



## *US & THEM* Film: From Victoria to Parliament Hill

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2017

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – On Monday, September 11 at 7 p.m. the documentary *US & THEM* will return to City Hall to kick off a national tour. The event is hosted by the City of Victoria; admission is free and doors will open at 6:30 p.m., with filmmaker Krista Loughton in attendance.

*US & THEM* is a powerful and deeply moving documentary on homelessness and addiction. It was filmed over a decade and features the unlikely friendships that develop between four homeless and addicted people in Victoria and the film's maker, Krista Loughton. The documentary also features Dr. Gabor Maté, a prominent Vancouver-based addiction specialist.

The goal of the film is to introduce the viewer to people who are experiencing homelessness and addiction through a lens of compassion and empathy. Loughton believes that by connecting with real people struggling through these issues, the viewer becomes engaged in a way that humanizes the homeless and inspires action..

The event at City Hall is the send-off for a national tour, including an exclusive screening on Parliament Hill for all of Canada's MPs on September 26, hosted by the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. Minister Duclos was first introduced to the film by Mayor Lisa Helps during a visit to Victoria, and was inspired to host the screening after viewing a copy provided to him by the Mayor.

*US & THEM* premiered in December of 2015 at Victoria City Hall. For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/usandthemmovie>.

### **Quotes:**

Mayor Lisa Helps: "*US & THEM* is a powerful film that documents one of Canada's most pressing issues. We're thrilled to be hosting the send off to Parliament Hill screening and we wish Ms. Loughton the best success as she shares this film with audiences in Ottawa and across the country."

Filmmaker Krista Loughton: "At a time when BC is in the midst of a housing and opioid crisis, this film has never been more relevant. To be screening in Ottawa with Minister Duclos and having policymakers view the film was always the intention and it is the zenith of the impact we were intending create in our country."

Dr. Gabor Maté: ""*Us and Them* puts a human face on homelessness moving it from the political and economic realms into the human realm. This is done in a direct and personal way that the viewer can identify with."

Patricia Jelinski, President & CEO, United Way Greater Victoria: "*US & THEM* gives viewers a glimpse into the realities of poverty and homelessness. It shows that vulnerability is real for us all and that life circumstances can change our lives, or the life of someone we know, in an instant. As part of our *United to Reduce Poverty Initiative*, United Way Greater Victoria is pleased to partner with the City of Victoria to host community conversations on poverty and to support this film as a way to share this important message across Canada."

### **About *US & THEM***

*US & THEM* was written and directed by Krista Loughton and multi-award winning filmmaker Jennifer

Abbott (*The Corporation*.) The concept for *US & THEM* began in 2006 when Loughton made *Our Hero*, a short film about Reverend Allen Tysick, a street minister who has dedicated his life to serving the poorest of the poor. She also made another short film *The New Our Place* about the building of the new facility with 45 units of transitional housing, a drop-in centre, and a kitchen serving approximately 600 street people. Both films have won awards at the Victoria Film Festival's *My Victoria Film Competition*.

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