



# justREEL FILM SERIES

## SCREENING BRINGS TOGETHER BEAR EXPERTS TO DISCUSS “THE GRIZZLY TRUTH”

THE GRIZZLY TRUTH | September 12, 2017 | 7:00 pm | River Park Auditorium | Calgary

**CALGARY, September 5, 2017** – Social and scientific issues surrounding the hunt for the grizzly bear are the subject of the documentary “The Grizzly Truth” to be screened Sept. 12, 2017 at River Park Auditorium.

The documentary combines powerful images with the voices of hunters, outfitters, government officials, eco-tourism operators, and naturalists to dispel half-truths in the discussion and focus attention on the real issues.

The film screening is happening just as the B.C. government acts to end grizzly bear trophy hunting, a ban that takes effect Nov. 30, 2017 across B.C., the B.C. government says. The ban will end all grizzly bear hunting in the coastal region known as the Great Bear Rainforest, but will still allow grizzlies to be hunted as meat in the rest of the province.

Grizzly bears are designated a threatened species under Alberta’s Wildlife Act, so a moratorium on hunting them has been in effect in Alberta since 2006.

Some say the B.C. ban does not go far enough. “Virtually no group of people has ever killed grizzlies just to eat. Even in prehistoric times the risk was too great to justify the problems...or the fact that their meat does not taste all that good,” says Charlie Russell, founding director of the Pacific Rim Grizzly Bear Co-Existence Study.

Russell has spent the better part of 54 years observing grizzly bears in their natural habitat. He will be at the River Park Auditorium to join an audience conversation about “The Grizzly Truth” following the screening, along with film director Thomas Reissmann and Calgary naturalist Kevin Van Tighem.

“‘The Grizzly Truth’ highlights an important social justice issue in western Canada,” said Thao Nguyen, Festival spokesperson. “Having three valued experts with us to lead the audience conversation afterward will allow for deeper discussion of this issue.”

**See and discuss “The Grizzly Truth” Sept. 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the River Park Auditorium (3818 14A St SW).** It’s one of the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival’s quarterly JustREEL film screenings, and is free to attend. The next Marda Loop Justice Film Festival runs Nov. 14-19, 2017. The lineup will be announced in early October.

Since 2006 the Marda Loop Justice Film Festival has screened top documentary films at no cost to viewers. Films selected focus on human rights, environmental and social justice issues. The Marda Loop Justice Film Festival is a non-profit society supported through viewer, small business and non-profit donations. Learn more at [justicefilmfestival.ca](http://justicefilmfestival.ca).

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