

## HONOUR YOUR WORD

59 min, documentary, Québec 2013

### Short Synopsis

Marylynn Poucachiche and Norman Matchewan faced tear gas and police batons when they joined their parents on the barricades to defend the Barriere Lake Algonquins' traditional territory in the 1980s. Little did Marylynn and Norman realize they would still be on the barricades over 20 years later, this time with their own young children at their sides.

**HONOUR YOUR WORD**, is the dramatic story of a tiny First Nations community in Quebec with big strength of character and determination, and follows new Algonquin leaders, as their community fights to protect their land, way of life, and their language.

### Synopsis

There is a cultural and political renaissance sweeping across Indian country, and Marylynn Poucachiche and Norman Matchewan are at the heart of it. **Honour Your Word** is the story of how a new generation of aboriginal youth is building their own vision for native sovereignty and redefining what it means to be Indigenous in the 21st century.

As children, Marylynn and Norman joined their parents on logging blockades and the steps of parliament in a campaign that won an agreement between Barriere Lake, Canada and Quebec - a precedent-setting conservation deal seen by many as a model for modern treaty negotiations. But it turns out signing the so-called Trilateral Agreement was the easy part – getting Canada and Quebec to honour their word is proving a much harder fight.

20 years later, Marylynn and Norman are still on the barricades, but today, as community leaders. Drawing on the wisdom of their elders, they're also exploring new ways to move forward. Native activism in the 21st century is about more than highway blockades; it's about building awareness and alliances with other communities across Canada and internationally, strengthening their traditional systems of governance, and maintaining their language and culture and land base. But roadblocks are still an unfortunate means of last resort in the face of government inaction.

**Honour Your Word** is a story that humanizes the stereotype of angry Indians, and that inspires us by the courage and connection of the people here, their determination to endure despite the odds, their discouragement, and the anti-climax of everyday life.

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