

WWSU SYNOPSES

ONE-LINER:

Sensitively directed by Tasha Hubbard, *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* follows the family of the late Colten Boushie, a young Cree man fatally shot in a Saskatchewan farmyard, as they demand justice from Canada's legal system.

155 WORDS:

On a summer day in 2016, a young Indigenous man named Colten Boushie died from a gunshot to the head after entering Gerald Stanley's rural property with his friends. The emotionally charged trial and acquittal of Stanley caused shock and outrage across Canada, capturing international attention and raising questions about prejudice within the judicial system, and anti-Indigenous racism in the nation.

Award-winning filmmaker Tasha Hubbard follows the journey of Colten's family as they search for justice, taking their fight to the highest echelons of power and, ultimately, to the United Nations. Hubbard deftly illustrates how the long history of violence against Indigenous people continues to define life in parts of Canada, and the impact of systems that have been the instruments of colonial domination for centuries. At once urgent and intimate, *nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* is a profound portrait of a family standing up for a more just and fair society for future generations.

295 WORDS:

On a summer day in 2016, a young Indigenous man named Colten Boushie died from a gunshot to the head after entering Gerald Stanley's rural property with his friends. The emotionally charged trial and ultimate acquittal of Stanley caused shock and outrage across Canada, shattering the shaky confidence that Colten's family had placed in the justice system.

Award-winning filmmaker Tasha Hubbard follows the trial and its aftermath, revealing questions about bias that became apparent following the RCMP investigation and jury-selection process. Hubbard traces the long history of violence against Indigenous people, and their erasure from the systems of law and power, to the present day, exposing the need for systemic changes.

Emerging from the tragedy are the powerful and resilient voices of Colten's family and community, who stand up for a better future for the next generations. Taking strength in the memory of their beloved son, brother and cousin, the family embarks on a search for justice that brings them to the country's highest echelons of power,

and ultimately to the United Nations, where they challenge Canada's justice system in front of the international community.

Hubbard, whose previous films with the National Film Board of Canada have delved into forced Indigenous family separations during the Sixties Scoop (***Birth of a Family***) and the alleged involvement of Saskatoon police in the infamous freezing deaths of Indigenous men (***Two Worlds Colliding***), steps in front of the camera for the first time in a desire to highlight the personal toll the case has taken on the lives of Indigenous people. ***nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up*** weaves a profound narrative encompassing the filmmaker's own adoption, the stark history of colonialism on the Prairies, and a vision of a future where Indigenous children can live safely on their homelands.