



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

National Film Board of Canada film collection

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2023

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	National Film Board of Canada film collection
Date:	1951-1983
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.438
Creator:	National Film Board of Canada
Extent:	125 Film reels (16mm)
Language:	English , French .
Summary:	This collection includes 83 films (125 reels) produced by the National Film Board of Canada between 1951 and 1983. The films in this collection document the historical and contemporary lives of Indigenous peoples in Canada. This includes films produced by the Indian Film Crew (IFC) and members of the Indian Film Training Program (IFTP), Indigenous filmmakers telling their own stories on the screen between 1968 and 1973.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of the National Film Board of Canada (NFBC) to the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation Film and Video Center, 1985.

Processing Information

Processed by Rachel Menyuk, Processing Archivist, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); National Film Board of Canada film collection, film #, NMAI.AC.438; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Collection is closed until the materials have been digitized. Many of the films can be accessed online through the National Film Board of Canada's [website](#) .

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center. Please submit a written request to nmaiphotos@si.edu. For personal or classroom use, users are invited to download, print, photocopy, and distribute the images that are available online without prior written permission, provided that the files are not modified in any way, the Smithsonian Institution copyright notice (where applicable) is included, and the source of the image is identified as the National Museum of the American Indian. For more information please see the Smithsonian's [Terms of Use](#) and NMAI Archive Center's [Digital Image request](#) website.

National Film Board of Canada (NFB)

The National Film Board of Canada's film collection comprises over 13,000 titles, available in English and in French. This imposing archive consists of social documentaries in a range of styles, Second World War propaganda films, newsreels or newsmagazines, and sponsored films commissioned by other federal government departments. It also includes experimental films, Web documentaries, interactive productions, and auteur animation created with an endless variety of animation techniques (some developed entirely or partly at the NFB), as well as short- and feature-length dramas made for television or theatrical release. The NFB collection reflects more than 75 years of Canadian history, from the founding of the NFB in 1939 to the present day. Through their works, the NFB's filmmakers—whether seasoned veterans or emerging directors, Indigenous people, members of Canada's cultural or linguistic minorities or English- or French-speaking majority—document social issues and the concerns and lives of Canadians in every region of the country, and of people around the world, from authentically Canadian perspectives. Over the years, the films in the NFB collection have garnered more than 5,000 awards and honours, including 5 Palmes d'or at Cannes and 12 Oscars.

<http://onf-nfb.gc.ca/en/our-collection/> (accessed 3/10/2023)

Scope and Contents

This collection includes 83 films (125 16mm reels) produced by the National Film Board of Canada (NFBC) between 1951 and 1983. Many of the collection films are documentaries and range from 2 minutes in length to 75 minutes in length.

Filmmakers in this collection include: Alan Collins, Alanis Obomsawin (Abenaki), Allan Wargon, Anne MacLeod, Austin Campbell, Bernard Gosselin, Bill Reid, Caroline Leaf, Co Hoedeman, Colin Browne, Colin Low, John Spotton, Cynthia Scott, Dalton Muir, David Bairstow, David Hughes, Derek May, Don Owen, Donald Brittain, Douglas Wilkinson, Duke Redbird (Ojibwa), Henning Jacobsen, Ernest Reid, Eugene Boyko, Gilles Blais, Harvey Spak, Henning Jacobsen, Ian McLaren, J.V. Durden, Jacques Godbout, Francoise Bujold, Joan Henson, John Feeney, John Gould, Kathleen Shannon, Ken Buck, Laurence Hyde, Marcel Carrière, Martin Defalco, Martin Duckworth, Martine Defalco, Willie Dunn, Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell (Mohawk [Akwesasne]), Michael Scott, Michel Régnier, Mosha Michael (Inuit), Norma Bailey, Bob Lower, Pierre Hebert, Quentin Brown, René Bonnière, Pierre Perrault, Richard Gilbert, Jack Ofield, Robert Young, Roger Hart, Terence Macartney-Filgate, Tom Shandel, Tony Ianzelo, Anthony Kent, Willie Dunn (Mi'kmaq/Scottish).

These films were made among and about First Nations and Indigenous communities across Canada including the Saulteaux, Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa), Inuit, Mi'kmaq, Cree, Mohawk, Kainai Blackfoot, Attikamekw, Innu, and Métis communities.

Content Warning

Please note that these film reflect the context and culture of the time of their creation and includes what is considered derogatory and harmful language today, specifically the term "Eskimo." The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Arrangement

Arranged by catalog number (#300-1 to #383-1)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Animation (Cinematography)
- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Attikamekw (Tete De Boule Cree)
- Cree
- Innu
- Inuit
- Kainai Blackfoot (Kainah/Blood)
- Mi'kmaq
- Mohawk
- Métis
- Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)
- Saulteaux

Cultures:

- Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)
- Attikamekw (Tete De Boule Cree)
- Cree
- Innu
- Inuit
- Kainai Blackfoot (Kainah/Blood)
- Mohawk
- Métis
- Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)
- Saulteaux

Types of Materials:

- Documentary films

Container Listing

#300-1: Nonoonse: Anishinabe Ischickewin Ka Kanawentank, 1980
1 Film reel (16mm, 10 min, 17 sec)

Notes: Western pioneers knew that sugar could be made from the sap of the Manitoba maple. But the trees were small, the sap was thin, and the tastier product of Québec and Ontario was cheap and easy to get. The settler soon turned away from the arduous annual harvest and the Manitoba maple became just another tree. But not for Nonoonse. Forty years ago her grandmother brought her to Sugar Island. Since then she has returned every spring to gather the sweet sap. Filmed on Lake Manitoba, near the Ebb'n'Flow Reserve, Nonoonse is both a clear description of sugar-making and a quiet statement on the importance of the tradition to the Saultaux of the region. (Bilingual: English and Saulteaux.)

NFB Website: [Nonoonse: Anishinabe Ischickewin Ka Kanawentank](#) .

Other number: 0686-501

Culture: Saulteaux

#301-1, #301-2: The Other Side of the Ledger: An Indian View of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1972
2 Film reels (16mm, 43 min, 11 sec)

Director: Dunn, Willie
Defalco, Martin

Notes: The Hudson's Bay Company's 300th-anniversary celebration in 1970 was no occasion for joy among the people whose lives were tied to the trading stores. Narrated by George Manuel, then president of the National Indian Brotherhood, this landmark film presents Indigenous perspectives on the company whose fur-trading empire drove colonization across vast tracts of land in central, western and northern Canada. There is a sharp contrast between the official celebrations, with Queen Elizabeth II among the guests, and what Indigenous people have to say about their lot in the Company's operations. Released in 1972, the film was co-directed by Martin Defalco and Willie Dunn—a member of the historic Indian Film Crew, an all-Indigenous production unit established at the NFB in 1968.

NFB Website (Streaming): [The Other Side of the Ledger: An Indian View of the Hudson's Bay Company](#) .

Other number: 1155-501/502

#302-1: Rice Harvest, 1980
1 Film reel (16mm, 11 min, 40 sec)

Director: Bailey, Norma, 1949-
Lower, Robert, 1946-

Notes: This short documentary explores how the First Nations staple of wild rice is exported as a luxury food thanks in part to bush pilots. Follow the families of the Pauingassi band as

they comb the reedy shores with brooms, paddles and baskets for manomim (wild rice).

NFB Website (streaming): [Rice Harvest](#) .

Other number: 0807-501

Culture: Anishinaabe (Chippewa/Ojibwa)

#303-1: Some Natives of Churchill, 1973

1 Film reel (16mm, 27 min, 13 sec)

Director: Scott, Cynthia, 1939-

Notes: This short documentary zooms in on Churchill, Manitoba, on the western curve of Hudson Bay. The town boomed for a while after it became the railhead seaport for the shipment of Prairie grain. It also changed the way of life of the First Nations and Inuit population. "Four levels of government," says one, "and the town's biggest industry is the liquor store." In this film, local inhabitants say what they think of the changes and why they decided to stay when others moved on.

NFB Website (streaming): [Some Natives of Churchill](#) .

Other number: 0878-501

Culture: Inuit

#304-1, #304-2: People Might Laugh at Us, 1964

2 Film reels (16mm, 9 min, 15 sec)

Director: Godbout, Jacques, 1933-
Bojold, Françoise, 1933-1981

Notes: On the Maria reserve in the Baie des Chaleurs region of Québec, Mi'kmaq children make birds and dolls of brightly coloured paper, which they hang in trees. But they are reluctant to have visitors see them, claiming, 'People might laugh at us.' The film is without comment except for the background music.

NFB Website (streaming): [People Might Laugh at Us](#) .

Other number: 0735-501/502

Culture: Mi'kmaq (Micmac)

#305-1, #305-2, #305-3, #305-4: Temiscaming, Quebec (2 parts), 1975

4 Film reels (16mm, 64 min, 10 sec)

Director: Duckworth, Martin (Cinematographer)

Notes: *Temiscaming, Québec* is the story of a town's struggle to survive after its main source of employment, the CIP mill, closed down. Part I tells what steps the workers, townspeople and ex-CIP managers took to reopen a mill co-owned and co-managed by the workers; Part II explains the new corporate ownership of the mill, how it works, and its growing pains. This is a film about ownership of the Canadian economy, industrial democracy.

NFB Website (streaming): [Temiscaming, Quebec](#) .

Other number: 0918-501/502

#306-1, #306-2: High Steel, 1965

2 Film reels (16mm, 13 min, 41 sec)

Director: Owen, Don

Notes: This short documentary offers a dizzying view of the Mohawk of Kahnawake who work in Manhattan erecting the steel frames of skyscrapers. Famed for their skill in working with steel, the Mohawks demonstrate their nimble abilities in the sky. As a counterbalance, the viewer is also allowed a peek at their quieter community life on the Kahnawake Reserve, in Quebec.
NFB Website (streaming): [High Steel](#) .
Other number: 0399-501/502

Culture: Mohawk [Kahnawake (Caughnawaga)]

#307-1: Pikangikum, 1967
1 Film reel (16mm, 9 min, 23 sec)
Director: Gould, John Howard
Notes: In this film, made originally for theatrical use, the mood of the Pikangikum Indian Reserve in northern Ontario is evoked through snatches of dialogue and drawings by John Gould.
NFB Website: [Pikangikum](#)
Other number: 1151-501

Culture: Ontario Ojibwe

#308-1: Cree Way, 1977
1 Film reel (16mm, 26 min, 18 sec)
Director: Lanzelo, Tony
Notes: This short documentary examines an innovative educational program developed by John and Gerti Murdoch to teach Cree children their language via Cree folklore, photographs, artifacts, and books that were written and printed in the community.
NFB Website (streaming): [Cree Way](#) .
Other number: 1154-501

Culture: Cree

#309-1: The Beauty of My People, 1977
1 Film reel (16mm, 29 min, 12 sec)
Director: Collins, Alan (Film editor)
Notes: The film centres on Arthur Shilling, an Ojibwa artist from the Rama Reserve on Lake Couchiching, Ontario. Shilling's artistic evolution is traced, as is his move to Toronto and the difficulties he encountered there. Also discussed is the illness that caused Shilling to re-evaluate his artistic goals. Interviews with the artist and others interested in his paintings are juxtaposed with examples of paintings.
NFB Website (streaming): [The Beauty of My People](#) .
Other number: 1149-501

Names: Shilling, Arthur, 1941-1986
Culture: Anishinaabe [Rama Reserve, Ontario]

#310-1: The Paradox of Norval Morrisseau, 1974
1 Film reel (16mm, 28 min)
Director: Redbird, Duke, 1939-
Jacobsen, Henning

Notes: In this revealing study of Norval Morrisseau, filmed as he works among the lakes and woodlands of his ancestors, we see a remarkable Indigenous artist who emerged from a life of obscurity in the North American bush to become one of Canada's most renowned painters. Morrisseau the man is much like his paintings: vital and passionate, torn between his Ojibway heritage and the influences of the white man's world. Jack Pollock, the Toronto art gallery owner who discovered Morrisseau's paintings in the early 1960s, comments on what makes them so unique.
NFB Website (streaming): [The Paradox of Norval Morrisseau](#) .
Other number: 0723-501

Names: Morrisseau, Norval
Culture: Anishinaabe [Sand Point, Ontario]

#311-1, #311-2: Circle of the Sun, 1960
2 Film reels (16mm, 29 min, 13 sec)
Director: Low, Colin
Notes: This short documentary by Colin Low is an invitation to a gathering of the Káínaa of Alberta - as the Sun Dance is captured on film for the first time. The film shows how the theme of the circle reflects the bands' connection to wildlife and also addresses the predicament of the young generation, those who have relinquished their ties with their own culture but have not yet found a firm place in a changing world.
NFB Website (streaming): [Circle of the Sun](#) .
Other number: 0184-501/502

Culture: Kainai Blackfoot (Kainah/Blood)

#312-1, #312-2: Cesar's Bark Canoe, 1971
2 Film reels (16mm, 57 min, 52 sec)
Director: Gosselin, Bernard, 1934-2006
Notes: This documentary shows how a canoe is built the old way. César Newashish, a 67-year-old Atikamekw of the Manawan Reserve north of Montreal, uses only birchbark, cedar splints, spruce roots and gum. Building a canoe solely from the materials that the forest provides may become a lost art, even among the Indigenous peoples whose traditional craft it is. The film is without commentary but text frames appear on the screen in Cree, French and English.
NFB Website (streaming): [Cesar's Bark Canoe](#)
Other number: 0167-501

Culture: Attikamekw (Tete De Boule Cree)

#313-1: A Pinto for the Prince, 1979
1 Film reel (16mm, 16 min, 40 sec)
Director: Low, Colin
Spotton, John
Notes: In 1977, Prince Charles was inducted as honorary chief of the Káínaa on their reserve in southwestern Alberta. The ceremony, conducted in the great Circle of the Sun Dance, commemorated

the centennial anniversary of the original signing of Treaty 7 by Queen Victoria.

NFB Website (streaming): [A Pinto for the Prince](#)

Other number: 0745-501

Culture: Kainai Blackfoot (Kainah/Blood)

#314-1: Trail Ride, 1964

2 Film reels (16mm, 20 min, 12 sec)

Director: Reid, Ernest

Notes: Boys from the city get a taste of the life of a cowboy. The film catches the enthusiasm and humour of this Alberta riding holiday in which 'tenderfeet' quickly become horsemen, ride herd, help brand calves and, best of all, spend a night in the teepees of the Kainai (Blood).

NFB Website (streaming): [Trail Ride](#)

Other number: 0971-501/502

Culture: Kainai Blackfoot (Kainah/Blood)

#315-1, #315-2, #315-3, #315-4, #315-5, #315-6: Cold Journey, 1975

6 Film reels (16mm, 75 min, 29 sec)

Director: Defalco, Martin

Notes: Fifteen-year-old Buckley (Buckley Petawabano) attends residential school, where he longs for his home and dreams of fishing and hunting. Yet when he returns to the reserve for the summer he feels like a stranger, unable to speak his Cree language or live off the land like his father and brothers. Johnny (Johnny Yesno), an Indigenous caretaker at the school, takes Buckley under his wing, introducing him to Indigenous history, culture, and knowledge. After finding Buckley's frozen body in the snow, Johnny pieces together the events of the boy's short life and tragic death, which left him unable to find a place for himself between the white and Indigenous worlds

NFB Website (streaming): [Cold Journey](#)

Other number: 0192-501/502

Culture: Cree

#316-1: The People at Dipper, 1966

1 Film reel (16mm, 18 min, 22 sec)

Creator: Gilbert, Richard, 1924-

Director: Ofield, Jack

Notes: This short documentary from 1966 shows life in the Chipewyan community on a reserve in Northern Saskatchewan, where new ways of living don't conflict with traditional activities. You'll meet Moise MacIntyre, who is satisfied living along the lake with its fish and the game in the nearby woods, despite having the opportunity to leave. Free from the burden of having to succeed in the traditional sense of financial earnings, these people have created a sense of community that more than makes up for what they may otherwise lack.

NFB Website (streaming): [The People at Dipper](#)

Other number: 0734-501
Culture: Denésoliné (Chipewyan)

#317-1: PowWow at Duck Lake, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 30 sec)

Notes: This powerful short documentary showing Indigenous youth resistance and emerging voices that will continue to define the landscape of Indigenous cultural and political activism for the next generation. Members of the National Youth Council, including Duke Redbird and Harold Cardinal, have a powerful exchange with a hostile white priest about the failures of the education system in relation to Indigenous people. The group tackles issues including segregated residential schools, the denial of citizenship rights, loss of language, and mass incarceration, many of which persist or continue to be stumbling blocks in the relationship between Indigenous people and the Government of Canada today.

NFB Website (streaming): [PowWow at Duck Lake](#)

Other number: 0761-501

Names: Redbird, Duke, 1939-

#318-1: Starblanket, 1973

1 Film reel (16mm, 27 min, 20 sec)

Director: Brittain, Donald

Notes: At twenty-six, Noel Starblanket was one of the youngest Indigenous chiefs in North America--twice elected chief of the Starblanket Reserve, and also elected vice-president of all-Saskatchewan Indigenous organization. His great-grandfather's advice was to "learn the wit and cunning of the White man." That he did. Here he is seen in action, a chief with a briefcase, working with government officials for grants, running for public office, talking down his opposition, and solving the domestic problems of his reserve.

NFB Website (streaming): [Starblanket](#)

Other number: 1157-501

Names: Starblanket, Noel, 1946-2019

Culture: Cree

#319-1: Standing Buffalo, 1968

1 Film reel (16mm, 22 min, 16 sec)

Director: Henson, Joan

Notes: This short film from the late 1960s depicts a rug-making cooperative organized by the Sioux women of the Standing Buffalo Reserve in the Qu'Appelle Valley of southern Saskatchewan. The members of this band are descended from a tribe that migrated from Minnesota during armed clashes over a hundred years ago. The Sioux, noted for their distinctive, colourful designs, show off their handicraft in great detail.

NFB Website (streaming): [Standing Buffalo](#)

Other number: 1259-501

Culture: Canadian Dakota (Eastern Sioux)

#320-1, #320-2: Pamiat, Memory of Ancestors, 1981

2 Film reels (16mm, 30 min, 40 sec)

Director: Spak, Harvey

Notes: Pamiat chronicles the personal myths of Harvey Spak, a western Canadian filmmaker. He is the grandchild of early settlers who left the steppes of eastern Europe to find a new home on the northern plains. The film depicts the journey of a man who moves from a rural Ukrainian community to a French religious order in Saskatchewan's Qu'Appelle Valley. Like his Ukrainian ancestors before him, "who left old world tyrannies," the protagonist anticipates the downfall of his familiar surroundings and chooses to leave the order.

NFB Website: [Pamiat, Memory of Ancestors](#)

Other number: 0720-501/502

#321-1: Behind the Masks, 1973

1 Film reel (16mm, 36 min, 40 sec)

Director: Shandel, Thomas

Notes: This short documentary takes a fascinating look at the meaning behind some Indigenous masks from the North Pacific coast. Our guide is professor Claude Levi-Strauss of Paris, a world-renowned anthropologist and authority on the structural analysis of myth. He explains the significant features of 3 masks, and the stories behind them, while also visiting an Indigenous carver on Vancouver Island.

NFB Website (streaming): [Behind the Masks](#)

Other number: 0114-501

Names: Levi-Strauss, Claude

#322-1: A Visit From Captain Cook, 1980

1 Film reel (16mm, 15 min, 22 sec)

Director: Browne, Colin, 1946-

Notes: When world-famous explorer James Cook took to the high seas in the 1700s he had ships' artists accompany him to record first-hand the people and events in the far-away lands he visited. Cook's stopovers among the Nootka nation on the west coast of Vancouver Island are featured in this film that uses old paintings to recreate his search for a northwest passage to the Orient.

NFB Website (streaming): [A Visit From Captain Cook](#)

Other number: 0205-501

Names: Cook, James, 1728-1779

Culture: Nuu-chah-nulth (Nootka)

#323-1, #323-2: Mother of Many Children, 1977

2 Film reels (16mm, 57 min, 50 sec)

Director: Obomsawin, Alanis

Notes: In her first feature-length documentary, released in 1977, Alanis Obomsawin honours the central place of women and mothers within Indigenous cultures. An album of Indigenous

womanhood, the film portrays proud matriarchal cultures that for centuries have been pressured to adopt the standards and customs of the dominant society. Tracing the cycle of Indigenous women's lives from birth to childhood, puberty, young adulthood, maturity and old age, the film reveals how Indigenous women have fought to regain a sense of equality, instilled cultural pride in their children and passed on their stories and language to new generations.

NFB Website (streaming): [Mother of Many Children](#)

Other number: 0648-501

Culture: Abenaki (Abnaki)

#324-1, #324-2: Christmas at Moose Factory, 1971

2 Film reels (16mm, 13 min, 7 sec)

Director: Obomsawin, Alanis

Notes: Released in 1971, this lyrical short documentary marked the directorial debut of legendary Abenaki director Alanis Obomsawin. Filmed at a residential school in northern Ontario, it is composed entirely of drawings by young Cree children and stories told by the children themselves. Listening has been at the core of Obomsawin's practice since the very beginning. "Documentary film," she said in a 2017 interview, "is the one place that our people can speak for themselves. I feel that the documentaries that I've been working on have been very valuable for the people, for our people to look at ourselves... and through that be able to make changes that really count for the future of our children to come."

NFB Website (streaming): [Christmas at Moose Factory](#)

Other number: 0180-501/502

Culture: Abenaki (Abnaki)

Cree

#325-1: The Colours of Pride, 1973

1 Film reel (16mm, 27 min, 40 sec)

Director: Jacobsen, Henning

Notes: An introduction to four Indigenous painters whose work in recent years has stirred interest in Canada and abroad. Despite the artists' differing styles and origins, their canvases reflect their common heritage. The guide in the film is Tom Hill, a Seneca man who knows art and the Indigenous tradition and encourages his subjects to talk about their own origins and objectives. The painters are Norval Morrisseau, Allen Sapp, Alex Janvier, and Daphne Odjig.

NFB Website (streaming): [The Colours of Pride](#)

Other number: 0995-501

Names: Morrisseau, Norval

Sapp, Allen, 1928-2015

Janvier, Alex, 1935-

Odjig, Daphne, 1919-2016

Hill, Thomas Vernon

Culture: Cree

Seneca

#326-1, #326-2: You are on Indian Land, 1969

2 Film reels (16mm, 38 min, 48 sec)

Director: Mitchell, Michael Kanentakeron

Notes: Released in 1969, this short documentary was one of the most influential and widely distributed productions made by the Indian Film Crew (IFC), the first all-Indigenous unit at the NFB. It documents a 1969 protest by the Kanien'kéhaka (Mohawk) of Akwesasne, a territory that straddles the Canada–U.S. border. When Canadian authorities prohibited the duty-free cross-border passage of personal purchases—a right established by the Jay Treaty of 1794—Kanien'kéhaka protesters blocked the international bridge between Ontario and New York State. Director Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell later became Grand Chief of Akwesasne. The film was formally credited to him in 2017. You Are on Indian Land screened extensively across the continent, helping to mobilize a new wave of Indigenous activism. It notably was shown at the 1970 occupation of Alcatraz.

NFB Website (streaming): [You are on Indian Land](#)

Other number: 1091-501/502

Culture: Mohawk

#327-1, #327-2: Who Were the Ones?, 1972

2 Film reels (16mm, 7 min, 28 sec)

Director: Mitchell, Michael Kanentakeron

Notes: This short film was created by a group of Indigenous filmmakers at the NFB in 1972 and is essentially a song by Willie Dunn sung by Bob Charlie and illustrated by John Fadden: "Who were the ones who bid you welcome and took you by the hand, inviting you here by our campfires, as brothers we might stand?"

NFB Website (streaming): [Who Were the Ones?](#)

Other number: 1065-501/502

#328-1, #328-2: The Red Dress, 1978

2 Film reels (16mm, 27 min)

Director: Scott, Michael (Michael J. F.)

Notes: Kelly is a Métis man without treaty or hunting rights, struggling to sustain his traditional life. His daughter Theresa longs for a red dress from France that she believes will give her power and strength, as the bear claw once did for her great-grandfather Muskwa. When Theresa escapes an assault and Kelly turns his back on his daughter, he realizes that he must reconnect with his culture in order to make things right. Today, the red dress is a powerful symbol recognizing over 1000 missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada

NFB Website (streaming): [The Red Dress](#)

Other number: 0795-501/502

Culture: Métis

#329-1: Indian Dialogue, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 27 min)

Notes: Leading Indigenous activists, thinkers and community organizers – including Harold Cardinal, Walter Dieter, Mary Ann Lavalley and Duke Redbird – have a frank conversation about the broken relationship between the Government of Canada and Indigenous people. Taking place in 1967, the discussion remains deeply resonant today, where the same issues persist. The group expertly parse the "unconscionable" treaty agreements, the intricacies of the Indian Act, and the political system as tools designed to prevent Indigenous self-determination and economic independence. They explore what it means to be "Indian", and offer radical new ideas for Indigenous self-governing policies, some of which were developed by individuals in this group, and others that are still being fought for today. This film was produced as part of Challenge for Change/Société Nouvelle (CFC/SN), a groundbreaking community engaged documentary program run by the NFB from 1967 to 1980. The program pioneered participatory and experimental storytelling in film and video, with a focus on the perspectives of Indigenous and marginalized communities whose voices were rarely represented in the media landscape. In 1968, the Challenge for Change program established the "Indian Film Crew", marking the beginning of a movement of Indigenous filmmaking at the NFB, and in Canada.

NFB Website (streaming): [Indian Dialogue](#)

Other number: 0457-501

Names: Redbird, Duke, 1939-
Cardinal, Harold, 1945-
Dieter, Walter, 1916-1988
Lavalley, Mary Anne

#330-1, #330-2: Age of the Buffalo, 1964

2 Film reels (16mm, 14 min)

Director: Campbell, Austin

Notes: A vivid recollection of the free west of the North American Indigenous Peoples and the vast herds of buffalo that once thundered across the plains. From paintings of the mid-1800s, the animation camera creates a most convincing picture of the buffalo hunt, both as the Indigenous People and, disastrously, the white hunters practised it.

NFB Website (streaming): [Age of the Buffalo](#)

Other number: 0034-501/502

#331-1: Charley Squash Goes to Town, 1969

1 Film reel (16mm, 5 min, 17 sec)

Director: Redbird, Duke, 1939-

Notes: Released in 1969, this satirical short by Duke Redbird was the first animated film by an Indigenous director to be produced at the NFB. The film pokes gentle fun at Indigenous stereotypes and challenges the idea that Indigenous youth should seek

to blend into mainstream society. Today, Duke Redbird is a prominent artist and scholar.

NFB Website (streaming): [Charley Squash Goes to Town](#)

Other number: 0170-501

#332-1, #332-2: Viking Visitors to North America, 1979

2 Film reels (16mm, 22 min, 55 sec)

Director: Lanzelo, Tony

Notes: Evidence of Viking presence in North America has challenged archaeologists and historians for years. Did the Vikings come to northern Canada nearly 1,000 years ago? Did they later migrate inland? This film explores the legends of the Viking visits to North America, which remain shrouded in mystery, but continue to be the subject of much debate.

NFB Website (streaming): [Viking Visitors to North America](#)

Other number: 1020-501/502

#333-1, #333-2: Voice of the Fugitive, 1978

2 Film reels (16mm, 28 min, 55 sec)

Director: Bonnière, René, 1928-

Notes: In the 1850s, Canada meant freedom for many escaped slaves, but the route known as the "underground railroad" was a dangerous one at the best of times. This drama tells the story of one group travelling the perilous route. It tells, too, of the people who could be trusted to help, and of the trackers and their dogs, who could cut off the lifeline to the border suddenly and very cruelly.

NFB Website: [Voice of the Fugitive](#)

Other number: 1478-501/502

#334-1: Labrador North, 1973

1 Film reel (16mm, 37 min, 30 sec)

Notes: This short documentary looks at the government relocation of the Labrador Inuit and the effects on their culture and social structures.

NFB Website (streaming): [Labrador North](#)

Other number: 0538-501

Culture: Labrador Inuit (Labrador Eskimo)

#335-1, #335-2: Grenfell of Labrador: The Great Adventure, 1977

2 Film reels (16mm, 56 min, 51 sec)

Director: Macartney-Filgate, Terence

Notes: Medical doctor, missionary, fund-raiser and eccentric, Wilfred Grenfell lived a life that sounds more like fiction than reality. Born in England in 1865, he became a Christian missionary and joined the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. In 1892 he began cruising the harsh coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador, giving medical services to people accustomed to one annual visit from a government physician. Grenfell went on to build hospitals, an orphanage and nursing stations, financing his many projects through lecture tours and social contacts. He

moved with ease among the poor and the powerful. A figure of many contrasts, he was considered a hero, social climber, publicity hound and saint. Pierre Berton wrote and narrates the commentary for this biographical sketch of an adventurous man much beloved in Labrador and Newfoundland.

NFB Website: [Grenfell of Labrador: The Great Adventure](#)

Other number: 0374-501

#336-1, #336-2: Attiuk, 1963

2 Film reels (16mm, 29 min, 27 sec)

Director: Bonnière, René, 1928-
Perrault, Pierre

Notes: The people of Unamenshipu (La Romaine), an Innu community in the Cote-Nord region of Quebec, are seen but not heard in this richly detailed documentary about the rituals surrounding an Innu caribou hunt. Released in 1960, it's one of 13 titles in Au Pays de Neufve-France, a series of poetic documentary shorts about life along the St-Lawrence River. Off-camera narration, written by Perrault, frames the Innu participants through an ethnographic lens. Co-directed by René Bonnière and Pierre Perrault, a founding figure of Quebec's cinéma direct movement.

NFB Website: [Attiuk](#)

Other number: 1257-501/502

Culture: Innu [Unaman Shipit (Romaine)]

#337-1, #337-2: Whalehead, 1963

2 Film reels (16mm, 29 min, 33 sec)

Director: Bonnière, René, 1928-
Perrault, Pierre

Notes: Shows Tête-à-la-Baleine, Québec, a village with a double life--one on the North Shore mainland during winter months, the other on mossy islands of the Gulf to which the entire population moves for summer fishing.

NFB Website: [Whalehead](#)

Other number: 1260-501/502

#338-1: Northern Games, 1981

1 Film reel (16mm, 25 min, 40 sec)

Director: Buck, Ken, 1944-

Notes: This documentary short depicts the traditional games of the Inuit as they are practised 800 km north of the Arctic Circle by youth in competition from communities across the North. The film describes the skills required to play them, the traditions behind the games, and the spirit of co-operation, as opposed to hard competition, that inspires the participants.

NFB Website (streaming): [Northern Games](#)

Other number: 0688-501

Culture: Inuit

#339-1, #339-2: The Netsilik Eskimo Today, 1972

2 Film reels (16mm, 17 min, 49 sec)

Notes: This film, made in 1972, shows the life of an Inuit family in the settlement of Kugaaruk (formerly Pelly Bay) inside the Arctic Circle. Under a federal government scheme, permanent heated housing, a school and a store are provided for the community. This film affords a glimpse of the Inuit adaptation to these changed conditions.

NFB Website: [The Netsilik Eskimo Today](#)

Other number: 1477-501/502

Culture: Inuit

#340-1: Eskimo Artist: Kenojuak, 1963

1 Film reel (16mm, 19 min, 49 sec)

Director: Feeney, John (Photographer)

Notes: This documentary shows how an Inuit artist's drawings are transferred to stone, printed and sold. Kenojuak Ashevak became the first woman involved with the printmaking co-operative in Cape Dorset. This film was nominated for the 1963 Documentary Short Subject Oscar®.

NFB Website (streaming): [Eskimo Artist: Kenojuak](#)

Other number: 0304-501

Names: Kenojuak, 1927-2016

Culture: Inuit

#341-1, #341-2, #341-3, #341-4: Living Stone, 1958

4 Film reels (16mm, 30 min, 30 sec)

Director: Feeney, John (Photographer)

Notes: This documentary shows the inspiration behind Inuit sculpture. The Inuit approach to the work is to release the image the artist sees imprisoned in the rough stone. The film centres on an old legend about the carving of the image of a sea spirit to bring food to a hungry camp.

NFB Website (streaming): [Living Stone](#)

Other number: 0050-501/502/503/504

Culture: Inuit

#342-1, #342-2, #342-3, #342-4: Sananguagat: Inuit Masterworks, 1974

4 Film reels (16mm, 24 min, 52 sec)

Director: May, Derek

Notes: An exhibition of Inuit carvings from public and private collections brought together by the Canadian Eskimo Arts Council. This is the true art of the Inuit, the expression in stone, ivory and bone of their life and the animal co-dwellers of their Arctic domain. Alternated with close-ups of the exhibits are views of the daily life in the Igloolik settlement of the Northwest Territories, where the outdoor scenes were filmed.

NFB Website: [Sananguagat: Inuit Masterworks](#)

Other number: 0837-501/502/503/504

Culture: Inuit

#343-1, #343-2: Building a Kayak: Part 1 & 2, 1967

2 Film reels (16mm, 64 min)

Director: Brown, Quentin

Notes: Filmed over a period of three years, from summer 1963 to the late winter of 1965, and released in 1967, the Netsilik series is about the traditional lifestyle of Netsilingmiut living in the area around Kugaaruk. In Part 1, the run-off is in full flow and the entire family lends a hand in building a new kayak. In Part 2, work on the kayak continues. More skins are soaked; ribs are split and shaped. Finally, the kayak is ready and the men take it out on the water for a test.

NFB Website (streaming): [Building a Kayak: Part 1](#)

NFB Website (streaming): [Building a Kayak: Part 2](#)

Other number: 0150-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#344-1: Whale Hunting (Qilaluganiatut), 1977

1 Film reel (16mm, 9 min, 35 sec)

Director: Michael, Mosha

Notes: An interesting and informative journey with six Inuit hunting for beluga whale near Iqaluit (formerly known as Frobisher / Frobisher Bay). We learn about the methods used in pursuing the whale and dividing the carcass. An original score features music and songs in Inuktitut by the filmmaker Mosha Michael himself.

NFB Website: [Whale Hunting \(Qilaluganiatut\)](#)

Other number: 1058-501

Culture: Inuit

#345-1, #345-2: The Eskimo: Fight for Life, 1970

2 Film reels (16mm, 51 min, 6 sec)

Director: Young, Robert M., 1924-

Notes: A record of the life of the Netsilingmiut in the area around Kugaaruk (formerly Pelly Bay) in the Canadian Arctic during their last migratory camp. This film was produced, with commentary, from footage filmed over a period of three years, from summer 1963 to the late winter of 1965, and released in 1967 for the Netsilik series. The series was an attempt to recreate the traditional lifestyle of Netsilingmiut. It shows some traditional Inuit culture, the communal life of the seal hunters and their families, and their complete relationship to their environment. (Adapted from the Netsilik Eskimos series.)

NFB Website: [The Eskimo: Fight for Life](#)

Other number: 0306-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#346-1: Death in the Spring, 1980

1 Film reel (16mm, 2 min, 47 sec)
Director: Macleod, C. Anne
Notes: In this animated short the artist tells the story of an Inuit hunter who clubs a seal pup on the ice and then later dies himself. The film's ethereal images are created and transformed in sand.
NFB Website: [Death in the Spring](#)
Other number: 0252-501
Culture: Inuit

#347-1: Animation from Cape Dorset, 1973
1 Film reel (16mm, 18 min, 52 sec)
Notes: Released in 1973, this collection assembles the first animated films to be made by Inuit artists at the NFB. Featured is work by Solomonie Pootoogook, Timmun Alariaq, Mathew Joanasia, and Itee Pootoogook Pilaloosie—all participants in the Kinngait (formerly Cape Dorset) Film Animation Workshop on Baffin Island, established to teach animation skills to local artists. The soundtrack features performances by Aggeok and Peter Pitseelok. Commentary is provided in a blend of Inuktitut and English.
NFB Website (streaming): [Animation from Cape Dorset](#)
Other number: 0062-501
Culture: Inuit

#348-1: Above the Timberline: The Alpine Tundra Zone, 1960
1 Film reel (16mm, 15 min, 20 sec)
Director: Durden, Joseph Valentine (J.V.)
Notes: Remote and baffling except to the most daring climbers, the high peaks are a world apart where only the most tenacious of living things endure. Forests give way to stunted vegetation and finally to the hardest of plants adapted to the rigours of cold and wind. Only animals such as the mountain goat and bighorn sheep are found here. In true-life colour this film presents an account of life at this specialized level.
NFB Website: [Above the Timberline: The Alpine Tundra Zone](#)
Other number: 0011-501

#349-2: The Accessible Arctic, 1967
1 Film reel (16mm, 23 min, 32 sec)
Director: Bairstow, David
Notes: Convincing evidence of the growing advance of industry and settlement in Canada's far north. New roads, railways and airfields have brought the once-isolated northern communities into the mainstream of Canadian life and progress. The film explains how this is being done and shows some of the people who are doing it. Among them are graduates of the new trade schools from Inuit and First Nations communities
NFB Website: [The Accessible Arctic](#)
Other number: 0029-501

#350-1: The Edge of the Barrens, 1964

1 Film reel (16mm, 13 min, 40 sec)

Director: Muir, Dalton

Notes: A distinguished film study of the tundra of Canada's sub-Arctic. It stretches from the polar sea to the southern treeline and supports, despite the permafrost, a surprising variety of life. Here you see the ungainly musk-ox, survivor of the Ice Age, and herds of caribou following the migrant trails; also birds and flowers, smaller animals, and insects.

NFB Website: [The Edge of the Barrens](#)

Other number: 0287-501

#352-1: Angotee: Story of an Eskimo Boy, 1953

1 Film reel (16mm, 31 min)

Director: Wilkinson, Douglas, 1919-2008

Notes: A short film featuring an Inuk man from the Eastern Arctic. Made in 1953, it recounts his life from birth to maturity and marriage. Screened widely in Canadian schools, the film is now dated but accurately depicts aspects of Inuit culture of the time.

NFB Website (streaming): [Angotee: Story of an Eskimo Boy](#)

Other number: 0061-501

Culture: Inuit

#353-1, #353-2: The Owl who Married a Goose, An Eskimo Legend, 1974

2 Film reels (16mm, 7 min)

Director: Leaf, Caroline

Notes: In this short animation based on an Inuit legend, a goose captures the fancy of an owl, a weakness for which he will pay dearly. The sound effects and voices are Inuktitut, but the animation leaves no doubt as to the unfolding action. A story with the wry humor characteristic of many Inuit tales.

NFB Website (streaming): [The Owl who Married a Goose, An Eskimo Legend](#)

Other number: 0718-501/502

Culture: Inuit

#354-1, #354-2: The Man and the Giant: An Eskimo Legend, 1975

2 Film reels (16mm, 7 min, 33 sec)

Director: Hoedeman, Co

Notes: This short film, in which a hunter is pursued, bound up and carried to a cave, tells the legend of a river, and of how fog came to the land. The story is enacted by Inuit using katadjak or throatsinging. The audience is locked in an alien world of sights and sounds where human activity seems propelled by primeval forces.

NFB Website (streaming): [The Man and the Giant: An Eskimo Legend](#)

Other number: 1476-501/502

Culture: Inuit

#355-1: Tuktu and the Big Kayak, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 16 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. Kayak-making from start to finish. Tuktu recalls his eagerness to use the bone drill and to cut wood—but instead, he must watch his father and learn.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 0989-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#356-1: Tuktu and the Big Seal, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 21 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. Tuktu's father kills a seal, and takes pride in sharing the best meat with the rest of the community. In this video, we also learn how a hunter finds snow-covered breathing holes, and how best to approach a seal.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 0990-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#357-1: Tuktu and the Caribou Hunt, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 15 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. Traditionally, caribou provided the Inuit with meat, skin for tents and clothes, and bone for everything from sewing needles and fish-hooks to sled runners. Tuktu joins his father on a caribou hunt, followed by a feast with friends.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 0991-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#358-1: Tuktu and the Clever Hands, 1968

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 8 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. Making a hunting knife, a fishing spear and a cooking pot, storing blubber in a sealskin, and splitting wood for

binding hair--these are just some of the long-forgotten things Tuktu recalls his parents making and doing.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 0992-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#359-1: Tuktu and His Animal Friends, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 13 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. Tuktu describes many of the smaller creatures of the Arctic--from gulls and terns, to weasels and lemmings.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 0987-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#360-1: Tuktu and His Eskimo Dogs, 1968

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 10 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. This short docu-fiction film illustrates how traditionally dogs were used by the Netsilik Inuit, in winter and summer. We see puppies and sled dogs used as pack animals. Eskimo dogs were also used for hunting, being particularly skilful at sniffing out seal blowholes when deep snow covered the winter sea ice.

NFB Website (streaming): [Tuktu and His Eskimo Dogs](#)

Other number: 1225-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#361-1: Tuktu and His Nice New Clothes, 1968

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 10 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. A tribute to the importance of women in traditional Inuit families. Without their unparalleled skill in sewing clothes and boots, nobody would survive winter.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 0988-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#362-1: Tuktu and the Indoor Games, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 18 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. It's a time of plenty, and games are in order. The giant igloo is filled with the sounds of juggling, laughter and a spinning ice top.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 0993-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#363-1: Tuktu and His Magic Bow, 1968

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 16 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. We watch Tuktu's father in the delicate process of making a bow. During winter, he and some friends make snowmen and snow bears, then use their bows in a competition of shooting skills.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 0994-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#364-1: Tuktu and the Magic Spear, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. We join Tuktu and his family as they spear fish in winter and summer.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 1323-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#365-1: Tuktu and the Snow Palace, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 13 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. As Tuktu recounts an Inuit legend, we observe daily life at a winter hunting camp, including construction of a giant igloo to be used for feasting, dancing and games.

NFB Website: [Tuktu Series](#)

Other number: 0996-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#366-1: Tuktu and the Ten Thousand Fishes, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 13 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. This short docu-fiction film tells the story of Tuktu, who is taken on a fishing trip to the ancient stone weir. There, he sees his father and other hunters spear fish in great numbers, and watches his father and his uncle make fire with an Inuit fire drill.

NFB Website (streaming): [Tuktu and the Ten Thousand Fishes](#)

Other number: 0997-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#367-1: Tuktu and the Trials of Strength, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 14 min, 18 sec)

Director: Hyde, Laurence, 1914-1987

Notes: This series centres on the reminiscences of Tuktu, a fictional elder, recalling the traditional Inuit ways of his childhood. The Tuktu series was compiled from footage of the Netsilik people of Pelly Bay. In this short docu-fiction film, strong and hardy Inuit hunters demonstrate and test their strength in boxing, tug-of-war, and other strenuous activities. We see and hear the drum dance, a demonstration of Inuit poetry and rhythm.

NFB Website (streaming): [Tuktu and the Trials of Strength](#)

Other number: 0998-501

Culture: Netsilingmiut Inuit (Netsilik Eskimo)

#368-1: The Annanacks, 1964

1 Film reel (16mm, 29 min, 12 sec)

Director: Bonnière, René, 1928-

Notes: This short documentary depicts the formation in 1959 of the first successful co-operative in an Inuit community in Northern Québec. The film describes how, with other Inuit of the George River community, the Annanacks formed a joint venture that included a sawmill, a fish-freezing plant and a small boat-building industry.

NFB Website (streaming): [The Annanacks](#)

Other number: 1256-501

Culture: Inuit

#369-1, #369-2, #369-3: Lumaaq: An Eskimo Legend, 1975

3 Film reels (16mm, 7 min, 55 sec)

Director: Hoedeman, Co

Notes: Lumaaq tells the story of a legend widely believed by the Povungnituk Inuit. The artist's drawings are transferred to paper, cut out, and animated under the camera. The result is Inuit prints in action. Dialogue, music and artwork make this film a total cultural transplant.

NFB Website (streaming): [Lumaaq: An Eskimo Legend](#)

Other number: 0587-501/502/503

Culture: Inuit

#370-1: Caribou of Northern Canada, 1971

1 Film reel (16mm, 13 min, 6 sec)

Notes: This nature documentary looks at the Barren Ground caribou of Canada's vast northern tundra. This film observes the life cycle and environment of the caribou.

NFB Website (streaming): [Caribou of Northern Canada](#)

Other number: 0161-501

#371-1: Canada's Reindeer, 1981

1 Film reel (16mm, 24 min, 45 sec)

Notes: In 1935 a herd of 2,700 reindeer completed a five-year journey from Alaska to north of the Arctic circle. They were imported and re-settled by the Canadian Government in an effort to improve the economic conditions of the Inuit. This film is the story of the trek, the raising of reindeer for saleable meat, its effects upon the people, and the transformation of herding from a primitive art to one using modern technology. The film shows how an ecologically sound, make-work project that started as a gamble ended up a success, generating jobs and money for the local people.

NFB Website (streaming): [Canada's Reindeer](#)

Other number: 1258-501

Culture: Inuit

#372-1, #372-2: The Indian Speaks, 1967

2 Film reels (16mm, 40 min, 25 sec)

Director: Carrière, Marcel, 1935-

Notes: A film about Indigenous Peoples in many parts of Canada who are concerned about preserving what is left of their own culture and restoring what has been lost. It is the consciousness of tradition slipping away, with nothing equally satisfying or significant to take its place, that this film discovers wherever it goes. One of the speakers is an artist who, for a time, lived in Toronto but who returned to his reserve to devote his efforts to his own people; another is a business woman in Vancouver.

NFB Website: [The Indian Speaks](#)

Other number: 0465-501/502

#373-1: Qimmiq: Canada's Arctic Dog, 1981

1 Film reel (16mm, 24 min, 15 sec)

Notes: The Eskimo dog--the Qimmiq--has been an integral part of northern Canadian life for almost two thousand years. Archival photographs and film footage illustrate how this hard-working purebred was used for hunting, pulling sleds and keeping polar bears at bay. However, by 1975, the breed, decimated by a changing northern lifestyle, was all but extinct. This inspiring documentary shows the dedicated efforts of biologist Dr.

William Carpenter to revitalize the strain and how, with support from local Inuit societies, his breeding project has resulted in a growing and once again thriving Qimmiq population.

NFB Website (streaming): [Qimmiq: Canada's Arctic Dog](#)

Other number: 0782-501

Culture: Inuit

#374-1, #374-2: Standing Alone, 1982

2 Film reels (16mm, 57 min, 50 sec)

Director: Low, Colin

Notes: Pete Standing Alone of the Kainai Nation was more at home in the White man's culture than his own as a young man. However, confronted with the realization that his children knew very little about their origins, he became determined to pass down to them the customs and traditions of his ancestors. This hour-long film is the powerful biographical study of a twenty-five-year span in Pete's life, from his early days as an oil-rig roughneck, rodeo rider and cowboy, to the present as an Indigenous man concerned with preserving his tribe's spiritual heritage in the face of an energy-oriented industrial age.

NFB Website (streaming): [Standing Alone](#)

Other number: 0893-501

Names: Standing Alone, Pete

Culture: Kainai Blackfoot (Kainah/Blood)

#375-1: Memories of War, 1983

1 Film reel (16mm, 16 min, 10 sec)

Director: Hébert, Pierre, 1944-

Notes: This haunting animation film, rich with symbolism, is the filmmaker's plea for a peaceful world in which to raise his newborn son. Using the menacing imagery of the howling wind, the artist provokes viewers to reflect on the insanity of war. While the film is symbolic, its message is unmistakably clear: unless there is an end to conflict, we will continue to see our children swept away like leaves in the wind.

NFB Website: [Memories of War](#)

Other number: 1464-501

#376-1: Challenge for Change, 1968

1 Film reel (16mm, 24 min, 21 sec)

Notes: The objective of the Challenge for Change program is to shed light on social problems through the production of films. What is Challenge for Change? What happens with children from deprived areas when they are given a free hand to make their own films? Who can be a better voice for Indigenous Peoples' needs and aspirations than an Indigenous film crew? How angry are the black people with the way society treats them? How do government representatives react to social change and the role of the Challenge for Change program? Can a film project serve as a cohesive agent and catalyst for change within a community, and at the same time serve as a

means of communication with government? What is community organizing? What role can film play in participatory democracy? Does controversy lead to violence? How useful are the films from Challenge for Change going to be? This film has some of the answers.

NFB Website: [Challenge for Change](#)

Other number: 0527-501

#377-1: Indian Memento: Memoire Indienne, 1967

1 Film reel (16mm, 18 min, 11 sec)

Director: Régnier, Michel, 1934-

Notes: A visit to the "Indians of Canada" pavilion at Expo 67, Montréal. Inside there are Indigenous artifacts, but even more arresting are the printed placards that tell the story of the Indigenous peoples in North America, written without rancor but recalling what their contact with European settlers has cost in freedom of movement, in loss of land, and in loss of health of body and spirit.

NFB Website (streaming): [Indian Memento: Memoire Indienne](#)

Other number: 1463-501

#378-1, #348-2: Like the Trees, 1974

2 Film reels (16mm, 14 min, 30 sec)

Director: Shannon, Kathleen, 1935-1998

Notes: This short film is told in the first person by Rose, a Métis woman from northern Alberta who has left a difficult life in the city to rediscover her roots by returning to her Woodland Cree community. Rose reveals the racism, isolation and health issues she faced when trying to make a life for herself outside her home community, and how she is able to help others now that she has reconnected to her culture.

NFB Website (streaming): [Like the Trees](#)

Other number: 0404-501/502

Culture: Métis

#379-1: The Longhouse People, 1951

1 Film reel (16mm, 23 min, 2 sec)

Director: Wargon, Allan

Notes: Get an up-close look at daily life among the Longhouse People with this short documentary from 1951. It depicts the rites and rituals of this Indigenous community, including a rain dance, a healing ceremony, and the celebration of a newly chosen chief.

NFB Website (streaming): [The Longhouse Peoples](#)

Other number: 1150-501

#380-1: The Riel Business, 1974

1 Film reel (16mm, 27 min, 35 sec)

Director: McLaren, Ian (Producer)

Notes: This documentary short is a cinematic recording of Tales from a Prairie Drifter, a stage comedy about the North-West Resistance during the opening of the Canadian West.

Highlighting the roles of Louis Riel, the Resistance leader, prime minister Sir John A. Macdonald and General Middleton, who was sent to quell the uprising, the play defines the First Nations and Métis cause more succinctly than many history books. Here, the play is performed by the Regina Globe Theatre before an Indigenous audience of First Nations and Métis, whose reactions are recorded.

NFB Website (streaming): [The Riel Business](#)

Other number: 0946-501

Culture: Métis

#381-1: This Was the Time, 1970

1 Film reel (16mm, 15 min, 57 sec)

Director: Boyko, Eugene

Notes: When Masset, a Haida village on Haida Gwaii (formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands), held a potlatch, it seemed as if the past grandeur of the people had returned. This is a colourful recreation of Indigenous life that faded more than two generations ago when the great totems were toppled by the missionaries and the costly potlatch was forbidden by law. The film shows how one village lived again the old glory, with singing, dancing, feasting, and the raising of a towering totem as a lasting reminder of what once was.

NFB Website (streaming): [This Was the Time](#)

Other number: 0948-501

Culture: Haida [Masset]

#382-1: The Jean Richard, 1963

1 Film reel (16mm, 29 min)

Director: Bonnière, René, 1928-
Perrault, Pierre

Notes: The building of a goélette, the wooden coastal freighter of the St. Lawrence River. Although ships of steel may replace these sturdy wooden vessels, the Jean Richard, shown in construction in this film, is still one ship built with all the old pride in craftsmanship.

NFB Website (streaming): [The Jean Richard](#)

Other number: 1465-501

#383-1: The Ballad of Crowfoot, 1968

1 Film reel (16mm, 10 min, 18 sec)

Director: Dunn, Willie

Notes: Released in 1968 and often referred to as Canada's first music video, The Ballad of Crowfoot was directed by Willie Dunn, a Mi'kmaq/Scottish folk singer and activist who was part of the historic Indian Film Crew, the first all-Indigenous production unit at the NFB. The film is a powerful look at colonial betrayals told through a striking montage of archival images and a ballad composed by Dunn himself about the legendary 19th-century Siksika (Blackfoot) chief who negotiated Treaty 7 on behalf of the Blackfoot Confederacy. The IFC's inaugural

release, Crowfoot was the first Indigenous-directed film to be made at the NFB.

NFB Website (streaming): [The Ballad of Crowfoot](#)

Other number: 0096-501

Culture: Mi'kmaq (Micmac)