

CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE / SOCIÉTÉ NOUVELLE : DOCUMENTARIES IN PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

Cette sélection de 10 films est proposée par Jacqueline Hoang Nguyen, en collaboration avec l'Office national du film du Canada (ONF)
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Courtes descriptions fournies par l'ONF
Brief abstracts provided by the NFB

A: Introduction to CFC/SN (30 min)

- *Challenge for Change* (v.o. en anglais), 1967 (24 min 21 s)

The objective of the *Challenge for Change* program is to shed light on social problems through the production of films. Can a film project serve as a cohesive agent and catalyst for change within a community, and at the same time serve as a means of communication with government? What is community organizing? What role can film play in participatory democracy? How useful are the films from *Challenge for Change* going to be? This film has some of the answers.

B: The activist image in the hands of its citizens (60 min)

- *VTR Rosedale* (v.o. en anglais), 1974 (31 min 17 s)

Rosedale, once referred to as "the rear end of Alberta" by one of its frustrated citizens, pulled itself together as a community. It formed a citizens' action committee, cleaned up the town, built a park, and negotiated with the government to install gas, water and sewage systems. It all happened within five months. The catalyst of this development process was the use of videotape recording (VTR) equipment by the citizens themselves.

- *Opération boule de neige* (v.o. en français), 1969 (26 min 25 s)

Dans le but de promouvoir une action sociale concertée dans un quartier pauvre de Montréal, une expérience fut tentée auprès de ses citoyens. Pour ce faire, le Comité des citoyens de Saint-Jacques, formé de gens du quartier du même nom, a utilisé le magnétoscope à bandes, recueillant, enregistrant et projetant sur écran de télévision en circuit fermé l'exposé des problèmes inhérents à cette population défavorisée : problèmes communs à tous et auxquels ils devaient ensemble trouver des solutions.

C: Social changes for the poor (90 min)

- *The Things I Cannot Change* (v.o. en anglais), 1967 (55 min 05 s)

This film is considered to be the forerunner of the NFB's *Challenge for Change* program. It is a look at a family in trouble, seen from the inside. Although filmed in Montréal, this is the anatomy of poverty as it occurs in North America, seen by a camera that became part of the family's life for several weeks.

- *Citizens' Medecine* (v.o. bilingue), 1970 (30 min 18 s)

In Montréal, the St. Jacques Citizens' Committee set up a community health clinic, aided by volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists and medical students. This film shows discussion, planning, and the clinic in operation, and presents its problems and advantages as seen both by medical workers and by local residents. Members of the Citizens' Committee participated in the making of the film, from original planning through filming, selecting and editing.

Les citoyens du quartier Saint-Jacques, à Montréal, organisent une clinique médicale et en gardent le contrôle. La médecine s'en trouve plus «humaine». De curative, elle devient préventive. Elle cesse d'être un commerce. Les patients perdent leur méfiance, dialoguent, échangent. La clinique devient un véritable centre communautaire où l'on fait l'expérience d'une nouvelle forme de société. Mais, sans argent, quel est son avenir face au système établi?

D: For indigenous governance and the autonomous image (60 min)

- *The Ballad of Crowfoot* (v.o. en anglais), 1968 (10 min 18 s)

A bitter, haunting, and impressionistic film that examines the situation of Aboriginal people in North America through the figure of Crowfoot, the legendary 19th-century Blackfoot leader of the Plains. A rapid montage of archival photos, etchings and contemporary newspaper clippings is married to the words and music of an impassioned ballad written by Micmac singer and songwriter Willie Dunn.

- *PowWow at Duck Lake* (v.o. en anglais), 1967 (14 min 30 s)

A discussion at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, where Métis problems are openly and strongly presented before a gathering of Indians and Whites. Among matters discussed are the kind of schooling available to Aboriginals and the limitations of education that restrict their opportunities to develop in their own way and in ways best for themselves.

- *You Are on Indian Land* (v.o. en anglais avec s.t. français), 1969 (36 min 48 s)

A film report of the 1969 protest demonstration by Mohawk of the St. Regis Reserve on the international bridge between Canada and the United States near Cornwall, Ontario. By blocking the bridge, which is on the Reserve, and causing a considerable tie-up of motor traffic, the Natives drew public attention to their grievance that they were prohibited by Canadian authorities from duty-free passage of personal purchases across the border; a right they claim was established by the Jay Treaty of 1794.

En 1969, les Mohawks de la réserve de St-Régis près de Cornwall manifestent contre l'imposition de taxes sur l'achat de denrées aux États-Unis. En bloquant le pont qui relie le Canada aux États-Unis, ils réclament un droit pourtant clairement établi par le traité de Jay en 1794.

E: Not all working mothers are equal (30 min)

- *They Appreciate You More* (v.o. en anglais), 1974 (14 min 42 s)

Aliette lives in Montreal with her husband and three children. Since both Aliette and Pierre work outside their home full-time, they share household responsibilities. This development has changed them as individuals and, they think, has affected the dynamics of their family—for the better.

- *Mothers Are People* (v.o. en anglais), 1974 (7 min 18 s)

Joy is a research biologist, a consultant to a large company. She is also a widow with two school-age children. In discussing her own dilemmas she speaks for many other women. Apart from "discrimination against women," Joy sees the absence of universal day care as a loss for children too.