

## Award Winning Documentary Comes to Toronto Female Eye Film Festival

**(July 20, 2023) Tkaronto (Toronto), Ontario** – *The Nature of Healing* and its cast of Survivors were honoured with a prestigious Special Jury Award at the Weengushk International Film Festival on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> after the Canadian Premiere of the film.

This full-feature documentary is the spoken Truth of seven Survivors of the Mohawk Institute, Canada's first and longest running Indian residential school. From victim, to Survivor to activist, this is a story of resistance, resilience and healing. The Elders, Grandfathers and Grandmothers who speak do so not only for themselves, but for the thousands of children across Turtle Island who never could.

Four of the Survivors featured in the film were in attendance on Manitoulin Island last weekend, Elder John Elliott, Grandmothers Dawn Hill, Roberta Hill and Sherlene Bomberry, along with Director and Producer Faith Howe and Producer Michael Howe.

"This was one of the best gatherings I have ever attended," said Grandmother Dawn Hill.

"It was really important we worked on this together," said Faith Howe. "This isn't my story to tell – it's theirs. I knew my Great Grandmother was there, but I don't have the lived experience. This is an essential moment in history to listen with our minds and hearts, while Survivors are here and willing to speak with us. We are extremely fortunate to be in the presence of such wisdom and grace. Not only do they speak about their childhood horrors, but they lead us on pathways of healing."

*The Nature of Healing* screened at the Arizona International Film Festival last April, where it received a standing ovation and was selected for the Bridging Cultures Special Jury Award.

"If you are fortunate enough to attend a Q&A with People from the film, drop everything and attend," said the organizers of the Arizona International Film Festival.

The documentary began as a conversation about the Mohawk Village Memorial Park, a project built by the Survivors of the film over the past 10 years. JamLab Productions first documentary, *The Nature of Healing* speaks about the need to complete the park in commemoration of the 15,000 children who were taken from more than 60 communities – losing their families, communities, cultures, identities, and for some, their lives.



*The Nature of Healing* has been selected to open the Female Eye International Film Festival, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 5 p.m. at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Centre. The festival and film will open with a Traditional Ceremony. The documentary will also play July 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m., at the Three Fires International Film Festival at River Mill Park, Huntsville.

The 139 residential schools, operated in partnership with the Canadian Government and Churches were Canada's sanctioned system of dehumanization, neglect, brutality and child abuse in order to obliterate the Red Nation footprint.

For Tickets <https://www.thefemaleeyefilmfestival.com/wednesday-july-26> and <https://3fiff.ca/>

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