

Indigenous Peoples' Legal Film Series

MARCH 2010

All University of Otago staff and students welcome.

Free entry

An inspiring set of films that provide a wonderful understanding of the struggles Indigenous Peoples, particularly in Canada, Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, have been grappling with to be recognised in law.

Time Immemorial: As long as the rivers flow (1991) 59 minutes

Friday 5th March, 12.00pm

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

Presents the land claim struggle of British Columbia's Niska Indians, recounting the clash of cultures over four generations as they take their case from Victoria to Parliament Hill to Westminster and finally to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Making Treaties in British Columbia (1998) 45 minutes

Monday 8th March, 1.00pm

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

A made-for-television documentary that focuses on the issues in treaty negotiations and the process for resolution in British Columbia Canada. The filmmaker set out on the highway late in 1997 just in time to record initial reactions to the landmark decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Delgamuukw* case. Then progress at the treaty tables slowed while First Nations, Canada and British Columbia re-examined their positions in light of *Delgamuukw*. Attention turned to the Nisga'a in the summer of 1998 with the initialing of the first modern treaty in BC. The documentary looks at the impacts of the *Delgamuukw* case, the process for resolving the land question, the differences between rural and urban treaties, and the Nisga'a Final Agreement. "Our goal was to bring people together through an understanding of each other's views," says the film's director and producer Richard Hersley.

Honour of the Crown (2001) 46 minutes

Monday 8th March, 1.45pm

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

François Paulette has devoted more than 25 years of his life to resolving a battle that is more than a century old. Senior negotiator for the Smith's Landing First Nation, Paulette is determined to see the Canadian government honor promises made to the Thebatthi (Chipewyan) people in an 1899 treaty. Shot in northern Alberta and Ottawa, *Honour of the Crown* is a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the turbulent final years of this fight. Plunged into seemingly endless negotiations, Paulette and his brother, Chief Jerry Paulette, struggle to reclaim nine tracts of land and \$33 million in compensation. Featuring interviews with tribal, provincial and federal government representatives, this documentary provides a rare glimpse into one community's success in settling a one-hundred-year-old treaty obligation of the Crown.

Justice Within: Indigenous Legal Traditions (2006) 30 minutes

Friday 12th March, 12.00pm

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

Although Indigenous peoples were the earliest practitioners of law in what is now Canada, their laws have often been ignored or overruled by non-Indigenous laws. This documentary examines the importance of Indigenous legal traditions for Indigenous peoples and the place of Indigenous laws in contemporary Canada.

Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations (2006) 30 minutes

Friday 12th March, 12.30pm

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

What can you do when your land has been taken away from you, your culture destroyed and your language is dying? How does it feel when history books describe your ancestors as savages and the people who killed and displaced them are portrayed as heroes? When disaster strikes and atrocities are committed, the world looks to the United Nations to intervene, react and to help, but for the longest time, the doors of the UN were closed to indigenous peoples and for decades they were left to fend for themselves. The film brings to life a truly historic moment for Indigenous peoples from around the world. It is a real life story of hope.

Mabo. Life of an Island Man (1997) 87 minutes

Monday 15th March, 1.00pm

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

Traces the story of the life of an extraordinary man, Eddie Koiki Mabo, one whose struggle for land rights, and his remarkable life in general, had a profound effect on indigenous rights in Australia. It tells the story of an island man so passionate about family and home that he fought an entire nation and its legal system. Though he died before his great victory was won, it has forever ensured his place on Murray Island and in Australian history.

From Ware Hill to Wik and Beyond. The Struggle for Native Title

(1999) 37 minutes

Tuesday 16th March, 1.00pm

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

In six segments of chronological order, this program looks at the struggle to win native title and land rights since the 1960s in Australia.

After Mabo: the long and difficult road to native title (1997) 40 mins

Tuesday 16th March, 1.45pm

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

Following the Mabo legislation and the establishment of the Native Title Tribunal to hear claims, there has been widespread confusion about the legislation and how it will affect the struggle for Aboriginal land rights. These case studies help greatly to enlighten students about the challenges posed by the Mabo decision, the limitations of the decision and the important roles of the Tribunal and the government. The case studies examine the positions of the Aboriginals and white landholders and leaseholders, and provide examples of successful outcomes of land rights legislation.

Journeys (video 1): Ngā Tohu: Signatures: (2007) 51 minutes

Monday 22nd March, 11.00am

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

Looks at why the Treaty was signed, and what it meant to both Crown and Maori. And looks at the current legal status of the Treaty, and how a land claim can arise from a breach of the Treaty.

Justice Durie 2007, 50 mins

Monday 22nd March, 12noon

Screening Room (RM 201), Central Library

Documentary about Justice Edward Taihakurei Durie's personal journey working with the Treaty of Waitangi. It looks at the influential factors in Justice Durie's life as well as the surrounding historical and political factors that lead to the articulation of a truth in Aotearoa-New Zealand's history. He has made the Treaty of Waitangi as relevant today as it was when it was first signed in 1840, says director of the documentary Moana Sinclair. Justice Durie has not only interpreted the Treaty to acknowledge Māori rights which has meant, in some cases, the return of their ancestral lands and resources but he has also found a place for non-Maori. This documentary is one man's personal journey working with the Treaty. Justice Durie was appointed a judge of the Māori Land Court in 1974 and Chief Judge of the court from 1981 to 1998. Also in 1981 Justice Durie became Chairman of the Waitangi Tribunal and held this position until 2002. In 1998 he was appointed to the High Court bench in Wellington and took up a position in the Law Commission in July 2004.