

RESERVE 107 The Film

Reconciliation on the Prairies

DOCUMENTARY SUMMARY

Rebel Sky Media is excited to present, in partnership with St. Johns Lutheran (ELCIC) Laird and Mennonite Central Committee Saskatchewan, a documentary short titled RESERVE 107, Reconciliation on the Prairies.

For decades, stories have spread throughout the village of Laird, Saskatchewan about a group of First Nation descendants from an old treaty visiting shopkeepers, town officials and local residents. The First Nations that came to the area in the 1970s, insisted that a treaty signed between their people and the Government of Canada states the land of the locals actually belong to an indigenous First Nation. But when a group of Mennonites and Lutherans in the town of Laird discover that the land on which they live is, in fact, the former reserve of the Young Chippewayan First Nation, they are forced to acknowledge the history that has brought them to their present confrontation. The Chief and descendants of the Young Chippewayan Band decide to invite the local community to a meeting at the central site of the former reserve. But this inevitable encounter at the town's historic site compels the characters into a surprising discovery. Myths, assumptions and fears are shattered as this old injustice is about to provide an opportunity for friendship and renew a fierce determination to repair the wrongs of the past. Through a series of storytelling vignettes, the documentary short Reserve 107 shares the stories of a unique moment in history where relationships are formed around a contentious land conflict. After signing a memorandum of understanding, they make a commitment to seek some form of restitution, and the communities are determined to find some resolve for the lost reserve also know as "Stoney Knoll/Opwashemoe Chakatinaw". There are no easy answers or quick solutions to repairing a century old conflict, but what quickly becomes clear is the courage of Young Chippewayan descendants to instigate change and transformation as a bold response to that invitation by their Mennonite and Lutheran friends. The many unresolved indigenous land claims across the country are a taboo topic for some Canadians, but the unfolding history at Stoney Knoll Reserve 107 may be enough to inspire others toward similar acts of acknowledgement and reconciliation.

For more information:

www.reserve107thefilm.com

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