



Jesse Wente



Exhibit: *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*

Location/Phase: Part 3: Toronto

Witness: Jesse Wente

Submitted by: Christa Big Canoe/Commission

Add'l info: P03P03P0301

Date: JUN 13 2018

Initials

63

I/D

Entered

38

Profile

Highly respected and popular broadcaster, public speaker, curator and arts administrator working at large and small arts and cultural organizations. Best known as a radio personality, film expert and Indigenous rights advocate, has spent two decades in the arts community and is respected for his communication skills, expertise and problem solving. Ojibwe from Toronto, who's home community is the Serpent River First Nation

Experience

DIRECTOR, THE INDIGENOUS SCREEN OFFICE, FEB 2018-PRESENT

Inaugural director of the Indigenous Screen Office, which supports Indigenous storytellers and Indigenous stories in the Canadian screen industries. The ISO advocates for increased representation of Indigenous peoples and Indigenous stories across the screen sector in Canada.

DIRECTOR FILM PROGRAMMES, TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX — 2010-2017

Oversaw year-round film programming at TIFF's cinema venue, Lightbox. Responsible for theatrical, Cinematheque and Film Circuit Programming. Responsible for designing film programme for opening of Lightbox in 2010

- Significant programmes include *First Peoples Cinema: 1500 Nations, One Tradition, Stanley Kubrick, Michael Mann, Ousmane Sembene, Tim Burton, Magic Motion: The Art of Stop Motion Animation, Kelly Reichardt, Norman Jewison.*

BROADCASTER, CBC RADIO — 1996-PRESENT

Served as Film Critic, Pop Culture Critic, Reporter, and Producer.

- Currently highest rated columnist for CBC Metro Morning, with weekly reach of 400k+
- Column on "The Appropriation Prize" from May 2017 has been viewed more than 1 million times
- Featured columnist for Unreserved.
- First syndicated First Nations radio columnist. 1999-2009, featured on 22 local morning and afternoon shows, including Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax, Ottawa, Calgary, Regina and Winnipeg.
- Featured columnist and guest host on Q 2006-2009

PUBLIC SPEAKER, VARIOUS — 2006-PRESENT

Popular public speaker, lecturer and instructor. Represented by the National Speakers Bureau

- 2018 Cultural Summit of the Americas

- 2018 Eva Holtby Lecture on Contemporary Culture, Keynote
- 2017 Top Ten Event: Boycott What You Thought, Keynote
- 2015-2016, Banff Centre. Host for Truth and Reconciliation Summit, instructor for Re-Claim Indigenous Arts Programme
- 2017 Prime Time Ottawa. Final Keynote speaker.
- 2017, Museum of the American Indian, American Museum of African American History and Culture, The Smithsonian Institute.
- 2017 University of New Brunswick. Keynote speaker.
- 2016 Canadian Arts Summit. Host and panel moderator.
- 2017 Ontario Camps Association. Opening keynote speaker
- 2015 Bishops University. Keynote speaker
- 2015 Dickinson College. Keynote speaker.
- 2014, Wilfred Laurier University. Keynote speaker.

CURATOR

Independent curator

- 2017, Ryerson Image Centre. Curated video wall for fall exhibition
- 2017, CBC Arts. Curator and producer for Stay Calm and Decolonize web series

AWARDS

- 2017, Reel Activist Award, Reel World Film Festival
- 2017, Local Film Hero, Now Magazine

- 2018 Media Award, Association of Ontario Health Centres Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERSHIPS

- Canada Council for the Arts, 2017-Present
- Toronto Arts Council, 2015-Present
- Native Earth Performing Arts, 1998-2012
- ImagineNative Film and Media Arts Festival, 2003-2008

PUBLICATIONS

- Two books under-contract with Penguin Random House Canada and Tundra Books to be published in 2019
- Represented by Cooke-McDermid Agency