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## Resolution Pictures Launches First Release on APTN

The picture is familiar enough - a school hallway full of chatting students.

But the sound effects are unique. The students at Wiinebekuu School in Waskaganish are not speaking English or French - they are speaking Cree, their own language. And that sets Wiinebekuu apart from most Native Schools in Canada.

Resolution Pictures, in association with the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), is proud to announce the national launch of **Cree Spoken Here**, on Wednesday, November 29 at 8:00pm EST and 11:00pm EST on APTN. The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network can be found on basic cable across Canada.

**Cree Spoken Here** is an hour-long documentary about the resurgence of the Cree language in Northern Quebec. Where once English and French dominated school life, young children are now taught entirely in Cree.

Cree filmmakers Ernest Webb and Neil Diamond tell a remarkably intimate story of the rebirth of Cree through three generations. In the film, we meet elders such as Louisa Diamond who, unlike other Natives in residential schools across Canada, was encouraged to speak Cree and learn syllabics at her church-run school. Louisa's children weren't so lucky. Unlike their parents, Cree baby-boomers such as Gordon Blackned, grew up in residential schools where students were forbidden to speak their mother tongue. An entire generation of Crees began to lose their language and themselves.

Fast forward a generation later to a group of Cree women determined to revive their language and culture, and the birth of the Cree Language of Instruction Program (CLIP). Programs like CLIP are helping to reverse the tide of assimilation. Now children like 10-year-old Gloria Diamond write, speak and read Cree fluently and ironically, little Gloria even corrects her parents' Cree vocabulary.

"Understanding the importance of language to Native culture is to better understand the underlying dysfunction in communities where language has been lost," says Webb, "There are more than 50 Native languages in Canada today. But experts believe that only three of them will survive this century. Cree is one of them."

**Cree Spoken Here** is part of the first wave of documentaries commissioned by the Aboriginal Television Network (APTN) since its inception in 1999. "The arrival of APTN has been a break through for Aboriginal programming in Canada," says producer Catherine Bainbridge, "For the first time, Native filmmakers have a window for telling their own stories. Thanks to APTN, the talent pool of top Native filmmakers in Canada is growing."

**Cree Spoken Here** was produced by Ernest Webb and Catherine Bainbridge at Rezolution Pictures. Based in Montreal, Rezolution Pictures is an innovative new film company that brings together some of Quebec's top Native and non-Native filmmakers, writers and researchers.