

# Native Film, "Drumbeat for Mother Earth" wins top prize at New York International Independent Film and Video Festival

*On Eve of International Negotiations to Eliminate Toxic Pollutants, Documentary Draws Attention to Impact on Native Americans*

(Bemidji, MN) "Drumbeat for Mother Earth," a documentary produced by the Indigenous Environmental Network and Greenpeace has been awarded a top prize from the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival. The film was recognized as Best Environmental Documentary.

"This is a great honor for all of those who worked on the film," said co-producer Joe Di Gangi, a toxics campaigner with Greenpeace. "More important than the film's accolades is the recognition by audiences of the tremendous threat persistent organic pollutants or POPs are having on Native Americans across the country."

Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are chemicals such as dioxin and PCBs that are highly toxic in very small quantities and

remain in the environment for long periods of time. POPs are released into the environment through the production and incineration of chlorine-based chemicals. Food is the most common route of exposure.

As illustrated in the film, POPs have become a silent plague on Native American communities whose lands and waters have become contaminated by these chemicals. Their traditions, diets and livelihoods are compromised by industry and the US government who have both failed to eliminate the poisons.

Drumbeat's recognition comes just two weeks before US negotiators are set to travel to Bonn, Germany for another round of United Nations-sponsored talks to eliminate the production and use of POPs. The ability of POPs to travel long distances across

national boundaries has resulted in the need for international cooperation.

In response to the growing concern of Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples throughout the world, the German government, is planning a reception welcoming Native Americans and Indigenous Peoples. "Native members of our delegation from Tanana Village, Alaska, and a Yaqui ceremonial leader from Sonora, Mexico will join other Indigenous Peoples from Canada, the Arctic and other regions of the world in this reception," says Tom Goldtooth, national director of the Indigenous Environmental Network and co-producer of the film. "These toxic poisons are in the fetus of our pregnant women. Our communities have a right to know about these dangers and have a voice in these issues that effect our health,"

Goldtooth said.

Still, the battle to ban these substances appears to be a war waged on our own soil. While the European Union (EU) and other nations around the world have demonstrated their commitment to eliminating POPs, the US is not yet on board. In a leaked memo to the EU, the US threatened to block negotiations if the Europeans would not join forces with the US to weaken the treaty. The US wants to delete the goal of elimination of POPs from the treaty text, in favor of management of POPs.

Over 130 country delegates and non-governmental organizations from every continent will travel to Bonn, Germany during the week of March 20 to participate in the treaty negotiations. Non-governmental organizations will be participating as observers.

## Aboriginal Peoples Television Network To Launch News and Current Affairs Programs

(Ottawa - March 17, 2000) Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) continues to expand its programming content with two new programs. *Contact*, a current affairs program will launch March 30, 2000 and *InVision with Carol Adams*, APTN's flagship news program will run weekly beginning April 16, 2000. With the launch of *Contact* and *InVision*, APTN is fulfilling its mandate to provide Canadians with national news and information from an aboriginal perspective.

"We are very excited to be offering Canadians local and national news coverage and current affairs programming from an aboriginal perspective," says Jim Compton, Director of Programming. "*Contact* and *InVision with Carol Adams* have given us the opportunity to extend our reach in Canada and successfully build our programming profile."

### APTN News and Current Affairs

*Contact* will feature interviews, panel discussions, national call-in segments and pre-packaged stories. The program will feature

interviews with prominent aboriginal people and individuals who possess an in-depth knowledge of the remarkable diversity of Indigenous peoples throughout the world. *Contact* will be a forum to discuss national issues and will do so with humour and thought-provoking analysis. *Contact* will begin on March 30th at 3:00 p.m. EDT, repeating at 9:00 p.m. and will be seen every Thursday.

*InVision with Carol Adams* will run weekly beginning April 16th and will contain news segments from all regions of Canada. APTN has set up news bureaus in Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax, Yellowknife, Ottawa and Winnipeg, as well as journalists in other regions to cover local news stories. The program will cover news of interest to the aboriginal community as well as broader Canadian issues from an aboriginal perspective. *InVision with Carol Adams* will provide a window into the world of aboriginal people and provide balanced, accurate and provocative coverage of national issues. The program will look beyond the headlines and offer context and historical perspectives on issues. *InVision with*

*Carol Adams* will be broadcast at 8 p.m. EDT every Sunday.

### The Hosts of APTN

Rick Harp is a former associate producer for CBC Radio's "As It Happens" and a communications officer for the Canadian Human Rights Commission. Rick worked for a number of years as on-air host at CKCU-FM, a community radio station in Ottawa, Ontario. He will be the host of *Contact*.

Carol Adams has worked in the media industry for the past 20 years. She has worked at both private and public radio stations in Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Fredericton. While in Regina, Carol produced a morning radio talk show on CKRM and anchored weekend news for CKCK TV. She was also co-host of the CBC Newsworld program *This Country*. Most recently, Carol was producer/reporter for a morning radio program, *First Voices* on CKUA in Calgary, Alberta. Carol will host *InVision*.

"We are extremely pleased to have Rick and Carol, two experienced and well respected Canadian journalists to host our new programs,"

says Dan David, APTN's News Director. "We are confident that they will deliver quality news and current affairs coverage of aboriginal life across Canada."

### About APTN

APTN has evolved from Television Northern Canada (TVNC), an aboriginal television network that has been broadcasting northern and aboriginal programming from the Yukon to northern Labrador since 1991. Available to nearly 8 million Canadian households with cable as well as direct-to-home and wireless service customers, APTN broadcasts programming by and about aboriginal people each day from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. EDT. Approximately 60 per cent of the network's programs are broadcast in English, 15 per cent in French and 25 per cent in a variety of aboriginal languages.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

Jennifer David, Director of Communications 613-794-4646 or 1-888-278-8862, ext. 222.

The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network



## CONTACT

APTN's Newest Current Affairs Show

Thursdays  
3 p.m. E.T. / 12 noon P.T. & 9 p.m. E.T. / 6 p.m. P.T.



## INVISION

APTN's Weekly News Telecast  
Premieres April 16

Sundays  
8 p.m. E.T. / 5 p.m. P.T.



Rick Harp



Carol Adams