



# **USERS GUIDE**







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# **Acknowledgements**

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Dreamcatcher



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Jack & Heilene Minor John Noyes Karen Smude

# About the Guide

**Ordinary Woman, Extraordinary Dreams** is about many things: about loss, recovery and discovery; about articulating a dream and then realizing it; about the healing power of love, support, and reconnection with one's culture and traditions. What makes the film unique, though, is its intersection between disability rights and Aboriginal rights

The film was structured as a whole and, ideally, it should be experienced that way (see *About the Film*). But given time constraints and certain circumstances (e.g., workshops, training sessions, school classes), certain groups may want to use specific sections of the documentary. This Users Guide has been written to help you do that.

#### How to Use the Guide

- This film has multiple audiences, which are briefly listed on p. 6
- To discover which chapters of the documentary are most relevant for you and your group, check out the *Index of Themes and Issues* p. 25 and the *Index of Audiences* p. 26
- The section *Chapter Descriptions and Quotes* briefly describes the content of each chapter and supplies a few quotes which you may also want to use to stimulate discussion.
- Working With the Film: Discussion Starters poses questions and raises issues which may be especially relevant to a particular audience: e.g., health professionals or a general audience or high school students. These are intended as starting points for a give-and-take that helps to deepen the experience of meeting Maggie and accompanying her on her journey.



# **About the Film**

The dream is, as a person with a disability, I want to be an example that you are still able to do anything. - Maggie Sofea

Maggie Sofea is a 23-year-old woman from Nibinamik First Nation in Northwestern Ontario whose life changed forever the year she turned 11. That summer, Maggie suffered a spinal cord injury as a result of a diving accident. Maggie and her parents had to leave behind their family, their community, and the land which sustained them on multiple levels, in order to access medical services Maggie needed in the urban centre of Thunder Bay. Now, 12 years later, Maggie is ready to realize her dream of reconnecting with all that she had to leave behind by making the journey back to her home community of Summer Beaver (English for the Ojibway "Nibinamik"). *Ordinary Woman, Extraordinary Dreams* is the inspiring story of that journey.

The film follows Maggie, her mother Janet, and a team of support workers as they set out to make her dream a reality. We see the physical challenges involved in getting Maggie to Nibinamik (accessible only by small plane) and ultimately to the site of her accident—a remote campsite an hour's motorboat ride away from the community. To accomplish this, Maggie must first overcome her own fears: being moved without mechanical lifts, sleeping in unfamiliar beds and traveling to places far from the nearest hospital. Her journey is also an emotional and spiritual one, as Maggie reconnects with her grandmother Georgina, feels again the love and support of her community and is nourished by the beauty of the northern landscape she has missed so deeply.

In keeping with the theme of trauma and healing that runs like a current through the film, Maggie must also confront the tragedies that have marked Summer Beaver during her absence. These include a plane crash in which members of her family died and the suicides of seven cousins, one of whom – Dawn Starr – helped save Maggie's life at the time of her injury.

Though *Ordinary Woman, Extraordinary Dreams* clearly shows the obstacles faced by individuals living with physical disabilities in isolated communities, it is above all, an inspiring story of courage, determination and hope which challenges expectations and perceptions of what people with disabilities are able to accomplish. In Maggie's own words, aimed especially at young people, "I hope the film shows that nothing is impossible... follow your dreams."

# Who is the Film For?

There are multiple audiences for *Ordinary Woman, Extraordinary Dreams*. They include:

- General community members (both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal)
- People with spinal cord injuries, family members, counselors
- Health professionals: occupational and physiotherapists, spinal cord injury specialists (including doctors), nurses, personal support workers, students in training programs in academia, workers in rehab facilities and hospitals, counselors and social workers providing support to injured clients and their families
- **Civil society and equality seekers:** people and organizations concerned with human rights, disability rights and Aboriginal rights issues
- College and university students in disability studies, native studies, film studies, health and social work programs
- Junior and senior high school students

For more detailed suggestions about how each of the above audiences might use *Ordinary Woman, Extraordinary Dreams*, see **Working with the Film: Discussion Starters** below.

# **Chapter Descriptions and Quotes**

Ordinary Woman, Extraordinary Dreams has maximum impact when screened as a whole, but the film has also been divided into chapters -- accessible through a DVD Scene Selection menu -- to help audiences focus on certain scenes which might be especially relevant for their particular purposes. Running times for each chapter, in minutes, are included after each chapter title.



### PROLOGUE (5 mins)

The first chapter sets up Maggie's "back story" – the special circumstances of her birth; the natural beauty of her home community, Nibinamik ("Summer Beaver"); the rich cultural traditions she was part of; and the injury which triggered so many losses and changed her life forever.

**QUOTE:** "Suddenly I hit my head on a rock. At that moment I couldn't move, feel or

breathe. From then on, my life would change forever." Maggie Sofea

**Themes:** Maggie before and after

"Patient" as a person with a context and a history

Trauma and loss

# LIFE IN THUNDER BAY (3 mins)

This section sets out the impact of Maggie's injury on her family's life. Her mother Janet describes the ensuing upheaval: the loss of work and having to leave their other children and grandchildren behind in order to move to an urban centre where they had no contacts, employment, or friends so that Maggie could get the services and resources that she needed.

Here, Maggie refers to herself as an independent woman with a big dream: to return to her community and visit the site of her accident, hoping for closure.

**QUOTE:** "It was pretty hard to leave our community. We had to start over again. We

hardly knew anybody. My husband had to stop working, he hasn't worked since we left Summer Beaver.... My life just changed and now with my family and my children and my grandchildren, I can't be with them, I can't help

them." Janet Sofea

Themes: Impact on the family

Loss

Motivation for change



# **MEETING DAVE (4 mins)**

What's involved in translating her dream into concrete reality? For practical advice, Maggie turns to human rights lawyer Dave Shannon. Dave has not let his spinal cord injury stop him from traveling to the North Pole or skydiving. He lays out what is needed: meticulous planning which includes choosing the right mode of transportation, the right equipment, the right people, and preparing for the worst.

Maggie's wish to be an example of what a person with a disability can accomplish also involves challenging beliefs about possibility and limitation, whether they come from herself or from others.

**QUOTE:** "From the day before my accident to the day after, in my mind, there was no

difference in my life or what my life goal should be - but there was a

difference in how people perceived me." Dave Shannon

**QUOTE:** "She can do it for herself or her own personal pursuits. But it's also a very

important message for her community about how to continue pursuing your dreams, living to your potential. It's also an important message for persons with spinal cord injury, right around North America and literally around the

world." Dave Shannon

**Themes:** Other people's perceptions of someone with a disability

Importance of goals and self-determination Importance of planning to realize goals

Examining personal beliefs about what is and isn't possible



# PREPARATIONS (5 mins)

Caregivers/professionals working around mobility issues will find this chapter particularly useful. Team members involved in planning for Maggie's trip discuss the logistics and equipment needed, while stressing that she is the one in charge and they are there to help her realize her dream. As part of her psychological preparation, they also encourage Maggie to face her honestly expressed fears and anxieties as she moves out of her comfort zone.

**QUOTE:** "My team encourages me to go out of my comfort zone and face my fears

about trying new things. I have to learn to trust people not to drop me. I have

to get used to being pushed by hand, a loss of independence for me."

Maggie Sofea

**QUOTE:** "You can say how you want to be lifted, you can give instructions."

Tanis Ellen Minor

**QUOTE:** "I'm afraid of how I'll feel when I go back to the campground where my

accident happened. Will I have to live it over again?" Maggie Sofea

Themes: Mobility issues

Role of team: logistics, encouraging independence

**Emotional tasks** 

Fear of reliving trauma



# **RETURN TO SUMMER BEAVER (14 mins)**

This is the moment when Maggie sees her community again, and reunites with her grandmother, Georgina, with whom she has a very special relationship. Community members speak frankly about the lack of resources and facilities in the north which makes it very difficult to care for people with disabilities in their own home setting. Accessibility issues loom large as trained people try to figure out how to get Maggie safely onto a small plane, in and out of regular vehicles, and into reserve buildings that have no ramps. Maggie addresses her community from the local radio station, explaining about the film crew and affirming her intention to present her community in a positive light.

**QUOTE:** "My mother had to leave the community because we don't have services in

here, we don't have that kind of equipment. We like to help each other

through a crisis... it's frustrating you're helpless, when you can't do anything with these special needs that these patients need." Philip Oskineegish

**QUOTE:** "They're going to be documenting about the whole community and I want to

show them in a positive way and get a lot of people to see how great this

community is." Maggie Sofea

**Themes:** Reconnection to family and community

Aboriginal rights
Disability rights
Accessibility issues
Community support

# **GRANDMA'S TEPEEE** (3 mins)

For Maggie, this is the place of coming home, of reconnection to her family, her culture, her history and tradition. It's interesting to discuss why this scene was included in the film and what it adds.

**QUOTE:** "Being here with my family, in this tepee, is home to me." Maggie Sofea

**Themes:** Aboriginal culture

Reconnection/healing

Family support

#### **BEDTIME FOR MAGGIE (5 mins)**

Maggie is in charge as Kim and Darren, her care support team, try to figure out how to position her comfortably and safely in a regular bed. This trip and the filmmaking venture are part of her healing process as she works at overcoming obstacles with the help of the right supports and people. The professionals who help Maggie enlarge her sense of what she can accomplish also speak about the rewards that they gain by being part of this experience.

**QUOTE:** "When I first met Maggie... she was hard to communicate with. Now, she's a

completely different person. She's directing a lot of her own care now and very involved with the making of this film and this trip and she's excited!

She's very excited about life." Kim Sjolund

**QUOTE:** "It's incredible to see what happens when those challenges and barriers are

overcome. People being able to achieve their dreams and their goals and to

do the things that they want to do... it's just remarkable and it's so

rewarding." Darren Lillington

**Themes:** Health care issues: mobility challenges, dysreflexia,

Self-determination, Self-directed care

Helping to realize a dream Perceptions of disability

Overcoming barriers and limitations



# CHURCH / PLANE CRASH MEMORIAL (13 mins)

The road to recovery and healing often involves acknowledging hurt, trauma and grief. Maggie's participation in the church service marks her reintegration into the life of her community. Her grandmother, whom we learn is both an Anglican Reverend and a respected native elder, lays hands on Maggie with the priest. Maggie then travels to the scene of a terrible plane crash which took the lives of several members of the community including some of Maggie's relatives. Her grandmother conducts a service to help people deal with their loss and grief in the face of a tragedy which has touched everyone in Nibinamik.

Themes: Aboriginal culture

Spirituality

Trauma and healing

Role of elders



# DAWN STARR'S GRAVE (6 mins)

The issue of youth suicide is front and centre in this chapter. Maggie has lost seven cousins to suicide, none more important to her than Dawn Starr who saved Maggie's life at the time of her accident. The wounds left by these incidents are both personal and collective, for these losses impact the whole community.

Maggie gives voice to her grief and also encourages her younger cousins to look after one another, stressing again the glue that support can be.

**QUOTE:** "I lost seven cousins to suicide.... It hurts really bad. There's too many people

that died, including our cousins..." Maggie Sofea

Themes: Youth suicide

Grief, trauma, loss

#### **SUMMER FESTIVAL (4 mins)**

The community celebration, which follows the previous scenes of sadness and grief, includes a traditional jigging contest to raise funds for Maggie. Maggie herself models two important messages for the young people who surround her: accept what life might bring and believe that your dreams are worth following. The community support she has received also helps lessen some of the anxiety she feels about going back to the campground where her accident happened.

**QUOTE:** "After this film is made, I want it to inspire you guys that you could do

anything, no matter where you came from or what your circumstances are...

you could follow your dreams." Maggie Sofea

**QUOTE:** "Do you wish you could walk?"

"Yeah, I do. Everyday. But I've come to accept things the way they are. Accept

the changes in your life." Maggie Sofea

**Themes:** Community life and solidarity

First Nations culture

Reconnection

Importance of hope



# **BOAT RIDE / ARRIVAL AT CAMPSITE (11 mins)**

More mobility issues face Maggie and her helpers, as they figure out how to safely and securely position her in the boat that will take her to the campsite where her diving injury happened. Family members who are preparing for her arrival, including her aunt Daisy, speak of First Nations' people's profound connection to the land and the value of culture, language and traditions which they mean to pass on to their children.

**QUOTE:** "Our parents and grandparents always told us to keep the tradition no

matter what. And my grandmother, I remember, she was telling us that never, ever forget who you are--don't forget your language, always keep it in you even if you don't speak it, keep it in your mind. And this is what we're

teaching our kids." Daisy Sugarhead

**QUOTE:** "The land means everything to us." Daisy Sugarhead

Themes: Mobility issues

Aboriginal culture, traditions and way of life



# **RECALLING THE ACCIDENT (8 mins)**

Being at the campsite triggers memories and emotions for everyone concerned. Maggie's aunt and mother share details about the accident and its immediate aftermath, while Maggie herself speaks frankly about the roller coaster of emotions she is experiencing. Though she's been anxious about returning to the site of her trauma, she finds that the love of her family is a healing force for her, and so is being back on the land. Maggie has come home to herself on many levels.

**QUOTE:** "Being on the campground again, I am happy and relaxed on one hand, and

anxious and nervous on the other. I realize that I have felt this way since my accident. But I'm back here now and I feel better than I thought because my family is here, and I am surrounded by their love. It is their love I remember. And here, now, their love is healing for me. The land is my other healer."

Maggie Sofea

**Themes:** Confronting Trauma

Process of healing

Power of family love and support



# REFLECTIONS ON THE BEACH / DEPARTURE (7 mins)

Having some alone time on the beach, Maggie speaks honestly of the feelings related to her accident: anger, sadness and fear. But facing these feelings is also what allows her to continue to move forward. Everyone involved is heartened by knowing that with their help, Maggie has been able to realize her dream and imagine a bigger future for herself.

**QUOTE:** "Since my accident, it has always been on my mind to go back to the place

that changed my life. So before we leave the campsite, I need some time alone to reflect. I hope for some healing for the fear, the sadness, and the

anger I have for this place." Maggie Sofea

**QUOTE:** "I don't think anybody would want to be like this for the rest of their life."

Maggie Sofea

**QUOTE:** "After facing all the challenges to get here with the help of the people who

care about me and support me, I know I can accomplish anything in the world. My dream really did come true and I know lots of things are possible for me now. The world is a much bigger place than my disability." Maggie

Sofea

Themes: Process of healing



# Working with the Film: Discussion Starters

#### **General Audiences (Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal)**

We assume that most general audiences will look at the whole film, rather than a few select chapters.

- Was there any scene or moment in the film that particularly stood out for you?
   Why?
- Is there anyone in the film that you especially identify with? Why?
- Dave Shannon says people see him differently after his accident, though he still sees himself as the same person. Do you have any assumptions about someone with a spinal cord injury or other type of disability?
- Is your opinion/attitude towards Maggie different at the end of the film than it was at the beginning?
- Maggie said she wanted to show her community in a positive light. Did she succeed?
- What are some of the things that Maggie loves about her community and her culture and traditions?
- How does this portrayal of life on an isolated reserve differ from other material you may have seen about First Nations?
- In what ways does the Aboriginal view of nature differ from the Western perspective?
- What could be done to help people like Maggie to visit their communities and accommodate them so they could live in their communities?
- What did you find inspirational or moving in this film?
- Maggie says she wants to be a model for other people. Is there anything in this story that you can relate to, in terms of your own life?
- What's needed to realize a dream or goal?
- What gives people hope?

#### People with Spinal Cord Injuries, Family Members, Counselors

"The willingness to face traumas -- be they large, small, primitive or fresh -- is the key to healing from them. They may never disappear in the way we think they should, but maybe they don't need to. Trauma is an ineradicable aspect of life. We are human as a result of it, not in spite of it." Dr. Mark Epstein

- What was your reaction to this film? Did it surprise you? Inspire you?
- What impact can a spinal cord injury have on family members?
- What do you imagine Maggie's mother Janet is feeling at various points in Maggie's journey?
- What kind of supports would help a person with a spinal cord injury increase their sense of life possibilities?
- What kind of supports would help family members?
- Maggie talks about acceptance and hope. Do you think they can co-exist?
- In what way does Maggie's facing her fears and voicing them help her to move forward?
- Your situation or dream might be different than Maggie's but is there anything in her journey that is relevant to you?



#### **Health Care Professionals**

- How does seeing a client as a whole person help them achieve the goal of independent living?
- How does seeing a client as a whole person affect the way health care professionals deal with them?
- What specific contributions does Maggie's support team make to her realizing her dream?
- What spinal cord injury best practices do you see in the film?
- What are some of the challenges/problems that Maggie's team must solve in order for her to realize her dream? (*Preparations, Summer Beaver. Bedtime for Maggie*)
- What are the changes that Maggie's team has seen in her over the past 12 years?
- Why does the team keep stressing to Maggie that she is in charge?
- What are some of the rewards that the health care workers get from helping clients like Maggie realize their dreams?
- Why was Darren concerned when Maggie complained of dizziness as they were trying to settle her into a regular bed?
- What is dysreflexia? (Autonomic dysreflexia is an abnormal response to a problem in the body below a spinal cord injury, especially if the injury is at or above the 6<sup>th</sup> thoracic veterebra. Dysreflexia can cause a rapid and dangerous rise in blood pressure (*Bedtime for Maggie*).
- What are some of the secondary complications around spinal cord injury (e.g., bladder and urinary tract infections, dysreflexia?)
- Why is it important that Maggie be able to honestly voice her fears and anxieties?
- What "disability supports" (e.g. financial, housing, transportation, medical and attendant care) are necessary to help people with spinal cord injuries make the transition from rehab to community/independent living?

#### **Civil Society and Equality Seekers**

- Which human rights, disability rights or Aboriginal rights issues particularly stand out for you in the scenes you have chosen to watch?
- Dave Shannon says people see him differently after his accident, though he still sees himself as the same person. What actions, strategies, campaigns, policies help to change people's assumptions about someone with a spinal cord injury or other type of disability? What helps to foster inclusion?
- What "disability supports" (e.g. financial, housing, transportation, medical and attendant care) are necessary to help people with spinal cord injuries make the transition from rehab to community/independent living?
- What needs to be done to accommodate people with accessibility issues like Maggie so they can live in their First Nations or isolated or rural communities?
- Why are so many people with disabilities living on or below the poverty line? Is this a human rights issue? Why?

#### **Junior and Senior High School Students**

- Was there any scene or moment in the film that particularly stood out for you?
   Why?
- Is there anyone in the film that you especially identify with? Why?
- Do you have any assumptions about someone with a spinal cord injury or other type of disability?
- Is your opinion/attitude towards Maggie different at the end of the film than it was at the beginning?
- What did you find inspirational or moving in this film?
- Maggie says she wants to be a model for other people. Is there anything in this story that you can relate to, in terms of your own life?
- What's needed to realize a dream or goal?
- Maggie talks about accepting things as they are and hoping for something better.
   Do you think they can co-exist?

- In what way does Maggie's facing her fears and voicing them help her to move forward?
- Your situation or dream might be different than Maggie's but is there anything in her journey that is relevant to you?
- Maggie grieves over her cousin Dawn Starr's suicide. What advice does she offer to the younger children who are there with her at the time?
- Quite a bit of time has passed since Dawn Starr's suicide. How might Maggie's reactions have been different if it had been a more recent event?
- Maggie said she wanted to show her community in a positive light. Did she succeed?
- What are some of the things that Maggie loves about her community and her culture and traditions?
- How does this portrayal of life on an isolated reserve differ from other material you may have seen about First Nations?
- In what ways does the Aboriginal view of nature differ from the Western perspective?
- Several people in the film talk about their deep connection with the land. Is there
  any place for which you feel a deep emotional connection, a place of many
  memories?

#### **College and University Students**

Students in various programs will find relevant questions under various audiences listed above. However, students of film might want to consider the following:

- What aspects of this story might have made director Jim Hyder decide that there was a film to be made about Maggie's dream goal?
- What are the benefits of this story being told in the first person?
- Why does the footage of nature play such a prominent role in the film?
- Can you map out how the film has been structured?

### **DIVING SAFETY TIPS**

#### **The Numbers**

- Diving is the leading sports-related cause of spinal cord injuries. Many diving incidents leave the diver completely paralyzed from the neck down.
- 95% of diving injuries occur in water 1.5m deep or less, in an unsupervised setting with no warning signs.
- The average person who suffers a diving-related spinal cord injury is male, 17-22 years old, with no formal training in diving and who is visiting the location for the first time.
- Over half of diving injuries and deaths involve alcohol and/or drug use.
- Over 40% of spinal injuries caused by careless diving occur in backyard pools.

#### **Prevention**

- In familiar and unfamiliar water, always enter feet first, the first time to be sure of the water depth and be aware of any hazards.
- Avoid diving headfirst into water unless you are properly trained and certain that the water is deep enough.
- There are many factors to consider when determining whether or not it is safe to dive: height, weight and skill level of the diver; length and depth of the diving area; and the height from which the dive will be taken. There isn't a specific water depth that will be safe for all divers-what's safe for one person might not be safe for another.
- Most in-ground home and hotel pools, even those fitted with a diving board, are
  unsafe for diving, particularly for adult males. The deep end is often too short and
  the diver can strike his head on the slope of the pool leading up toward the
  shallow end.
- Avoid alcohol when swimming or diving. Even small amounts can increase the risk of injury.
- In open-water settings, obey "No Diving" signs/markings and diving depth regulations.
- Check the shape and length of the pool or waterfront bottom to be sure the diving area is large enough and deep enough for the intended dive. It should be twice your height for the whole dive.
- Only dive in clear, unobstructed water. Always check first for objects under the surface such as logs, stumps, boulders and pilings, and be aware of variable or changing depths.

Adapted from Canadian Red Cross guidelines about Diving and Safe Water Entries. For more information, see: http://www.redcross.ca/what-we-do/swimming-and-water-safety/swimming-boating-and-water-safety-tips/diving-safety

#### Resources

# Hagi – Community Services for Independence <a href="http://www.hagi.ca/">http://www.hagi.ca/</a>

Based in Thunder Bay, Hagi provides services throughout Northwestern Ontario which allow persons with disabilities the freedom to make independent choices about their lifestyle. Services include barrier-free housing, support care services, a parallel transit service and recreational programs for people with disabilities and seniors

# The Northwestern Independent Living Services Inc. (N.I.L.S.) http://www.nils.ca/

NILS is a non-profit organization which provides attendant services to persons with physical disabilities living in their own homes throughout the Kenora and Rainy River Districts. A range of other support services, including supportive housing and management of personal finances are also offered.

#### Spinal Cord Injury Ontario www.sciontario.org

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario champions excellence in service, advocacy and quality of life for people with spinal cord injuries

#### Spinal Cord Injury Canada <a href="http://sci-can.org">http://sci-can.org</a>

Spinal Cord Injury Canada has been assisting persons with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to achieve independence, self-reliance and full community participation since 1945.

#### SCI-U http://www.sci-u.ca/

SCI-U is a series of 10 multimedia courses about learning to live with spinal cord injury

#### Spinal Cord Connections <a href="http://spinalcordconnections.ca/e-learning/sce/">http://spinalcordconnections.ca/e-learning/sce/</a>

Spinal Cord Connections offers Spinal Cord Essentials, a patient education initiative which aims help people through rehabilitation following spinal cord injury.

#### **Paralyzed Veterans of America**

http://www.pva.org/site/apps/ka/ec/catalog.asp?c=ajIRK9NJLcJ2E&b=6423003&en=hel GLNPzFbLAIRMwG7KALTPBKmJPJSMpE8IJKTMAJoLZE&CategoryID=322147

PVA has an extensive list of consumer guides.

#### Apparelyzed <a href="http://www.apparelyzed.com/">http://www.apparelyzed.com/</a>

Apparelyzed is a free spinal cord injury peer support website run by individuals with a spinal cord injury.

#### SCI Info <a href="http://www.sci-info-pages.com/">http://www.sci-info-pages.com/</a>

This site is a free and informative resource for those living with a spinal cord injury or other disabling injuries or diseases of the spine. It is meant to be a "best of the web" site for SCI health and caregiver information

#### The Spinal Cord Injury Zone <a href="http://www.thescizone.com/">http://www.thescizone.com/</a>

The Spinal Cord Injury Zone website is a not-for-profit Spinal Cord Injury educational Knowledge Base

#### Understanding Spinal Cord Injury <a href="http://www.spinalinjury101.org/">http://www.spinalinjury101.org/</a>

This video uses simple language and images of real people who have sustained a spinal cord injury, as well as medical experts and advocates.

#### Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation www.christopherreeve.org

The Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information and advocacy.

For information on indigenous rights or their lack thereof, see the **United Nations**Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



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- Dawn Starr's Grave
- Summer Festival
- Boat Ride / Arrival at Campsite
- Recalling the Accident
- Reflections on the Beach / Departure

#### College and university students

The entire film is relevant for different areas of study.

# Who We Are

# **Hagi Community Services for Independence**

Hagi Community Services for Independence is a not-for-profit, charitable organization serving persons with disabilities and seniors in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario. It is committed to providing services which allow persons with disabilities the freedom to make independent choices about their lifestyle. Hagi offers services in the areas of parallel transit, supportive housing, outreach attendant care, and a wilderness discovery camp. HAGI Community Services for Independence is recognized as a leading community service agency in Ontario.



1201 Jasper Drive, Thunder Bay, ON Tel (807) 343-0414

www.Hagi.ca

# **Spinal Cord Injury Ontario**

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (SCI Ontario) champions excellence in service advocacy and quality of life for people with spinal cord injuries. Since 1945, our staff members have worked with people to defy tragedy and build triumph in their lives. We will do whatever it takes to help each individual live with dignity, meaning and hope. We assist people with spinal cord injuries to rekindle a passion for life and build new dreams.



www.sciontario.org

Thunder Bay Office: 1201 Jasper Drive, Ste B Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6R2 Tel (807( 344-3743

Toll Free: 1-866-344-4159

Toronto Office: 520 Sutherland Drive Toronto, ON M4G 3V9 Tel (416) 422-5644

Toll Free: 1-877-422-1112

# **SkyWorks Charitable Foundation**

SkyWorks Charitable Foundation (SkyWorks) is a non-profit organization which makes documentary films on contemporary social issues. SkyWorks is a catalyst, advocate and participant in social change through community-centred film making and public engagement. We work with community groups and advisors to create media tools that foster education, awareness, and systemic change. We believe that our society can find solutions to its most difficult social concerns through sharing and exchanging our stories and building strategies based on collective experiences.



401 Richmond Street West, Suite 371 Toronto, ON M5V 3A8 Tel (416) 536-6581

www.skyworksfoundation.org

#### **CREDITS**

**Ordinary Woman, Extraordinary Dreams** was produced by SkyWorks Charitable Foundation in partnership with Hagi Community Services for Independence. Distribution, screening tour and educational support materials were developed and coordinated in partnership with Spinal Cord Injury Ontario.

#### **Key Film Credits**

Director/Producer

Collaborating Director

Cinematographer

Sound Recording

Producer/Production Manager

Jim Hyder

Maggie Sofea

Dave Clement

Daniel Courtney

Alexa-Frances Shaw

Editor David Adkin Executive Producer Laura Sky

HAGI Executive Directors Al Buchan, Cal Rankin, David Shannon

Original Music / Sound Editing & Mix Nathan Handy
Project Development Tanis Ellen Minor

Writers Jim Hyder, Julia Prinselaar, Maggie Sofea

Narrator Maggie Sofea

Colourist & On-Line Hugo von Levetzow / Triangle Post

#### **User Guide**

Writer/Researcher Arlene Moscovitch

Consultants David Shannon, Darren Lillington, Jim Hyder

Photos Alexa-Frances Shaw, Jim Hyder

Editor/Layout David Adkin

# Ontario Distribution & Screening Tour

Community Development Coordinator David Adkin

Publicist/Screening Coordinator Helen Kampfmuller

Spinal Cord Injury Ontario

Regional Services Coordinator Darren Lillington

Consultants Jim Hyder, David Shannon

Screening Facilitators Maggie Sofea, Jim Hyder, Darren Lillington,

**David Shannon** 

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