

THE LABRADOR INSTITUTE OF MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
& THE COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

present

LABRADOR/IANS ON FILM

2014-15 SEASON

SCREENING #4: NITASSINAN AND BEYOND

A film is a map by another means. What distinguishes the two – and what sometimes makes this relationship abstract – is a film's ability to also represent the passage of time. Take, for example, James Cameron's *Titanic*, a film no doubt most of us have seen. *Titanic* is compelling not so much as a love story that we have seen in a thousand different casts, but rather as a story about a space that was lost for the better part of a century. Kate and Leo's star-crossed romance is simply a series of events (i.e. the time) that gives meaning to the space. In documentary film, thankfully, such abstract measures of time are not necessary. The entire *Labrador/Ians on Film* series is a testament to the varied ways in which film can map a place. In this, our last screening for the 2014-15 season, we turn our attention to Nitassinan, a space that does not exist on federally or provincially authored maps. And while the purpose of these films may not be explicitly to map Nitassinan – *Nutshimit* is about life within Nitassinan and *Nutak* is about life beyond it – taken together, they give a clear sense of the space of Nitassinan. Both films are testaments to the endurance of this space. How they achieve this, however, is markedly different.

Nutshimit – On the Land (51 mins, Nirgun Films, 2010) Dir. Sarah Sandring. Much like during the 2012-13 season, we have programmed *Nutshimit* because of the relationship it captures between people and land. This time around, though, notice how this relationship has come to affect Ms. Sandring's work as a director. The film was made while *Nutak* was still being produced, a detail that reveals much about the tone of *Nutshimit* and, accordingly, its relationship to *Nutak*.

Nutak – Memories of a Resettlement (43 mins, Nirgun Films, 2014) Dir. Sarah Sandring. Often, when the community of Nutak is mentioned, it is within the context of Inuit resettlement *away* from the community rather than Innu resettlement *to* the community. As one of the least publicized events of twentieth century Labrador history, the film provides an important but also complex look at the legacy of the Mushuau Innu's relocation beyond the borders of Nitassinan.

Coordinated by Morgon Mills

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Nirgun Films

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