



Jennifer Dysart

York University

Received Sylff fellowship in 2007

My name is Jennifer Dysart. I am an independent filmmaker, an artist and an archive researcher from Canada with a background in anthropology. My SYLFF university is York University. My father is a Cree, which is an Indigenous group, SIL northern MB and my mother's family were German settler farmers in Blackfoot indigenous territory in the province of Alberta.

- I became environmentalist fighting for food justice as a result of the need to support my indigenous community in the battle to protect our land and food sources from unfettered development and in the battle be treated equally as citizens in Canada.
- The topics that we speak about - hunger, food insecurity, lack of access to clean water, extreme poverty, effects of resource development, climate change - are all too familiar to impoverished Indigenous people within the overall wealthy nation of Canada.
- In fact my original SYLFF funding in 2007 was for a documentary related to the effects of resource extraction on food sources.
- I am a mixed race person who has studied the histories of both my Parents cultures and I see those histories still playing out in the present day when I look at the inequalities facing my Indigenous community.
- As leaders who seek to make change on the world scale, I'd like us all to keep in mind that In every small local and indigenous community that has a connection to the land from food production, there is a deep knowledge that can help us tackle the larger issue of food security worldwide.

- We would be very wise to ask for their input and full participation or risk repeating the mistakes of the past.

- I believe we should look first to our own countries failures, peek into the uncomfortable sore spots, and commit to doing better.

- A first step to a better world is to build alliances.

I want to thank the SYLFF organization for the wonderful opportunity to share this perspective and assist the SYLFF fellows to build these alliances.

Uncle Rob photo.



Holding a moose tongue, a traditional delicacy from Canada's north. - represents how traditional foods create joy in people despite their disadvantages.

- In Japan, we experience first hand, the joy of traditional food.
- I believe that One of the ways to true wellbeing for humanity is through the joy of traditional foods.

As a result of the SYLFF program, I have renewed confidence in humanity. The people in this room, and the goals of the Sylff/Tokyo Foundation, have made me realize how despite the neo-colonial right wing trends that we see playing out in world politics, there are still many intelligent and caring people who are very willing and able to help create a better world.

Very honoured to be here.

My Sincerest Thank you to:

Mr. Sasakawa, The Nippon Foundation, Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research

APU university

Foresight intelligence and

The endlessly hardworking SYLFF Secretariat

...for having the vision to create this workshop to support us fellows