



Land of Oil and Water

Directors: Warren Cariou and Neil McArthur, Canada, 2008, 44 minutes

Underneath the woods and the muskeg of northern Canada lies roughly two trillion barrels of oil. It is fifteen percent of the world's known reserves and six times more than what's left in Saudi Arabia. *Land of Oil and Water* follows the journey of Warren Cariou, a Métis writer from northern Saskatchewan, who learns that the oil companies from Alberta are expanding into his homeland. Now living in Winnipeg, Cariou talks to people in the area about their hopes and fears about the development. He crosses the border to Alberta to speak with aboriginal communities who have experienced the development. They continue the struggle to preserve their traditional way of life in the midst of the largest and most destructive oil recovery operation the world has ever known.

Cariou records this journey on film so everyone can see the magnitude of the oil sands mines. As a writer, he considers depicting it in a book, but realised it wouldn't have the same impact as a visual depiction of the people and places we see up close in the film.

Cariou also wanted the local Métis and First Nations to tell their own stories about living near this massive development. In his words, "much has been said about the oil sands by outside commentators, scientists, and politicians, but few outsiders have ever taken the time to listen to the people who call this place home." Speaking with intelligence and insight, community members share differing opinions and experiences — some positive, some negative — letting us make our own minds up about the effects of the oil sands.

WORLD PREMIERE. FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE.

DIRECTORS BIOGRAPHIES

Neil McArthur is a professor at the University of Manitoba, where he specialises in the history of European philosophy and literature. He was born in Regina and spent part of his childhood in northern

Saskatchewan. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. His feature film *Out of the Way* premiered at the 2006 Calgary International Film Festival. He is a member of the Winnipeg Film Group and has trained in film and video production through the WFG and SAW Video (Ottawa). His book *David Hume's Political Theory* was published in 2007 by the University of Toronto Press.

Warren Cariou grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan and has worked as a construction worker, a technical writer, and a political aide. He now teaches Aboriginal Literature at the University of Manitoba, where he is Canada Research Chair and Director of the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Traditions. He is of Métis, German and Norwegian heritage, and his writing explores the relationships between Native and non-Native communities in Western Canada. His first book, *The Exalted Company of Roadside Martyrs: Two Novellas* garnered rave reviews, and his memoir *Lake of the Prairies* won the Drainie-Taylor Prize and was nominated for the Charles Taylor prize.

PRECEDED BY:

Terra Sacer

Directors: Alberto Guevara and Elysee Nouvet, Canada, 2008, 17 minutes

Over 100,000 Nicaraguans suffer ill effects of exposure to the pesticide Nemogon, through their work at banana farms. The film introduces a group of these former plantation workers who are camping out in Managua to draw attention to the health problems they are experiencing.

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

COMMUNITY PARTNER

