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## REEL CANADA launches *Black and Indigenous Realities: Anti-Racism Programme*

### Over 20,000 students set to participate in nation-wide livestreams featuring Charles Officer and Sarain Fox

TORONTO — Nov. 17, 2020 — On Nov. 25, REEL CANADA is launching a compelling new programme to help students and teachers across the country discuss inequality and racism in Canada through film. The programme kicks off with a nation-wide interactive livestream on Black realities, featuring award-winning director **Charles Officer** in discussion of his acclaimed documentary *THE SKIN WE'RE IN*. **Garvia Bailey** will moderate the discussion, in which participating students will submit questions and comments online.

A second livestream will be presented on Dec. 1 focusing on Indigenous Realities. Filmmaker and activist **Sarain Fox** will discuss her experiences as host of Michelle Latimer's *RISE: STANDING ROCK PART II*. Indigenous musician, producer, and educator **Ronnie Dean Harris** will moderate.

Registration for the programme already tops 20,000 Canadian high school students nationwide.

The programme also offers a third interactive livestream in April that will deal with both Black and Indigenous realities in Canada, as well as access to a curated list of films and lesson plans for teachers, including suggested guidelines for exploring culturally sensitive issues with students in a respectful way.

REEL CANADA believes in the power of films to uplift and inspire, and to give voice to those who have not been heard. Our programme has presented the works of BIPOC filmmakers since our inception in 2005, and demand for this programming has grown each season. This year, as the Black Lives Matter movement has galvanized the continent, educators are contacting us in huge numbers, looking for Canadian film programming that they can use to spark important dialogue with their students about racism as it relates to both Black and Indigenous Canadians.

In our ongoing effort to bring a uniquely Canadian perspective to the issues our filmmakers are addressing, we want to give educators and youth an opportunity to explore these issues, both separately and together.

To that end, the final livestream will focus on the intersection of Black and Indigenous realities, and will take place on National Canadian Film Day, April 21, 2021, with special guests to be announced.

If you teach high school, or want to get your teenager's school involved, please write to [contactus@reelcanada.ca](mailto:contactus@reelcanada.ca).

This programme is made possible through the efforts of dedicated sponsors and partners who continue to support us. We are grateful for the support of the Government of Canada, Telefilm Canada, the Government of Ontario, CBC, Bell Media, Royal Bank of Canada, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Creates, City of Toronto, and Cineplex.

Visit [reelcanada.ca](http://reelcanada.ca) for more information on *Black and Indigenous Realities: Anti-Racism Programme*. You can also find us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram: @REELCANADA.

## About REEL CANADA

REEL CANADA is a non-profit, charitable organization that promotes the diversity of Canadian film and its power to spark important conversations about what it means to be Canadian. Through our three core programmes—Our Films in Our Schools, Welcome to Canada, and National Canadian Film Day (NCFD)—REEL CANADA has reached millions of high school students, new Canadians, and general audience members.

To schedule interviews with Charles Officer, Sarain Fox, Jack Blum (REEL CANADA Executive Director) or Sharon Corder (REEL CANADA Artistic Director), please contact [communications@reelcanada.ca](mailto:communications@reelcanada.ca).

If interested in promotional materials and media assets to share on your own social channels, please email [communications@reelcanada.ca](mailto:communications@reelcanada.ca) to gain access.

