

Name: Dr. Grant Bruno

Institution: University of Alberta

E-mail: gcbruno@ualberta.ca

Sewatsiwin: They Are Sacred Documentary Screening

Short description / Abstract:

In Indigenous traditions, differences were not seen as a handicap, but rather as a strength that could benefit the entire community. This was true for autistic people, who were considered to have unique gifts and a connection to the spirit world. As our peoples reclaim our traditional knowledge and philosophies, we also face a critical lack of resources adapted to our new reality. Through intimate encounters with Anders, *Sewâtsiwin: They Are Sacred* gives viewers unique access to the world of an autistic child and allows them to follow his father's journey, dedicated to bringing traditional First Nations perspectives into our contemporary world.