

# Bridges To The North

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Directed by Tony McGuire

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Produced by Michael Fox, Qasim Saddique, Tony McGuire

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A story 15 years in the making.



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THEY MEDIA

Webequie airport airplane taxi area. Passengers walk across this area to make their way to a small building that acts as a makeshift terminal.



**opening words.**

Dear.

*It's been a bit of an odd journey but we have arrived, 15 years later, at a moment where a credible environmental assessment process could lead to the first roads to the north. We never could have saw this happening after rushing up to film a protest.*

Many many years ago, Michael Fox and I rushed to a protest, we had been doing minor work up north, he had left the Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund and started a private consultation practice known as Fox Consulting and I was a budding director. As the Anishinawbe and Cree are wont to do, we dabbled in various ventures and were working with Webequie First Nation, suddenly I was in a transport plane 15000 feet in the air with no gloves, -45, and my camera batteries were freezing, Michael was in an auditorium setting up an announcement with a company who had agreed to stop doing business as usual.

Little did we know this was going to become larger than we could have ever dreamed, and this film is a snippet of all those years. Wow.

**Tony McGuire**

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Director

# production unit.



## Theymedia

*Since 2016 Theymedia has been winning awards for their films at festivals and has seen their work head out to CBC, BBC and APTN in various capacities.*

Theymedia was started as a means to correct stereotypes surrounding indigenous peoples; we have trained multiple First Nations in media and reclaiming their own storylines. Why couldn't the nerd hacker in a spy film be an indigenous woman? Why couldn't the love interest be a native leading man? We saw these issues 20 years ago and put into motion a studio 15 years ago to make authentic stories. We have our own nerds.

We are still growing, we are still telling our stories, and we are still trying to get our own stories out. We use Sony, RED, ARRI, whatever camera system is needed and are a mostly in house production studio.

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**Located near Nanaboozhoo in the city of Thunder Bay.**

Indigenous  
Anishinawbek



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ADRIEN HARPELLE JOINED THE CREW MID STREAM TO TAKE OVER RECORDING AUDIO. HE CURRENTLY IS PART OF AN AWARD WINNING GROUP WHO DID A FILM ABOUT TRAVELLING BACK TO SUMMER BEAVER. (NIBINAMIK)

# story and production team.

All about our  
production team.



## Michael Fox

★★★★★

Providing high level direction and correcting historical points, Michael worked with the team and helped ensure the story of the First Nations was being told accurately. He also provided high level ideas to the team to think about having been in many of situations portrayed in the film.



## Qasim Saddique

★★★★★

Coming from a background of academia and working toward his doctorate, Qasim gave high level overviews of what the environmental process is, was and how it has morphed into what it is today. He clarified issues the director was not sure of and ensured the story was correct.



## Tony McGuire

★★★★★

Tony was the main story creator and worked with Jason Stasiw and Brandon Rodeghiero to humanize a complex story. Wanting to tell the story from an Anishinawbek perspective, he feels he has accomplished that, he comes from the Lake Nipigon region and lives in Thunder Bay.

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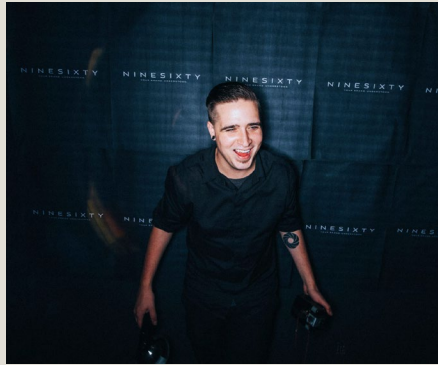
THEY MEDIA

# Film Crew

In 2009, the Marten Falls and Webequie peoples led a protest due to the lack of consultation. "...Members of the Marten Falls and Webequie communities demanded job training and employment for their members, environmental accountability and completion of construction of a new airport in the area..."



Who shot this?



## Jason Stasiw

★★★★★

His first role as a DOP in a full length film, Jason worked with the director to find the best combination of lighting and style to capture the emotions of the subject. He comes from a background in photography and high level commercial work.



## Brandon Rodeghiero

★★★★★

Brandon mix of Six Nations and Italian heritages worked on the set, lending to his role as the associate producer. He had to be on top of scheduling and all manner of tasks to keep the crew moving towards the finish line. His work as B The Wiz is his current passion.

Chief Wabasse.



”

WEBEQUIE HAS A VISION FOR THEIR COMMUNITY AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO PROSPER OUR COMMUNITY AND TO FIND AND ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES IN OUR COMMUNITY...

At the Webequie annual Festival, youth and adults bond over games and community events. Live bands play at night for the adults.



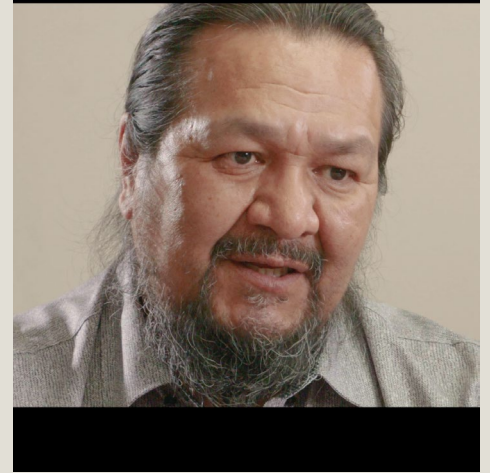
Bringing food to consultation meetings is par for the course. It is not only a gift, but getting out of the community is hard, so it provides a chance at rare treats.



www.theymedia.com

shot on sony.

Chief Achneepineskum.



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THAT'S WHAT WE NOTICED THROUGH OUT THE YEARS IS THAT THE ICE IS GETTING THINNER, AND LESS IN DIAMETER EVERY YEAR...

production stills.



AWARD WINNING

**Andre Morriseau**  
★★★★★

**Local Premiere**

Director Tony McGuire answers a question during a packed house Q/A along with Chief Bruce Achneepineskum.

**Bridges to the North**  
A Story 15 Years in the Making  
Story by Roxann Shapwaykeesic, Images courtesy of Theymedia

**B**ack in September, point for the story," says In November  
Bridges to the North, McGuire, who filmed another funding announc  
premiered at the Vox year and a half while navigating confirmed the film's cu

Ring of Fire road projects are 'sovereignty' issue, says Anishinaabe documentary filmmaker

Thunder Bay's Tony McGuire wades through the conflict and contradiction of Far North development

Ian Ross  
Oct 5, 2023 3:00 PM

**feedback.**

More nominations and awards are incoming.

"Bridges to the North - interesting way to learn about the issue, enjoyed the more laid back and realistic style it was filmed in, it felt like I was there and part of their journey"

"Bridges to the North would be an excellent resource for my learners."

**164. Best local film 2022-2023**

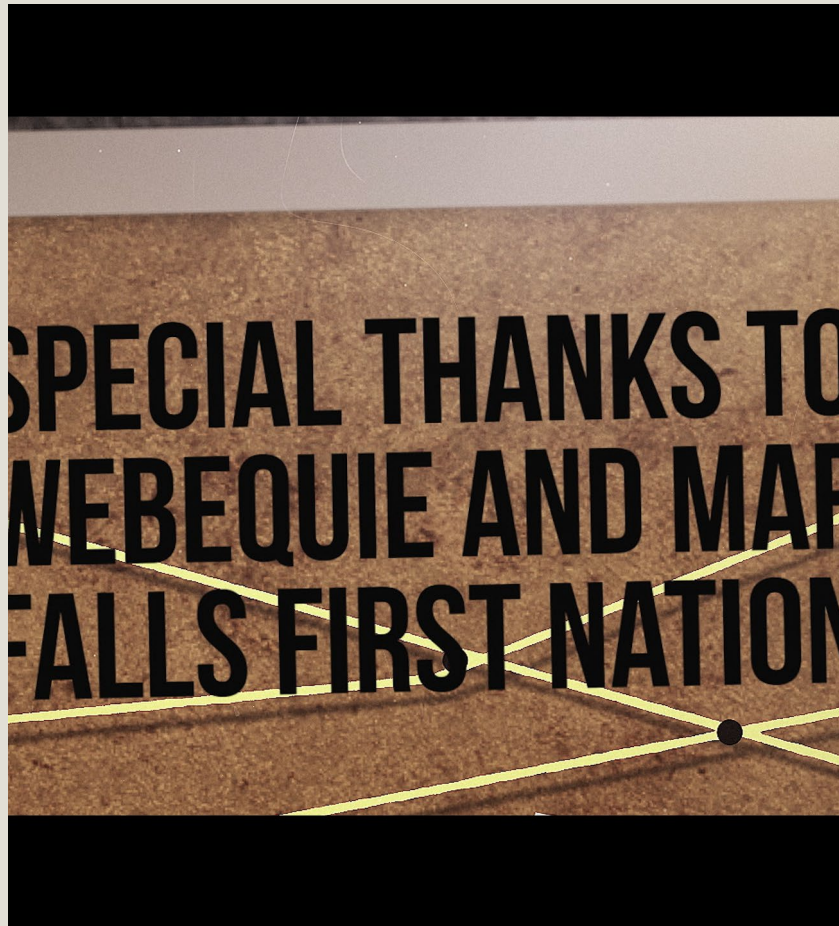
1. *Bridges to the North* - Tony McGuire
2. *Return to Ombabika* - Ma-Nee Chacaby, Zoe Gordon, Shayne Ehman
3. (tie) *Call Me if You Miss Me* - Pablo Balboa (tie) *I See It Too* - Daniel Cossio

**165. Best film director 2022-2023**

1. Michelle Derosier
2. Ryan La Vie

# trailer and contact

THEY MEDIA



## MEDIA CONTACT

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## TRAILER and FILM

<https://youtu.be/TDk14SrDdgo?si=40hSY1k-Mee31m0V>

A reviewer link is available upon request to preview full film.



## FUTURE ACHIEVEMENTS

### LANGUAGES

We are working to have it translated into Anishinawbemowin so it can become a language resource. We are also working on francais.

### OFFICIAL RELEASE

The official release date is April 2024 but a prior film festival commitment may push that back a couple weeks. We are opening it up to the public, universities, high schools and communities to view and use to get a high level overview of the complexities of the North.