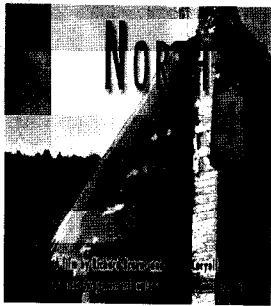


## APPLIED DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT



### The Making of "North of 49"

A documentary about arson, forgiveness and healing  
in a post September 11<sup>th</sup> world...

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"Out of sadness is coming a great joy. We look forward to not only rebuilding the building but the broader community." These are the words of Ralph Singh, spokesperson for Gobind Sadan, USA, a Sikh community in Upstate New York. He made this statement to a television reporter outside a court room in the Oswego County Courthouse where the teens who had burned down his people's temple were being tried for arson.

I filmed Singh as he spoke into Channel 5's camera and this moment became an important sequence in the documentary "North of 49." This fifty-minute film tells the story of how the fire and the Sikh's forgiveness of those who victimized them changed the communities of Palermo, Hastings and Mexico, New York - communities that epitomize rural, small town America.

When one drives through these communities that are located north of Route 49 - "North of 49" - one enters a world of one-lane county roads, onion and corn fields, downtowns anchored by convenience store/gas station combos, beauty salons, pizza parlor/sub shops, volunteer fire houses and churches.

"North of 49" took eighteen months to produce. The people in this part of America, for the most part, distrust outsiders. It took a very long time to meet members of these communities, earn their trust and eventually hear their stories.

The first months of production were about getting lost on back roads, sitting alone in diners, attending school board meetings and introducing ourselves to ministers, preachers and Gobind Sadan's neighbors.

Eventually we were invited to Sunday church services and became friends with people such as Charlie MacDougall, a local dairy farmer. We also got to know the Demry's, whose son was one of the volunteer firefighters at the temple the night of the arson; and Ron Clark, a local contractor and avid deer hunter with, according to Ron, 500 relatives in the area.

We also became friends with the Hudsons. Cassie Hudson, twenty-year-old daughter of Ruth and Cliff Hudson, was one of the four convicted of burning down the temple. She was sentenced to ninety days in jail, to be served in units of four days a