



Reel to Real: A Celebration of Moving Images for Youth Society

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Film Festival for Youth Supports Teachers

The Reel to Real: A Celebration of Moving Images for Youth Society wishes to communicate its official position on the labour dispute involving the BC Teachers' Federation, BC Public School Employers Association, and the Government of British Columbia. While the Society has considerable empathy for the parents and caregivers who are inconvenienced by the strike, our support remains unequivocally with the teachers.

“This dispute has had a significant impact on our operations,” explains Venay Felton, Founder and Artistic Director of the Society and the Reel 2 Real International Film Festival for Youth. “Teachers are unable to book their classes for our Fall workshop series, Animating Kids, and the selection of our Youth Jury is dependent on a speedy resolution. Regardless, we support the teachers in their fight for improved working conditions in the classroom.”

Teachers recognize that the Society provides programming that is an antidote to reality television and high-octane blockbusters. Our Festival and year-round workshops at the Vancouver Museum provide a unique opportunity for students to watch films that inspire discussion of world cultures, language studies, cultural diversity, emotional intelligence, and human values. All of our programs are enriched by links to the school curriculum.

“We have a strong following of teachers from the Lower Mainland, although each year we receive calls from the most dedicated teachers expressing regret that they no longer have adequate resources to participate in our programs.” Ms. Felton is concerned with the growing discrepancy between the public and private school systems, and the increased frustration among teachers and parents, that she has witnessed in her work with Reel to Real.

“I have observed first hand the negative effects of budget cutbacks in the education system,” says Ms. Felton. “In our workshops, for example, the absence of ESL and Learning Assistants means that many students are not able to experience the full value and enjoyment of our programs.”

The Reel to Real: A Celebration of Moving Images for Youth Society hopes that an equitable and expeditious resolution to the contract dispute can be made, which will benefit teachers, students, and parents alike.

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Reel to Real: A Celebration of Moving Images for Youth Society is a non-profit registered charity dedicated to showing the best in culturally diverse, authentic programming for youth. Reel to Real presents an annual film festival, the Reel 2 Real International Film Festival for Youth, and media arts programming year-round. Our primary objective is to broaden young people's exposure to, and appreciation of, independent film and video from Canada and around the world.

Reel to Real: A Celebration of Moving Images for Youth Society gratefully acknowledges the support of our sponsors: Telefilm Canada, National Film Board of Canada, Vancouver Foundation, Edith Lando Charitable Foundation, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Canada Council, Directors Guild of Canada, B.C. Arts Council, City of Vancouver, CBC and Radio Canada.