

NFB AND INUIT PARTNERS LAUNCH *UNIKKAUSIVUT: SHARING OUR STORIES*
A LANDMARK DVD AND ONLINE RESOURCE FEATURING
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COLLECTION OF INUIT FILM
Legacy project to tour Inuit communities across the Arctic
following November 2 premiere in Ottawa

Montreal, October 31, 2011 – The landmark Inuit audiovisual legacy project [*Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*](#) will make its world premiere in the nation's capital on November 2, 2011, before kicking off a tour of Inuit communities across the Arctic.

Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories brings together 70 years of the National Film Board of Canada's (NFB) films by and about Inuit, drawn from more than 110 titles—the most important collection of Inuit films in the world. It is a comprehensive new resource for understanding and preserving the history, stories and perspectives of Inuit peoples, and is available as both a DVD box set and online.

On DVD, ***Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*** is a two-volume box set of three discs each, featuring 24 new or classic NFB Inuit films. It will be distributed free to the 53 Inuit communities in the four Inuit regions of Canada and will also be available for purchase for home and institutional use. Online, Canadians will have access to more than 40 films at nfb.ca/unikkausivut as of November 2, with more titles added constantly. The films will be available in English, French and Inuktitut.

Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories will be launched on November 2 as part of the gala event “From Eskimo to Inuit in 40 Years,” commemorating the 40th anniversary of the national Inuit organization, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami www.itk.ca. The launch will be held at the National Gallery of Canada and feature film screenings, traditional songs and dances, and personal accounts. The Premier of Nunavut, the Honourable Eva Aariak, will be in attendance, as well as national Inuit leader Mary Simon, President of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and other dignitaries.

The Ottawa launch will be followed by a series of screenings of ***Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*** in communities in the four Inuit regions: in Iqaluit (Nunavut) on November 7; in Kuujuaq (Nunavik, northern Quebec) on November 8; in Nain (Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland-Labrador) on November 17; and on November 23 in Inuvik (Inuvialuit, Northwest Territories).

Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories is an NFB initiative in collaboration with the [Inuit Relations Secretariat of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada](#) and the [Government of Nunavut, Department of Education](#) with the support of Inuit organizations. Our shared objective is to contribute, in a lasting way, to the promotion of Inuit culture by providing Inuit communities with increased accessibility to their own audiovisual heritage and to provide all Canadians the opportunity to discover the traditions, culture, values and points of view of Inuit, who have shaped the history of Canada and continue to shape contemporary Canadian society

“The Government of Nunavut believes strongly in the value of this project. Our partnership with the National Film Board of Canada is helping to preserve the NFB's collection of films by and about Inuit. With our support, the National Film Board will ensure that its collection of Inuit films is accessible so that all Canadians have the opportunity to learn about Inuit, and appreciate our unique and vibrant part of Canada's heritage and identity,” said the Honourable Eva Aariak, Premier of Nunavut.

“Today, the Arctic and its people find themselves on the frontline of a range of urgent issues, including sovereignty, climate change, resource development and culture. Far from remaining passive in the face of these challenges, Inuit are developing community-based initiatives to strengthen their identity, develop communities and tell their own stories. ***Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*** represents a landmark effort by the NFB and its partners to preserve and strengthen Inuit culture and language, at a critical time. The NFB is proud to work alongside Inuit artists and communities in this great effort, with ***Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*** and a wide range of sustainable media development initiatives in the North,” said Tom Perlmutter, Government Film Commissioner and Chairperson of the National Film Board of Canada.

“At the Inuit Relations Secretariat of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, our goal is to bring people and ideas together to raise awareness of Inuit and address their issues. So when the NFB approached us with the concept for ***Unikkausivut: Sharing our Stories***, we recognized the amazing opportunity to use their one-of-a-kind collection of Inuit films as a catalyst to create a better understanding among Canadians of the traditions, history and point of view of Inuit. I would like to thank the NFB and Inuit organizations, who guided the project, for the opportunity to partner with them and create this rich audiovisual legacy. Our hope is that this collection of films will give Inuit a lasting record of their vibrant culture and a strong sense of pride in their history, while providing all Canadians the opportunity to appreciate how Inuit have, and continue to shape and enrich our country,” said Christopher Duschenes, Executive Director, Inuit Relations Secretariat, Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.

“The Arctic in 2011 is on top of world agendas,” noted ITK President Mary Simon. “It’s a fitting tribute to collect this rich film history so that we can all share in the northern cinematic images that are a part of collective history. I commend the National Film Board for this fine retrospective project that all Canadians can share in.”

About *Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*

The DVD box set of ***Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*** features 24 NFB films on six discs: three discs in English and French, and three discs in Inuktitut and English.

The box set provides a sweeping chronological view of the NFB Inuit collection from 1942 to 2010. Disc 1 features the NFB’s classic ethnographic films from the 1940s to the 1960s, including Douglas Wilkinson’s 1949 short [How to Build an Igloo](#), one of the most watched films at <NFB.ca>, and John Feeney’s 1958 Oscar-nominated film about Inuit art, [The Living Stone](#). Disc 2 chronicles the birth of a truly Inuit cinema with such films as [Natsik Hunting](#), the first live-action film shot and directed by an Inuk, as well as films that explored Inuit issues as never before, including Barry Greenwald’s NFB/Investigative Productions Inc./White Pine Pictures documentary [Between Two Worlds](#). Disc 3 offers an overview of contemporary Inuit cinema in all its richness and diversity, with works like [If the Weather Permits](#), Elisapie Isaac’s award-winning look at the challenges of preserving Inuit culture in the modern age, and [Martha of the North](#), Marquise Lepage’s exploration of a forced Inuit relocation as seen through the eyes of Martha Flaherty, produced by the Les Productions Virage in collaboration with the NFB.

As of November 2, all Canadians will also have access to more than 40 films online, at <nfb.ca/unikkausivut>, where they can stream films free of charge, including new titles from the NFB’s Nunavut Animation Lab project and ***Stories from Our Land*** collection.

Users will also be able to access news about Inuit productions and NFB development initiatives in the North, and purchase films to download. With over 110 documentary and animated films by and about Inuit, the NFB will be adding more films online on a regular basis.

Films in ***Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*** will be available in English, French and Inuktitut, versioned in the dialects of each of the four regions in which they were made: Nunavut, Nunavik, Inuvialuit and Nunatsiavut.

Thanks to an agreement with Taqramiut Nipingat Inc., Nunavik’s network of community television stations will broadcast a selection of films from ***Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*** and the NFB collection, with seven hours of programming each week from November 2011 to August 2012, on stations reaching 14 villages across the region.

Inuit Advisory Committee

An advisory committee comprised of representatives from key Inuit organizations has helped to ensure that ***Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*** reflects the interests of all Inuit regions. This committee includes Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Makivik Corporation, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Avataq Cultural Institute, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and the Nunatsiavut Government's Torngasok Cultural Centre. Project development advisors are Martha Flaherty, Peter Irniq and Zebedee Nungak.

Project sponsors include Adventure Canada, the National Art Gallery, Nunavut Sivuniksavut, Air Inuit, First Air, Nunastar Properties and the Frobisher Inn, as well as the members of the advisory committee, who have all helped to make the launch of ***Unikkausivut: Sharing Our Stories*** possible.

About the NFB

Canada's public producer and distributor, the National Film Board of Canada creates [interactive works](#), social-issue documentaries, auteur animation and alternative dramas that provide the world with a unique Canadian perspective. The NFB is developing the entertainment forms of the future in groundbreaking interactive productions, while pioneering new directions in 3D stereoscopic film, community-based media, and more. It works in collaboration with emerging and established filmmakers, digital media creators and co-producers in every region of Canada, with Aboriginal and culturally diverse communities, as well as partners around the world. Since the NFB's founding in 1939, it has created over 13,000 productions and won over 5,000 awards, including 4 Webbys, 12 Oscars and more than 90 Genies. Over 2,000 NFB productions can be streamed online, at the <[NFB.ca](#)> Screening Room as well as via partnerships with the world's leading video portals, while the NFB's growing family of [apps](#) for smartphones, tablets and connected TV delivers the experience of cinema to Canadians everywhere.

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