

THE SHARING CIRCLE

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PREMIERE OF THE SHARING CIRCLE: SEASON 16
February 3, 2008 on Citytv
March 6, 2008 on APTN

Winnipeg MB -- Canada's longest running Aboriginal documentary television series, ***The Sharing Circle***, will launch its 16th season **February 3 on Citytv** and **March 6 on APTN**.

Citytv broadcast in Winnipeg, Edmonton and Calgary:
February 3 at 7:30pm CT

APTN broadcast across Canada:
March 6th at 11:00pm ET/PT

This unique program presents 13 half-hour documentaries focused on current, relevant issues explored in traditional, spiritual ways. These poignant and compelling stories offer an insightful and meaningful look at Aboriginal people, indigenous knowledge and spiritual practice.

ABOUT THE SERIES

The traditional concepts of respect and sharing that form the foundation of the Aboriginal way of life are fashioned around Seven Natural Laws. These guiding principles form the basis for *The Sharing Circle*, and honour the basic virtues intrinsic to a full and healthy life.

Hosted by series creator **Lisa Meeches**, who also acts as executive producer, *The Sharing Circle* celebrates life and embraces people from all races and cultures. Each episode delivers an intimate and heart-felt look at a fascinating topic while remaining true to the roots of Aboriginal spirituality. The integrity of the series rests in its impressive track record of 15 successful seasons, during which time it has been a weekly dose of soulful medicine for a world in need of healing.

"I'm very proud of what we've achieved with *The Sharing Circle* throughout the past 15 years, and even more excited about the 16th season," says Lisa Meeches. "I'm looking forward to being able to share *The Sharing Circle* with audiences across Canada for another year."

ABOUT SEASON 16

The new season of *The Sharing Circle* embodies an ancient understanding of spiritual balance among all things in the Creator's world, and relates that understanding to contemporary life. Spiritual integrity teaches stories of love, courage, respect, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth. A talented team of television writers, directors and producers strives to help people find peaceful solutions to conflicts within their own lives, through the telling of tales. Spiritual advisors on staff ensure that each story told on *The Sharing Circle* is approached with respect and consideration.

Season 16 kicks off with **Spirituality Seekers**. In this episode, a group of people from Germany and Austria who are interested in native spirituality travel to Canada to learn about First Nations culture. Kurt Fenkart and his wife Christine are Shaman teachers on a mission to re-connect with their long lost spiritual roots. With the teachings of their own ancestors long gone, they are attempting to regain a spiritual connection by learning the sacred practices of other indigenous cultures.

In this Season 16 premiere, Kurt and Christine travel to Canada for the first time, to embark upon a journey of learning Aboriginal culture firsthand. While their goal is to share new found knowledge with others when they return home, not everyone is happy about it.

Many Elders feel that ceremonies should only be done on North American soil, and do not approve of transporting it to other parts of the world. Kurt and Christine are out to prove that if done with the right intentions, not only is it possible, but also necessary, to help keep these traditions alive for future generations.

ABOUT THE BROADCASTERS

CITYTV: *The Sharing Circle* is produced and developed in association with Citytv, a division of Rogers Media Inc. Citytv, with stations in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg, broadcasts intensely-local, urban-oriented, culturally-diverse television in its own unique, interactive style. With its strong local voice, Citytv offers a distinct alternative to other conventional television offerings. Its instantly recognizable 'look' and 'sound' are the product of refreshingly different on-air personalities, unique program formats and high television style. Citytv is a division of Rogers Media Inc., a division of Rogers Communications Inc.

APTN: September 1, 2007 marked the eight-year anniversary of the launch of the first national Aboriginal television network in the world with programming by, for and about Aboriginal Peoples to share with all Canadians and viewers around the world. APTN is available in approximately 10 million Canadian households and commercial establishments with cable, direct-to-home satellite (DTH), telco-delivered and fixed wireless television

service providers. APTN does not receive government funding for operations but generates revenue through subscriber fees, advertising sales and strategic partnerships. APTN broadcasts programming with 56% offered in English, 16% in French and 28% in Aboriginal languages. For program schedule or for more information, please contact APTN at (204) 947-9331 or toll-free at 1-888-278-8862, or visit the website at www.aptn.ca

The Sharing Circle: Season 16 is produced in association with Citytv, A Division of Rogers Communications Inc.; Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN); Manitoba Film & Sound; The Canadian Independent Film & Video Fund; Saskatchewan Communications Network (SCN); The Government of Manitoba's Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit; and The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit.

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