



Opening of the Festival du cinéma  
international en Abitibi-Témiscamingue  
Saturday, October 27, 2007 at 8 pm  
Théâtre du cuivre, Rouyn-Noranda

**Address by Tom Perlmutter**  
*Le peuple invisible*, opening film, world premiere

## 1) Introduction

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening! I am pleased to see so many of you for this opening evening of the 26th Festival du cinéma international en Abitibi-Témiscamingue! Clearly, audiences here are still as loyal as ever and enthusiastic about cinema!

## 2) Purpose of the evening and greeting of film participants

This is my first visit to this region and I'm delighted to be here at this screening of the documentary ***Le peuple invisible***. This is a momentous occasion, because this film about the Algonquin people is having its world premiere in its very birthplace, for an audience of the very people who agreed to **appear in front of the camera to share their history and their lives.**

Documentary comes into its own in these rare moments of sharing, when the protagonists are in the theatre, surrounded by an audience, discovering the end result of a long period of filming.

I welcome the many participants of the film here with us this evening, the chiefs of the nine Algonquin communities shown in the film as well as directors Richard Desjardins and Robert Monderie and producer Colette Loumède.

#### **4) Role of the NFB**

One of the NFB's basic roles is to provide a way to speak out for those who otherwise couldn't, and reveal to the public how the country's various communities live. With ***Le peuple invisible***, which took three years to make, the people of Abitibi-Témiscamingue and the rest of Quebec can now finally learn about the troubling situation of the Algonquin, **an unknown nation in our midst.**

The NFB also supports Aboriginal filmmakers, whether seasoned professionals like the great Alanis Obomsawin, or emerging talent such as the young filmmakers from Wapikoni Mobile, a travelling video production studio headed by Manon Barbeau. You'll see one of the Wapikoni short films at the closing evening of this Festival.

#### **5) Thanks to the Festival; accessibility of films regionally**

I salute the hard work of those behind this Festival, a unifying cultural event for the public of Abitibi-Témiscamingue. For 26 years it's been supporting the vitality of your local culture. **This is a value shared by the NFB.** I'm especially happy that ***Le peuple invisible*** will be seen in four other towns during the Festival, before going on general release in the province on November 23.

#### **6) Conclusion**

I now pass you to Colette Loumède, producer of the film. Enjoy the screening.