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## HONORARY AWARD TO FILMMAKER ARTHUR LAMOTHE BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE MHRFF

On the occasion of its annual cocktail held on February 11, 2009, the **Montreal Human Rights Film Festival's Board of Governors** presented an honorary prize to filmmaker **Arthur Lamothe**, for his major contribution to the Quebecois cinema and for his real and constant preoccupation towards human rights shown throughout his entire work.

He was also offered a painting by the Haitian-born artist, Marie Denise Douyon.

On behalf of the MHRFF's Board of Governors the co-president André Paradis, recalled how Lamothe's monumental work, **Chronique des Indiens du Nord-Est du Québec (Chronicle of North-eastern Quebec Natives)** had contributed to our knowledge of the Native Peoples' situation, their living conditions and culture. It shed light on spoliations and ethnocidal behaviours that they endured, while giving a powerful voice to the expression of their claims. He also underlined the impact of Lamothe's film **Le Mépris n'aura qu'un temps**, which, at the beginning of the 70's strongly denounced the exploitation and contempt of workers' rights. He saluted Arthur Lamothe's immense work as an affirmation of human dignity and against the forces that tend to scorn and deny it.

Approximately 125 persons attended the event and heard the tribute paid to Lamothe by Odile Tremblay, cultural journalist at Le Devoir, and by Chief Ghislain Picard, of the Assembly of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

Demonstrating a deep knowledge of Lamothe's work, Odile Tremblay particularly insisted on the ethnological character of his films and on its essential contribution to the collective memory, because of the documentation of traditions and ways of life, disappeared in great part, of a North-American Native universe that has gone through profound transformations during the last decades.

As for Ghislain Picard, he spoke about the influence that Arthur Lamothe had on the Innu communities of North-eastern Quebec, with whom the filmmaker had woven tight and equalitarian bounds, and on his own evolution. He mentioned the fact that too little progress has been made in the recognition and respect of the Native Peoples' rights, while rejoicing about the awakening and growing mobilisation within the communities.

Excerpts from the film *Sacré Arthur!* produced and directed by André Desrochers, Lamothe's collaborator during 20 years, were shown during that successful evening.