



## Media Release

October 11, 2016

### **Documentary Film and Discussion with Paul Chaput – “Planting Stories, Feeding Communities: Knowledge, Indigenous Peoples, and Film”**

Paul Chaput, a Métis academic, actor, singer, composer, filmmaker, and poet, believes that film is the medium closest to Indigenous storytelling. His film, *Planting Stories, Feeding Communities: Knowledge, Indigenous Peoples, and Film*, celebrates the stories of Six Nations educators who were instrumental in the development of Native Studies and Native Language curricula. His film celebrates the positive multigenerational outcomes of these educators and explores whether film is an effective medium for bringing research findings and stories back to the communities from which they were taken.

The film will be shown on Thursday, October 13 at 7 pm in the Kinsella Auditorium in McCain Hall at St. Thomas University.

“Of all modern forms of communication, I argue that film is the medium that lies closest to the mode of Indigenous storytelling. My dissertation explores film as a means of reporting findings back to the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation, whose members played key roles in the history of Native Studies in Ontario,” writes Chaput.

“Throughout, the most pertinent question has remained: What are the “best practices”—under the current circumstances—that can be put in place to ensure that colonial approaches, imposition of harmful outside authority foremost of all, are not perpetuated? Bridging the gulf between my Indigenous and European ancestry requires a leap of faith from both sides.”

“The first time I watched *Planting Stories, Feeding Communities: Knowledge, Indigenous Peoples, and Film*, I was sitting beside my son, a member of the Grand River First Nations community. I saw his history and his future. Paul Chaput reminds us of our collective and painful past, but also embraces a hopeful future where education includes the experiences of all peoples in Canada,” said Dawne Clarke, chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at St. Thomas University.

Chaput’s previous scholarly work details the role of Indigenous educators, leaders and community members in the history of Native Studies curricula in publicly funded high schools in Ontario. Prior to this, he co-produced and narrated episodes of *Finding Our Talk: A Journey through Aboriginal Languages*, which aired on Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. He wrote and directed five APTN episodes, as well as two docudramas to re-introduce restorative justice principles in Nishnawbe Aski Nation’s northern communities.

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