



## News Release

### The Truth Sharing Podcasts

**Vancouver, May 29, 2019--** **The Truth Sharing Podcasts**, inspired by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, share the truths of family members, survivors of violence, activists young and old, Elders, and artists. Four female Indigenous writer / directors, Jacquie Black, Kaniehtiio Horn, Monique Hurteau and Eve Ringuette, traveled to five inspiring communities and places: Norway House in Manitoba, Nain & Goose Bay in Labrador, The Highway of Tears in British Columbia, Métis Nation in the prairies, and Uashat mak Mani-Utenam in Quebec. They heard stories of loss, investigated the broader impact of the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and 2SLGBTQIA people, and showcased the incredible courage and strength of people dealing with the challenges particular to their region.

**The Truth Sharing Podcasts** serve as a living and universally accessible archive honouring lost loved ones, but are also a call to action. These strong and confident voices will have Canadians asking themselves, "What can I do to get involved? "

Now is time for all Canadians to become Change Makers.

#### **Selected quotes from the podcast series:**

*"I was hitchhiking and taking the Greyhound from Halifax right out to Tofino, BC, and this was literally just a month and a half before my sister Loretta was murdered, she was texting me, she was like, "What are you doing, Delilah? This is not just one Aboriginal woman or girl. This is being considered a national epidemic."*

#### **-Delilah Saunders, Goose Bay**

*"I met the women that were starting back 50 years ago in downtown east side in Vancouver. And I heard stories of women just disappearing when I was a kid. People would come back from the city and they would talk about some relative and say, "she's gone." And so it was very important and powerful when I heard about Gladys Radek and all of these women that were standing in solidarity and support for our women that are so discarded."*

#### **-Tantoo Cardinal**

*"Young women are so vulnerable. It needs to be heard, that these young women, their lives were short and every generation needs to know about them. I have young grandchildren, young girls that are growing up already, and I don't want them to be one of those numbers."*

#### **-Debbie Rowe, Norway House Cree Nation**

**Find the truth. Honour the truth. Give life to the truth.**

The podcast series will be available on all major listening platforms – iTunes, Spotify, Google Play, Anypod and Stitcher, May 29th, 2019.

[www.sacredmmiwg.ca](http://www.sacredmmiwg.ca)



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# Backgrounder

## The Truth Sharing Podcasts

### A five-part series

**The Truth Sharing Podcasts** is a project inspired by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, that gives life to the truth and creates a living legacy of education, awareness and commemoration. The goal of these podcasts is to document the experiences of people within five Canadian communities, to seek out and give voice to those who have experienced loss, examine the ways in which those affected are trying to heal, and shine a light on those trying to bring about change.

The five communities highlighted are: Norway House in Manitoba, Nain & Goose Bay in Labrador, The Highway of Tears in British Columbia, Métis Nation in the prairies, and Uashat mak Mani-Utenam in Quebec. A diverse group of people was interviewed, including family members, survivors of violence, activists young and old, Elders, and artists, to hear their thoughts on loss, investigate the broader impact of the issue in their communities, and to showcase the courage and strength they've shown in dealing with the challenges particular to their region.

**The Truth Sharing Podcasts** comes from a place of love and respect, and serves to help Canadians understand how we, as a society, need to change. The podcast series acts as a living and universally accessible archive to the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA, but it also a call to action. These strong and confident voices will have Canadians asking themselves, "What can I do to get involved? "

#### **Episode One: Norway House**

Writer/director Jacquie Black travels to Norway House in northern Manitoba and learns how the community has responded and remained strong despite the challenges that have affected their community for generations.

#### **Episode Two: Nain and Goose Bay**

Actress, writer and producer Kaniehtiio Horn travels to Nain and Goose Bay to listen to community members, activists and leaders affected by the MMIWG epidemic.

#### **Episode Three: Uashat mak Mani-Utenam**

Artist and actress Eve Ringuette visits members of her own community (Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Quebec) to discuss the difficulties encountered by residents, and the action they have undertaken to bring about change. She also discusses those who are currently part of the healing process, to better understand the root causes behind the suicide crisis, as well as treatment.

#### **Episode Four: The Prairies and Métis Nation**



Artist, director and standup comedian Monique Hurteau visits Saskatchewan and connects with Métis and Indigenous people including from the 2SLGBTQIA community who have been marginalized but continue to fight for their rights and place in the world.

### **Episode Five: BC – The Highway of Tears**

Artist, director and standup comedian Monique Hurteau interviews people throughout BC who are changing the narrative around MMIWG.

### **About the production company Eagle Vision**

Since 2000, Eagle Vision has been one of Canada's top Indigenous owned and operated production companies. Eagle Vision produces content that creates change.

## **NORWAY HOUSE**

### **One of five Truth Sharing Podcasts**

### **A word from the director**

My name is Jacquie Black. I am an Anishinaabe woman from the Ojibway nation in Manitoba, Canada. I'm a writer and a director and I've worked with families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls for the past several years. In this podcast, members of Norway House Cree Nation share their experiences with the traumas that have affected their community for generations, that even today threaten to destroy family foundations and the future of their children. But you will also hear a strength and resilience characteristic of this nation and its people, who despite hardship and adversity walk with their heads held high.

- **Jacquie Black, writer and director**

### **About the director**

**Jacquie Black** is an Ojibway from Treaty 1 territory in Manitoba. She has written for the award-winning children's television series - *Tipi Tales*, *AboriginalDay Live*, *The Indigenous Music Awards*, *Cashing In*, and *Planet Echo*. She has travelled across Canada with Residential School Survivor stories as a Director, and was the National/Community Events Coordinator for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Committed to culture, creativity and justice, Jacquie is very proud to be a writer and director for Eagle Vision Production's groundbreaking television series *Taken*, which is now in its fourth season and focuses on the heartbreaking stories of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, their families, and the epidemic that plagues this country. Jacquie continues to open her life and career to experiences and opportunities that bring positive influence to her, her family and community.

### **Selected quotes from the episode**

"Young women are so vulnerable. It needs to be heard, that these young women, their lives were short and every generation needs to know about them. I have young grandchildren, young girls that are growing up already, and I don't want them to be one of those numbers."

-**Debbie Rowe, Norway House Cree Nation**

"When I first started going to the Inquiries, I was the only man there. It was very hard for me to sit there and listen to these women tell us stories about what these men did to them. So you try to tell young men to respect women, because if it wasn't for women, we wouldn't be here."



**-John Osborne, Norway House Cree Nation**

### **Participants**

John Osborne, Sarah Muchikekwanape, Natalie Apetagon, Ester Hart, Charlie Ettawacappo  
Dorothy Ducharme, Dwayne Balfour, Lenny Balfour, April Paupanekis-Osborne, Debbie Rowe, Catherine  
Halcrow, Samantha Folster, Hector Menow

## **NAIN & GOOSE BAY**

### **One of five Truth Sharing Podcasts**

### **A word from the director**

My name is Kaniehtiio Horn and I am a Kanien'kehaka woman from Kahnawake Mohawk Territory. I'm an actress and I also write and produce my own podcast, called *Coffee With My Ma*. It was an honour to be asked to participate in this new initiative that The National Inquiry is taking. It's a step to hopefully engage and educate the greater Canadian public on the many issues that are all connected to what is, in fact, a national epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

**-Kaniehtiio Horn, writer and director**

### **About the director**

**Kaniehtiio Horn**, bear clan, is a Kanien'kehaka, an actress and producer from Kahnawake, QC. In April 2018 she launched, *Coffee With My Ma*, a podcast of stories told to her by her 78 year old radical native rights activist mother, Kahentinetha Horn. Recent screen credits include *Tanis* on CraveTV's *Letterkenny*, Tara in hit web series *GhostBFF* and Leah in CBC's upcoming legal drama *Diggstown*. Kaniehtiio recurs in Amazon's *Man in the High Castle* and stars in the feature film *Mohawk*. Tiio loves her family, swimming, watching TV, pink (the colour) and Boodz her cat.

### **Selected quotes from the episode**

"I was hitchhiking and taking the Greyhound from Halifax right out to Tofino, BC, and this was literally just a month and a half before my sister Loretta was murdered, she was texting me, she was like, "What are you doing, Delilah? This is not just one Aboriginal woman or girl. This is being considered a national epidemic."

**-Delilah Saunders, Goose Bay**

"I like when the younger generation take the lead, but respect the old ways, and honour, to honour the old ways. It doesn't mean that we have to go back, but they have to have the knowledge of everything, of their own culture. Their own family history."

**-Sarah Ponniuk, Nain**

### **Participants**

Delilah Saunders, Clayton Saunders, Miriam Saunders, Beni Ittulat, Sarah Ponniuk, Becky Michelin, Silpa Obed, Gordon Obed, Johannes Lampe, Rutie Lampe, Kim Oliver, Brooke Flowers

## **UASHAT MAK MANI-UTENAM**

### **One of five podcasts entitled "Truth Sharing"**



### A word from the director

My name is Eve Ringuette. I have had the privilege of having discussions with people from my community about issues that have had a negative impact and that, unfortunately, are still a part of the daily lives for First Nations across Canada. We focused on the reasons for the unhappiness present among our people and the efforts that we can make to bring about changes. It is my pleasure to share with you these testimonies from resilient people, who are full of strength and who maintain hope that life in their communities will improve for our future generations.

**-Eve Ringuette, writer and director**

### About the director

Eve Ringuette is an Innu from Uashat mak Mani-Utenam. She started in the world of cinema in 2010 in the feature film *Mesnak* and then acted in the film *Le dep* in 2015, both of which earned her best actress awards at the American Indian Film Festival. She wrote a few scripts for the web series *Police sans réserve* while playing Agent Vollant. From 2014 to 2018, she worked behind the camera as a production manager at Nish Media. She is now back in her community to refocus on her culture, her family and make crafts and paintings, which were her first love in the arts.

### Excerpts from the episode

I want to do action. I feel strong and equipped enough and strong enough now that I am taking these steps toward healing. I also want to save my community or the other communities. [Translation]

**-Manishan Kapesh, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam**

I cannot imagine the strength of our future generations. They will be stronger than us. We started our militancy when we were a little destabilized but they will be even stronger than us. I am convinced of that. [Translation]

**-Shan Dak Vollant, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam**

### Participants

Manishan Kapesh, Éric Pilot, Jean-François Michael, Doris Ambroise, Normand Ambroise, Nancy Jourdain, Florence Jourdain, Shan Dak Vollant, Jenny Régis and Jeannette Vollant

### The Prairies and Métis Nation One of five Truth Sharing Podcasts

### A word from the director

For this podcast, I had the privilege of speaking with people of the Metis Nation and others who often feel they live on the outskirts of our society. They have lived through unimaginable heartache and sadness and despite overwhelming adversity, they are still willing to knowingly go into places of anguish, grief and sorrow because they have hope. They dream of a world where what they've suffered through and fought hard for matters. Where the battles they've fought count for something and can help change things for those who follow. I am honoured to be trusted with their stories. My sincere hope is that you will feel as privileged as I do to be welcomed into this sacred space and that you will be moved to action.

**-Monique Hurteau, Writer / Director**



### Selected quotes from the episode

"No one around me was talking about missing and murdered Indigenous women, no one took it seriously, no one wanted to talk about it. Eventually I had enough and realized that the people around me really needed to start hearing about what was happening. That ended up being running 115 kilometers in four days, for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and I named that, the MMIW Journey Of Hope. I ran from my community of St. Laurent, Manitoba, to the Missing and Murdered Monument at The Forks in Winnipeg. The route I ran passed through where I was raised, where I grew up, where I went to school, where I live now, and that was important for me because that route specifically traced who I am as an Indigenous woman, and if I ever become a statistic in this tragedy then that's how I want to be remembered, by the places that represent me."

**-Tracie Léost, St. Laurent, Manitoba**

"I met the women that were starting back 50 years ago in downtown east side in Vancouver. And I heard stories of women just disappearing when I was a kid. People would come back from the city and they would talk about some relative and say, "She's gone." And so it was very important and powerful when I heard about Gladys Radek and all of these women that were standing in solidarity and support for our women that are so discarded.

**-Tantoo Cardinal**

### **Participants**

Tracie Léost, Donna Lerat, Marcel Lerat, Darlene Rose, Jack Saddleback, Troy Cooper, Tantoo Cardinal

## **BC – THE HIGHWAY of TEARS** **One of five Truth Sharing Podcasts**

### **A word from the director**

My name is Monique Hurteau. I'm a producer, writer, director, personal trainer, teacher and stand-up comedian. Over the last 15 years, I have worked with and performed for Indigenous peoples across Canada, offering my teachings and trying to bring healing where I could. For this podcast, I had the honour of bearing witness to the words of those who have lived through unspeakable tragedy and despite what they have experienced, they are still willing to walk into pain, grief and loss because they have hope. Hope that by sharing what they've seen, heard, cried about and fought for can change things for the better. I am honoured to be trusted with their stories. My sincere hope is that you will feel as privileged as I do to be let into this sacred space and that you will be moved to action.

**-Monique Hurteau, Writer / Director**

### **About the director**

**Monique Hurteau** is a Cree, Ojibway, Métis, French woman whose interdisciplinary practice spans from writing, Film/TV, stand-up comedy, health + wellness, to painting and visual arts. Even her writing crosses diverse mediums and spaces including the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, the Indigenous Music Awards and most recently CBC's The Debaters. Monique wrote, produced + co-directed, Chasing Lear, a documentary which culminated in the first all-Native Shakespeare on an A-house main stage in Canadian history. Her artwork can be found in collections across Canada, the US and the UK and on the cover of a Governor General award-winner's latest book, "Thanks For Giving" by Kevin Loring.



### Selected quotes from episode

"Just in my lifetime I've known a lot of women who have gone missing. There's so many... I made notes so that I don't forget. My cousin Cecilia Nikal went missing in 1989 she was 15, my cousin Delphine Nikal went missing in 1990 she was 16, we still haven't found either of them. My friend Ramona Wilson went missing in 1994, she was 16 and we found her a year later. Jessica Patrick was 18 and she went missing last year and we found her a few months later. Destiny Rae Tom was 21 and she was murdered in 2013."

**-Juanita Nikal, Cheslatta Carrier Nation**

"In my community in the Downtown Eastside, I've been a frontline worker. I've been involved since 1986 with the murdered and missing women. I feel safer in my community. These people are as real as you and I are sitting here. I've been asked several times, like, why do I do this work, and I can honestly tell you, one thing is that when I couldn't love myself, these people did. They helped me. They used to run me off the streets. I left from Haida Gwaii very young. I grew up in the streets. I was sold to the sex trade work in Prince Rupert, made my way down here."

**-Grandma Bernie Williams, Vancouver, BC**

### **Participants**

Juanita Nikal, Lorna Brown, Marlene Jack, Matilda Wilson, Brenda Wilson, Grandma Bernie Williams, Linda Epp, Deb McCooley, Colleen Austin, Melynee McDames, Annalee Parker