

## **FROM EARTH TO SKY**

### **A film by Ron Chapman**

**From Earth To Sky** offers a unique and inspiring story of a proud, accomplished collective of Indigenous architects, driving a movement as climate change threatens the planet. They are world leaders in aesthetics, form, sustainability, and ultimately, in protecting Mother Earth. Their stories have never been more important, and this film articulates the power of Indigenous architecture and its relevance in today's world.

Audiences are invited to follow these seven diverse North American artists as they bring to life the vitality of Indigenous architecture, from design to construction: **Tammy Eagle Bull** the first woman architect in North America (Oglala Lakota Nation, South Dakota), **Wanda Dalla Costa** (Saddle Lake First Nation, Alberta), **Alfred Waugh** (Chipewyan of the Fond Du Lac Band, Denesuline Nation, Saskatchewan), **Brian Porter** (Oneida Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario), **Daniel Glenn** (Crow Tribe), **Patrick Stewart** (Killerwhale House of Daaxan, Nisga'a Nation, British Columbia), and **Douglas Cardinal** the first Indigenous architect in North America (Siksika, Blackfoot, Calgary).

Each architect defines his/her individuality through artistry, and yet they bond in their philosophy of how to protect the planet. Diverse in gender, age, and artistic approach, they find common ground in their Indigenous identity. Having lived harrowing experiences of dysfunction, poverty, violence, and assimilation, they all overcame adversity to become the top in their field.

“Meeting iconic architect Douglas Cardinal in the fall of 2017, along with 18 other Indigenous architects from Turtle Island who collaborated on an installation for the Venice Biennale, was an inspiring experience,” said director Ron Chapman. “Diverse and unique, the conversations I had with these talented architects sparked the fire for a film to document their illustrious contributions. And it has been an honour to observe, listen and lens seven of these extraordinary professionals and feature their experiences in **From Earth to Sky**. The celebrated landmark buildings they have created for their community, as well as national and international audiences, are a testament to their commitment to embrace mother earth.”

While an international movement ignited when they visited New Zealand to collaborate with Maori and Indigenous architects and designers from around the world, the film culminates as they travel to the Venice Biennale of Architecture to present, for the first time, Indigenous Architecture from North America in a spectacular installation. It is an event of unprecedented importance to be honoured on the world stage of architecture. Together these Indigenous architects are changing the world, influencing humanity to consider the built environment as having an impact on our planet, and guiding us to the possibility of a sustainable future.