

## MARIE WILSON Reconciliation Consulting

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: ***YOU CAN CALL ME ROGER***, a Popular Demand Pictures documentary

I am writing as a former Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, (and as a former, long-time professional in your creative industry,) to encourage you to highlight the documentary film *You Can Call Me Roger* with a prominent place in your upcoming Atlantic Film Festival.

As Commissioner colleagues, Chief Dr. Wilton Littlechild, the Hon. Justice Murray Sinclair and I led the TRC from 2009 through to the issuing of our Final Report in 2015. We held over 300 events in all parts of the country. (The largest and most visible were seven TRC National Events held in Winnipeg, Inuvik, **Halifax**, Saskatoon, Montréal, Vancouver, and Edmonton.) Our primary focus was always on Survivors of Canada's century-plus history of forced residential schooling for Indigenous children, and we recorded almost seven thousand statements. However, our wider outreach was to *all Canadians*, providing opportunities to learn more about this un-taught part of our shared history.

The more people learn, two things are increasingly clear: *no* Canadian today takes pride in this country's treatment of Indigenous Peoples; *all* Canadians have a role to play in advancing reconciliation in ways that honor and revitalize the Nation-to-Nation relationship promised in Treaties, in specific Constitutional protections, and in international law. Our TRC concluded that reconciliation is in the best interests of the whole country. That is why our 94 TRC Calls to Action address all sectors of Canadian society, *including the arts*. We need the arts to help us keep learning, as we continue to develop positive new relationships.

That is specifically why I am pleased to provide this letter of support for integral placement of the documentary film *You Can Call Me Roger* within your upcoming Festival. The film depicts the life and experiences of Chief Roger Augustine, a Survivor of both the residential school system and Indian Day schools, who becomes a prominent regional and national Indigenous leader. This powerful and highly artistic film serves to deepen understanding of the truth of Canada's past, and the continuing importance of reconciling relationships between the First Peoples of this country and Canada itself. I encourage you to program *You Can Call Me Roger* with prominence that allows for its greatest possible impact.

With all good wishes for an extremely successful Festival,  
Respectfully,



Marie Wilson, C.M., O.NWT, M.S.C., LLB (honoris causa)  
Commissioner, TRC of Canada, 2009-2015