



## TURTLE ISLAND PRODUCTIONS

James M. Fortier • Writer/Producer/Director/DP

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For Immediate Release:

### **Turtle Island Productions completes second documentary for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.**

The Muckleshoot Indian Tribe of Auburn, WA selected Turtle Island Productions Producer/Director James M. Fortier to produce a sequel to their 2003 documentary "*Pulling Together*." Fortier, who produced "*Pulling Together*" for the tribe, has been in post-production for the sequel, "*Gathering Together*," since September and is set to be completed by April of 2007. The new film picks up where "*Pulling Together*" left off, chronicling the tribe's role as the host Nation for the 2006 Tribal Canoe Journey, which includes a traditional five-day Potlatch. The traditional Potlatch, which is a gathering of families, and tribal nations for special events and includes traditional songs, dances, foods, giveaways and ceremonies were once outlawed both in the US and Canada. Hosting Tribal Canoe Journey 2006 provided an opportunity for the Muckleshoot Tribe to host a traditional Potlatch for the first time in over a century. The new documentary, "*Gathering Together*" chronicles the behind the scenes activities and preparations for the Hosting, and follows the Muckleshoot Canoe Family and community members as they fulfill this honored and historic achievement.

Fortier employed up to four JVC GY-HD100 cameras to capture the pageantry of the historic moment when nearly 70 canoes from about 40 Canoe Nations, as far away as Alaska and British Columbia, arrived in Seattle's Lake Washington and asked the host Muckleshoot Tribe for permission to come ashore. Shot in HDV 720/24p, the documentary will be mastered in both HDV and SD NTSC. From Lake Washington, the Muckleshoot Tribe escorted their guest Nations to their reservation about an hour south near Auburn, WA, where Fortier's crews continued to shoot over 90 more hours of footage spanning the five-day Potlatch. The film features the challenges faced by the Muckleshoot community, and particularly of the Canoe Family members, as they host thousands of people from diverse Pacific Northwest tribes and First Nations. Clocking in at just under an hour, "*Gathering Together*" will premiere at a community screening of tribal members in the Spring. Preliminary goals are to approach PBS station KCTS in Seattle for a broadcast during the 2007 Tribal Canoe Journey. With many hours of footage of the Potlatch remaining, the tribe is now considering working with Fortier to produce a companion Bonus DVD which would include more traditional songs and dances from some of the tribes attending, as well as additional Muckleshoot songs/dances, and other special scenes that did not make it into the final cut of "*Gathering Together*."

For more information contact James Fortier at Turtle Island Productions or John Loftus, Media Director for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (253) 261-1537.