

The Lesser Blessed Film Project Report

The Tlicho Government has been approached by First Generation Films as a potential partnership and an investor in their film adaptation of Richard Van Camp's novel titled "The Lesser Blessed". The First Generation Films is a Toronto based production company that was founded, by Christina Piovesan, in 2007. FGF has produced quality film and television programming with an emphasis on telling stories that promote cultural diversity and tolerance. The Department of Language, Culture and Communication under the Tlicho Government developed a partnership with FGF to assist in delivering mentorship programs, traditional clothing were given for design and TG sponsored the premiere of the Lesser Blessed on October 2012 in Yellowknife.



Richard Van Camp is a Tlicho citizen and writer. The lesser blessed was his first novel and received critical acclaim both in Canada and abroad. The novel is center around a Tlicho youth who finds himself in a love triangle with the girl of his dreams and his rebellious best friend. It's about a dysfunctional family that faces challenges and vulnerability to social problems that leads to unresolved issues. His past holds many terrors; an abusive father, blackout from solvent abused and an

incident that almost killed him. The Lesser Blessed is an eye-opening depiction of what it is to be a young native (Tlicho) man in today's age of disillusionment and growing world consciousness. This film has the potential to bring a wider representation of Tlicho culture to a large National and International audience through screenings at film festivals globally.



The budget for the project is about \$2.3 million. The majority of the funding for this project is being raised in Ontario from Provincially and Federally funded sources. These organizations are reluctant to sign on without the expressed written support of the Tlicho Government and its citizens. The economic benefits to the community are considerable. There is also an immeasurable moral boost to the communities as everyone will have an opportunity

to audition for this film by uploading video clips and self-photos over the internet. There is an opportunity to promote Tlicho language through the distribution of DVD copies of the video that use the Tlicho language with English subtitles. In addition, the author has agreed to utilize the Tlicho language in portions of the actual dialogue.



The Tlicho Government with support of GNWT and FGF delivered the Northern Arts Mentorship Programs from July to December 2011. The GNWT has expressed an interest in supporting this program. George Bailey, CART had an opportunity to job shadow and work behind the scenes on a film with important members of the film crew. George gained considerable experience behind and insight into the film industry. We are certain that this endeavor will have a positive impact on the Tlicho

youth and that the opportunity to be cast in the film will offer them valuable exposure to potential career paths. The Department of Language, Culture & Communication under the Tlicho Government has contribution \$6,677.00 towards the Lesser Blessed Enhance Mentorship Projects 2011-12.



The Tlicho Members attended the (TIFF) Toronto International Film for the premiere of the Lesser Blessed on September 9th, 2012 in Toronto, Ont. From left to right: Richard Van Camp, Wendy Mantla, Actor Kiowa Joseph Gordon, Lucy Lafferty, Joe Erasmus, Tony Rabesca.



The Tlicho Government sponsored premiere of the Lesser Blessed at (NACC) Northern Arts & Culture Centre on October 3, 2012 in Yellowknife, NT. The Lesser Blessed movie tickets for 7:00 pm were sold out a week prior to screen on October 3rd, 2012. A door was open for public to view the film at 10:15 pm. The Tlicho Government, staffs and special guest attended the premiere of Lesser Blessed held in Yellowknife. The Tlicho Drummers did a traditional handgame demonstration, traditional

crafts were displayed, stew & bannock were provided for guest and visitors at NACC. The Tlicho Drummers opened with a drum prayer song, open remark by Eddie Erasmus, Tlicho Grand Chief, Anita Doron, Film Director, and followed by screening of the Lesser Blessed. After film, Anita explained about movie project followed by a finale traditional Drum Dance in the foyer. The Tlicho Government would like to say "Masi Cho" to cast & crew of the Lesser Blessed and Western Arctic Moving Picture film Society for a successful historical event for Tlicho Nation held on October 3, 2012 in Yellowknife.