

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Sundar Prize Film Festival 2026 Spotlights Powerful BC Indigenous Storytelling**

**Surrey, BC** – March 2, 2026 – The Sundar Prize Film Festival is proud to highlight an extraordinary slate of Indigenous storytelling as part of its 2026 programming. Rooted in land, language, sovereignty, identity, and resilience, these films center Indigenous voices and lived experience at a time when cultural storytelling has never been more urgent.

This year's selections explore intergenerational memory, environmental resistance, queer Indigenous identity, community strength, and the reclamation of language and belonging.

#### **Featured Indigenous Films**

***Saints And Warriors* (Canada, BC, 2024) — Director: Patrick Shannon — 1:37:00 — Delta Premiere (April 23, 2026 at 5 pm at the North Delta Centre for the Arts)**

**Logline:** Throughout the Haida basketball season, leaders of the Skidegate Saints fight to defend their All Native Basketball Championship title—while also battling for their land and waters against the government that stole it through the Indian Act. [Assets](#)

3 Leo Awards (Best Direction, Best Editing, Best Cinematography for Feature Documentary), Hot Docs Top 5 Audience Award, CIFF Grand Jury Prize for Best Canadian Documentary, DOXA DGC Colin Low Award for Best Canadian Director

***A Cree Approach* (Canada, BC, 2025) — Director: Tristin Greyeyes — 1:10:00 — Delta Premiere (April 24, 2026 at 3:30 pm at the North Delta Centre for the Arts)**

**Logline:** Tristin wants to understand why Cree was not her first language, unraveling the story of her late grandmother, Freda Ahenakew. A single mother of 12 and a high school dropout, Freda witnessed a generational divide in her family—half of her children learned Cree as their first language, while the rest grew up without it. Despite these challenges, Freda became a renowned Indigenous scholar, linguist, and advocate for the Cree language. [Assets](#)

***The Fire in Our Heart* (Canada, BC, 2026) — Director: Josias Tszanz — 1:27:20 — BC Premiere (April 24, 2026 at 5:45 pm at the North Delta Centre for the Arts)**

**Logline:** As wildfires threaten a remote region of British Columbia, the Cheslatta Carrier Nation and Southside residents choose to stay and defend their land, transforming the crisis into a powerful blueprint for sovereignty, resilience, and collective survival. [Assets](#)

***Blood Lines* (Canada, Saskatchewan, 2025) — Director: Gail Maurice — 1:29:41 — Surrey Premiere (April 25, 2026 at 6:45 pm at Landmark Cinemas Guildford in Surrey)**

**Logline:** An estranged Métis mother and daughter struggle to overcome their differences but their world comes crashing down when an alluring woman enters their lives. [Assets](#)

World Premiered at TIFF, Blood Lines have had an impressive festival run including Edmonton International Film Festival, Cinefest and VIFF among many others.

## **Land, Language, and Legacy**

Together, these films reflect the Sundar Prize Film Festival’s commitment to amplifying Indigenous storytelling across genres — from documentary to narrative feature. They center land defense, cultural continuity, queer Indigenous identity, and intergenerational healing, inviting audiences into stories that are at once intimate and politically resonant.

**Local Indigenous filmmakers will be in attendance as part of our panels and filmmaker Q and A’s. Full details To Be Determined.**

## **QUOTES**

“Often when we see indigenous films in the past there is a lense of what is expected of the kind of films Indigenous filmmakers should be make, but we are entering a time where authentic and nuanced storytelling is at the forefront of our selection process and with these films you will be able to experience that,” states Executive Director and Senior Programmer Sidartha Murjani.

“For nearly two decades, Sher Pride has worked to create safer, more compassionate spaces for marginalized communities, and the Sundar Prize Film Festival is an extension of that commitment. Indigenous storytelling is central to how we understand justice, land, identity, and belonging. These films honour sovereignty, resilience, language, and lived experience in ways that challenge, educate, and inspire us all. We are deeply honoured to provide a platform where these powerful voices can be seen, heard, and celebrated,” states Amar Sangha, Co-Founder, Sundar Prize Film Festival and Founder, Sher Pride

## About the Festival

The Sundar Prize Film Festival is an international film festival dedicated to socially conscious storytelling and diverse voices. The festival brings together filmmakers, audiences, and industry leaders for screenings, panels, and community engagement, positioning Surrey and the surrounding region as a growing hub for film and cultural dialogue. The festival is founded by local filmmakers Amar Sangha of North Delta and Vinay Giridhar of Surrey.

## FULL FESTIVAL LINEUP AND SCREENING SCHEDULE AND TICKETS

**The full festival lineup and screening schedule can be found here - [Link](#)**

## Summary of Schedule

<https://sundarprize.com/2026-programme-summary/>

**Thursday, April 23, 2026** – North Delta Centre for the Arts (11425 84 Ave, Delta, BC V4C 2L9), Opening Night, Film Screenings, and Refreshments, 5 pm to 11 pm (Opening Remarks start at 6:00 pm).

**Friday, April 24, 2026** – North Delta Centre for the Arts (11425 84 Ave, Delta, BC V4C 2L9), Film Screenings, 12 pm to midnight.

**Saturday, April 25, 2026** – Landmark Cinemas Guildford, Surrey (15051 101 Ave, Surrey, BC V3R 7Z1), Film Screenings, 10 am to 9:30 pm.

**Sunday, April 26, 2026** – Landmark Cinemas Guildford, Surrey (15051 101 Ave, Surrey, BC V3R 7Z1), Closing Night, Film Screenings, and Award Ceremony, 1 pm to 9:30 pm (Awards Ceremony starts at 7:30 pm).

## **Programming Inquiries**

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## **Festival Inquiries**

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## **OFFICIAL WEBSITES**

[www.sundarprize.com](http://www.sundarprize.com)

[www.sherpride.ca](http://www.sherpride.ca)

## **OFFICIAL SPONSORS**

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**Thank you for your support!**

Please consider making a **tax-deductible donation** to **Sher Vancouver LGBTQ Friends Society (Sher Pride)**, the registered charity behind the **Sundar Prize Film Festival**. For nearly **20 years**, Sher Pride has created safe, life-affirming spaces, amplified marginalized voices, and used the power of film and community to drive social change. Your support helps sustain this vital work and ensures it continues for generations to come.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/sher-vancouver-lgbtq-friends-society/>

*"If everyone just helps and mentors one person in their life, then all the people of the world will be empowered." Amar Sangha*

*I acknowledge that I live, work and play on the unceded traditional homelands of the Semiahmoo, Musqueam, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt and Tsawwassen people.*