

The Transitional Justice Network presents

Qimmit: A Clash of Two Truths

A film by Ole Gjerstad and Joelle Sanguya

Thursday, February 24, 2011 -- 4:30 – 7:30pm

Liu Institute for Global Issues, UBC, 6476 NW Marine Drive

Everyone welcome.

Please RSVP if possible at www.liqi.ubc.ca/events/register.htm

We gratefully acknowledge support from the Liu Institute for Global Issues.

4:30 - 5:00 Refreshments // Lobby Gallery

5:00 - 7:30 Film Screening & Discussion // Multipurpose Room

Featuring:

Doreen Manuel, Program Coordinator, Indigenous Independent Digital Filmmaking

Dr. Frank Tester, Professor, School of Social Work, UBC

Dr. Emilie Cameron, Assistant Professor, Carleton University

About the film:

For the Inuit, the sled dog symbolized a way of life and a deep and abiding connection to the land. They depended upon the dogs for their survival, hunting, and transportation.

But from the 1950s to the 1970s, it all changed for the Inuit. Their semi-nomadic way of life, typified by the sled dog, vanished. Families moved into settled communities. The sled dog population dropped from an estimated 20,000 to just a few hundred dogs.

Many Inuit believe the dogs were deliberately killed by the RCMP as part of a government policy to force them off the land—and into “civilization.”

The RCMP denies there was any conscious policy on their part, alleging these stories are either fabrications or the result of cultural misinterpretation. With the influx of people into the communities, they state, the sled dogs became redundant. And then the problems began.

The mystery of how and why the sled dogs disappeared has left deep wounds across Canada's arctic, wounds which are still being felt to this day.

In *Qimmit: A Clash of Two Truths*, James Iglooliorte, Commissioner of the Qikiqtani Truth Commission, spends a year hearing testimony from nearly 300 people.

Memories clash...two different truths, two different perceptions.

This emotionally gripping film looks into an unfamiliar world and reveals that in order to move forward, the past must be uncovered. And both sides, both truths, must be shared to understand the other a little better.

