

BC Treaty Commission
Chief Commissioner Steven Point
First Peoples of British Columbia Film Premiere
Royal BC Museum
Victoria, BC, Thursday, December 7, 2006

First Nations people are hungry.

Hungry for recognition of their traditional territories.

Hungry for understanding of their history...

and hungry for respect for their culture and traditions.

Understanding begins with information. There is a lot of good information in this building. Here we can look at our collective history.

This film, too, reminds us of our collective history. It reminds us of the sadness and the sorrow. And leaves us with hope for the future through treaties.

Treaties are about recognition and respect.

I believe we will soon see the end of the era of conflict and the beginning of understanding and reconciliation.

When I first saw this map 18 months ago, I did not see the footpaths and the canoe routes of First Nations people.

I saw an empty landscape.

My immediate thought was: the land was not empty. Aboriginal people were here, occupying and using the land and living in organized societies, for thousands of years.

I wanted people coming to this special place to know the land was not empty.

I wanted to fill this screen with their stories.

We went to see Brent Cooke, who is now retired from the museum.

He agreed a First Peoples film should be the next one on the big screen. And so it is.

We are happy with what has been achieved.

We have been fortunate to have such a great crew.

The museum folks have been wonderful.

We are thankful for the funding from the provincial and federal governments.

We appreciate the support and assistance we have received from First Nations and First Nation organizations.

It's been a project that everyone has been happy to be associated with.

It's been a challenge to compress 10,000 years of First Nations history into a six-minute presentation. But I think the filmmakers have done a pretty good job.

I'm told we'll see 35 minutes of film within those six minutes.

I hope you enjoy the presentation.

I look forward to talking to you after the show.

There will be a 15-second pause and then the film will start.

Thank you.

