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Embargoed until October 19th - pre-released to media

Young Lakota at ImagineNATIVE in Toronto! Reproductive Justice Rally, Film Screening and After-Party

Toronto - As part of the ImagineNATIVE International Indigenous Media Arts and Film Festival happening in Toronto, October 17-21, the Native Youth Sexual Health Network is proud to be co-presenting the film Young Lakota and associated events on **Saturday**, **October 20** - the National Day of Action for Reproductive Justice.

About the Film: When Cecelia Fire Thunder, the first female President of the Oglala Sioux tribe, challenges a South Dakota law criminalizing abortion, she ignites a political firestorm that sets off a chain reaction in the lives of three young Lakotas on the Pine Ridge Reservation, forcing each of them to define who they are, and what kind of adults they will become.

We are also excited to announce that **Sunny Clifford**, main character of Young Lakota, and the Executive Director of the Native Youth Sexual Health Network will be speaking at the "Reproductive Justice: Equal Access Now! Pan-Canadian Day of Action" Rally at 1pm Old City Hall - 60 Queen St. West.

"I consider everything I've done thus far for the better good of the community. I want people to get an understanding of what it's really like to be an Indigenous person today and how most young women grow up on reservations. I am very excited about coming to Toronto and I am counting down the days." - Sunny Clifford, main character of Young Lakota

We then encourage everyone to join us at **4:30pm** for the film screening of Young Lakota at ImagineNATIVE at **TIFF Bell Lightbox 350 King St. West.** Tickets are available at: <u>http://imaginenative.org/festival2012/</u>

"When we started following Sunny she was a young woman on the brink of adulthood. The film follows her declaration of independence as she discovers her own voice. Now, joining her in Toronto, we're watching Sunny start on a new journey as the powerful, charismatic adult she's become." - Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt, filmmakers Directly after the film screening at **7pm in the Green Room**, stay with us for the afterparty, food, and talk-show style discussion with Sunny Clifford and filmmakers, where we will also be giving away tickets to the ImagineNATIVE closing gala.

For more information about the film go to: <u>http://imaginenative.org/festival2012/node/</u> 1918

For more information about Reproductive Justice: Equal Access Now! Pan-Canadian Day of Action go to: <u>http://oct20rjday.wordpress.com/</u>

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