ Film Wins International Human Rights Award

February 15, 2023, Behchokò - The Tłıchǫ Government was recently honoured with the Human Rights Award from the Quetzalcoatl Indigenous International Film Festival in Oaxaca, Mexico, for the film, "*KÒK'ETÌ: Walking with Caribou.*"

This is the latest in a long list of awards and nominations for this poignant and visually stunning film. *KÒK'ETÌ* highlights the work the Tłıchǫ Government is doing to research and protect the Ekwò (Barren Land Caribou) using traditional and modern methods, through the Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è program (Boots on the Ground).

The Tłıchǫ language, culture, and way of life are intimately linked to the land and the Ekwò and, as the Bathurst Caribou herd continues to decline so does the rich cultural history, and other elements that define the Tłıchǫ people.

The Tłıchǫ Government is responding to this threat using the stories, knowledge and wisdom of the Elders to guide their work. *KÒK'ETÌ* is a story of urgency, decline, and struggle, but it is also a story of the resilience of the Tłıchǫ people, the power of collective and traditional knowledge, and the refusal to lose hope in the face of difficult challenges.

Other awards and recognition for *KÒK'ETÌ* include:

- Ceres Food Film Festival, New York - Best Film Jury Prize (Winner)
- North Dakota Environmental Rights Festival - Best Cinematography (Winner)
- International Wildlife Film Festival, Montana - Best Conservation Program (Winner)
- Yorkton Film Festival - Best Point of View Documentary (Nominated)
- BC Leo Awards - Best Musical Score (Nominated)
- Nunavut International Film Festival (Official Selection)
- Wildlife Conservation Film Festival, New York (Official Selection)

Special Recognition:

The Tłıchǫ Government would also like to acknowledge and celebrate the teamwork that went into the making of this film. Special Recognition goes to:

John B. Zoe, Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault, Tyanna Steinwand, Petter Jacobsen, Michel Louis Rabesca, Roy Judas, Russell Drybones, Joe Lazare Zoe, the late Leon Ekendia, JJ Simpson, Nora Ekendia, Eva Mantla, Camilia Zoe-Chocolate, John Nishi, Jimmy P Mantla, Mike Simpson, Peter Huskey, and John Franklin & Mercie Kaodloak. Special thanks to Chad Galloway, Trail Films Inc.

Quotes:

“Tłıchq̓ people have been coming here forever, and the land has always protected us. Now it’s our turn to protect this land.”

– Tyanna Steinwand: K̓Q̓K’ET̓

“It is an honour for this film to be recognized internationally. It is also incredibly important to acknowledge, respect, and share Tłıchq̓ knowledge about Ekw̓ (caribou) and the essential role they’ve played in our past and present and will continue to play for generations to come.”

- Grand Chief Jackson Lafferty

Helpful Link:

To watch the K̓Q̓K’ET̓ film please visit: <https://www.trailfilms.ca/portfolio/koketi>

For more information, contact:

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