

Young photographers to cycle 15,000 km to the Arctic Ocean

Duo aims to collect and showcase marginalized histories of the land and inhabitants to mark Canada's 150th

KINGSTON, Ontario, February 10, 2017 – Young Canadians Asad Chishti and Jonathon Reed are finalizing preparations for a national bicycle expedition intended to foster a better understanding of the different histories embedded in the landscapes across Canada. The project will take them from the cliffs of St. John's, to the Arctic community of Inuvik, to the west coast of Vancouver Island—a journey of 15,000 km over the span of six months.

“2017 is a defining year for Canada, and active citizens will shape it,” says Reed. “Canada is not defined by politicians’ speeches or online hashtags. We are defined by our actions.” He adds their generation is often unfairly stereotyped. “We have a different way of looking at Canada’s past and its land. We want to highlight histories that have been ignored, because ignoring them has led to environmental destruction and unfair treatment of Indigenous peoples.”

“The responsibility for understanding our history falls largely on us. It encompasses those who were already here, their descendants, those who arrived generations ago, and those, like me, who began calling it home more recently,” Chishti says.

Named ‘As The Raven Flies’ for the presence of the raven across Canada and within Indigenous mythologies, the project is slated to last from May to October. Chishti and Reed plan to bicycle approximately 100 km a day, stopping in communities to listen, gather research and facilitate workshops. As they travel they will share their experience through multimedia online, creating an evocative unfolding story. “We’re not going in with the assumption that we know these stories. Like all Canadians, we need to listen,” says Chishti.

The team will be recording their journey on a blog and video series that showcases stories from the regions they pedal through. They plan to make a feature-length documentary of the entire journey.

For further information about their journey visit their website at www.chairsandtables.org or their Kickstarter campaign at www.kickstarter.com/projects/asadch/as-the-raven-flies-cross-canada-cycle-tour.

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