



## MEDIA RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

### **SASKFILM, NFB, CBC TELEVISION AND SCN ANNOUNCE THE FOUR SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS SELECTED TO PRODUCE SHORT FILMS FOR *FIRST STORIES: SASKATCHEWAN***

**July 11, 2006 (Regina, SK)** – The NFB Prairie Centre, CBC Television, SCN and SaskFilm are pleased to announce the four successful participants selected to produce short films through **First Stories: Saskatchewan**, a free initiative developed for emerging Aboriginal filmmakers interested in documentary filmmaking in Saskatchewan.

“The jury was very impressed with the quality and originality of the story ideas from the program participants,” says NFB producer Joe MacDonald on behalf of the program partners. “Although we could only select four participants due to budgetary reasons, the NFB, SaskFilm, CBC Television and SCN will continue to encourage and assist the remaining filmmakers to bring their stories to life in any way we can.”

Following a week of workshops, training initiatives, screenings and guest speakers held in conjunction with the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival, each of the **First Stories: Saskatchewan** participants pitched their story ideas to compete for the opportunity to produce a short film in Saskatchewan. With production support, financial resources and mentorship provided from the program partners, the four selected filmmakers will produce a five minute short film by the end of 2006.

The **First Stories: Saskatchewan** filmmakers are:

#### **Tessa Desnomie – “From Branches to Wet Jets” (Peepeekisis First Nation, SK)**

Tessa interests lie in documentary filmmaking, songwriting and research relating to the life of her maternal grandmother Jane Merasty. She aspires to creatively express narratives that are thoughtful, interesting and inspiring. It is through filmmaking, songwriting and research she intends to learn and develop the craft of becoming a better storyteller.

#### **Cory Generoux - “The Power of a Horse” (Regina, SK)**

Twenty-seven year old filmmaker Cory Generoux hails from the Sturgeon Lake Reserve outside Prince Albert. Cory has been working in the broadcast and film industry for five years and graduated with a Diploma in Media Arts. Cory is currently a self-employed freelancer under his newly formed company Cree Thunder Entertainment. He has produced several short films and is currently developing a six-part series based on his most recent production.

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**Paul John Swiderski - "Oh, Mother Where Art Thou" (Yorkton, SK)**

Born in Yorkton and raised and schooled in Quill Lake, Paul studied arts and science at St. Peter's College in Muenster and at the University of Saskatchewan. He then pursued an education in film studies at SIAST in Prince Albert and recently completed his film production diploma from Vancouver Film School.

**Janine Windolph – "Lifegivers: Honouring our Grandmothers and Children" (Regina, SK)**

Janine hails from La Ronge with her reserve in Waswanipi, Quebec. She recently completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Video from the University of Regina and aspires to have a career as a writer, director and producer of documentaries and experimental films. Janine would eventually like to start her own production company that would provide an opportunity for young filmmakers to learn about the industry.

**About First Stories: Saskatchewan**

Based on successful **First Stories** programs mounted in Manitoba and Alberta, the NFB Prairie Centre, SaskFilm, CBC Television and SCN joined forces to offer the first Aboriginal filmmaking program in Saskatchewan. The program invites Aboriginal filmmakers to tell the stories that are important to them and their communities.

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